

BOLTON ADULT AUTISM SUPPORT

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 29th NOVEMBER 2017

HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT

Once again I am very pleased to be able to offer my thoughts on another life in the history of our charity. I am aware from discussions at our meetings throughout the year just how much effort has gone into seeking grant for our core needs and for our Befriending service and as the Chairman has said in his report we must not be too disheartened at the difficulty in obtaining funding for whatever cause. We must just carry on regardless.

All the trustees and committee members are one hundred per cent behind the Chairman in sharing his view of a better Bolton in which those families who are affected by Autism Spectrum Conditions will someday be living in a Bolton that is truly Autism Friendly. We have been much encouraged by the election of Andy Burnham to the office of Mayor of Greater Manchester and took great heart from his pledge to pursue an Autism Friendly status for the Greater Manchester area. We hope his pledge does not remain just that but actually becomes a reality.

We were fortunate once more this year to be allocated £1000.00 from Bolton CVS to organise carers' trips and I can say that for me these are a lifesaver and all members who have enjoyed respite visits to some very interesting places throughout the North West and Midlands. We understand that carers grant for these trips has been extended to 2019 and therefore I urge all members who have not yet experienced these excursions to sign up as soon as possible next year, provided, of course that we are successful in obtaining grant funding once more.

I would like to see many more members attending our monthly meetings and sharing their experiences in a secure and confidential environment. Not only that but also listening to some great speakers on a wide variety of topics related to autism from those seeking advice on benefits to supported housing to developments in autism research. So please do come along. You will be given a great welcome.

Barbara Brooks

BAAS Hon. Secretary