

BOLTON ADULT AUTISM SUPPORT

Minutes of the Meeting held on the 30th May 2018 at Thicketford Care & Community Centre

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Yvonne Poulson, Gerry Melling and Alison Thompson. There were 6 members present and 1 guest speaker.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on the 25th April 2018

The Chairman guided members through the above minutes and thanked the Vice-Chair for her comprehensive contribution regarding the meetings she had attended during the previous month.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising that were not to be dealt with as part of this meeting's agenda.

The minutes of the meeting of 25th April 2018 could not be ratified as there were insufficient members present at this meeting who were also present at the meeting in May. Therefore the minutes of the April meeting will need to be confirmed at the next meeting on 27th June 2018.

4. Welcome to and Update from Lisa Griffiths-Wood, Operations Manager Bolton Cares

Lisa joined the meeting at 3.00pm. Lisa advised that Bolton Cares was still awaiting council approval on the design concept for the Jubilee Centre. This was expected following a review of the proposals for the centre by Bolton Council's Chief Executive. In the meantime the Jubilee Centre remains open to the public but the pool will be closed.

Lisa discussed options available to utilise the Learning and Disability and Autism Centre at Thicketford for BAAS Saturday Drop-In sessions whilst the plans for the Jubilee Centre were being decided. She reminded members she would like their ideas on the provision of activities to enable her to cost out staff levels etc., and asked if BAAS members would be able to provide volunteers to assist supervise the sessions as this would help keep her costings to a minimum. Two members expressed interest.

Lisa will report further at our June meeting.

5. Chairman's Report of Meetings attended since 25th April 2018

The Chairman reported on the following meetings he had attended since the last meeting:

(i) Annual Independent Advisory Group (IAG) Greater Manchester wide meeting of IAG's at GMP Training Centre

The Chairman reported on his attendance at the above meeting which brought together representatives of eight IAG's. The main item was an update on the use of Tasers, together with an actual demonstration by police officers of the latest model of Taser. The presentation also included best practice procedures for the use of Tasers including a step by step description of exactly how and when a Taser would be used, together with an explanation of emergency health procedures to deal with any health issues exhibited by subjects who had been tasered. Whilst it was clear that procedures had been revised and improved, the Chairman informed members he still had reservations about the use of Tasers in respect of vulnerable people, especially regarding autistic people. The police confirmed that when Tasers are about

to be deployed, they do not know the health condition of the ‘suspect’ and therefore can only resort to hospital admission for those tasered, if required, following the discharge of the Taser Gun.

Members shared their concern with the Chairman’s unease but reluctantly agreed that the use of a Taser was preferable to other more physical and potentially more harmful contact by use of truncheons etc.

The other item of note was a presentation on how activities (marches and demonstrations) are dealt with in the Manchester City Centre, together with information about those organisations that had planned such meetings for the upcoming early May Bank holiday weekend.

(ii) Awareness training at the Bolton CVS Hub - General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The Chairman gave brief feedback on the GDPR presentation he had attended the previous day. He confirmed that not only was the meeting over-subscribed, there was a great deal of confusion by attendees as to its impact on small charities and other voluntary organisations. In essence, it appeared that even for the smallest of voluntary groups there was much they needed to do in order to comply with the GDPR. Amongst matters to be addressed was the need to ensure all current members were happy to continue to receive information. For this to be valid and lawful, each member needed to be given the opportunity to confirm their wishes. Also, the manner in which data was stored needed to be reviewed to ensure compliance with the new regulation. This may include the use of encryption. For example, simply relying on the use of Google email facilities is deemed to be unsafe and therefore insufficient to meet the requirements of GDPR.

6. Vice-chair’s Report of Meetings attended since and on 25th April 2018

(i) Good Practice – Volunteer Recruitment 25 April 2018

(ii) Good Practice – Volunteer Policies & Processes 23 May 2018

These seminars were arranged by CVS, taking place at The Hub in Bolton.

They were most interesting with participation and contacts made with many who took part.

There are 46,900 volunteers giving 113,500 hours each week, per the State of the Sector Report 2017 – probably more today.

CVS handouts were given to all present showing examples for Volunteer Recruitment, Code of Conduct for Volunteers, Volunteer Programme Flow Chart, Volunteering Policy and a copy of the Bolton Volunteer Charter.

There were discussions on all manner of subjects around how best to recruit volunteers, the policies and processes to support and safeguard both the volunteers and those for whom the service is provided. Organisations explained and gave examples of how their service worked best.

Advice was given on where to find further information and templates to use, including Age UK, MacMillan, MIND and Know How websites.

There are several seminars to follow – see the CVS Website for dates and how to book.

(iii) Vice Chair's Report of Bolton Care4 meeting attended 1st May 2018

Caroline Gee, Clinical Lead with the NHS Funded Care Team under the Bolton Clinical Commissioning Group gave a presentation about Continuing Healthcare.

She explained that this is a complex subject and, basically, asks the question "What is a health need?" It can be a treatment, control or prevention of a disease, illness, injury or disability and the care or aftercare of a person with these needs which will be met by a combination of mainstream services such as District or Community Nurses and Tissue Viability Nurse.

You or your loved ones over the age of 18 or in transition may be eligible for Continuing Healthcare if they meet the criteria for a health or social need.

Social Needs are services which the Local Authority has a duty to provide and cover washing, dressing, enabling the person to eat a meal, or even 'drinking' which is classed as a social need. Also, assessments regarding equipment needed, home adaptations and even support to find a care home or carer support are undertaken.

Funding for residential care may be means tested.

For funded nursing care i.e. if the person requires 24 hr access to a qualified nurse, the NHS pays the cost of the nurse.

Continuing Health Care (CHC) funding is given when the person has a primary health need.

The CHC is fully funded by the NHS (Clinical Commissioning Group) and care can be provided in any setting such in the person's own home, Network House, or Nursing Home etc. in usually higher rate packages.

These packages are basically the NHS's version of Direct Payments and can be added to if there is a need i.e. if someone's illness gets worse and they need extra attention.

CHC funding can also be through the Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) i.e. full process of assessment or even fast tracked.

A Check List has to be completed and a detailed assessment carried out.

Either goes to the Social Worker or ring up to go through the check list. The Nurse will also go through her side of the check list. The questions are awarded scores i.e. A, B, C, D etc. and if the scores are mainly 'A's then you go onto the next stage. If you don't pass the check list you can appeal.

Multi-Disciplinary Team Full Process consists of a group of Health Professionals. They will come out to you to give a full introduction and explain the process and then review the assessments made by the Social Worker, Nurse, or District Nurse. The checklist will go to the Co-ordinator and then the MDT do the Full Process. You can say if you are not in agreement or if you want something added. The Nursing Assessor will add any comments you make, but make sure it is evidence based. You can disagree but you must say so and detail why.

At each stage and throughout they will ask are you happy with the situation.

There were various comments from the meeting, and others at the meeting who had gone through the process, said that it was a difficult time.

Regarding 'Making the Recommendation', each of the four characteristics listed could be classed as a health need due to the type of and amount of care required to meet the need.

The characteristics are Nature, Complexity, Intensity, and Unpredictability.

A person with swallowing problems, as an instance, could come under Nature – can anyone manage the problem or will it need nursing care i.e. feeding tubes?

Someone who needs 24 hour care/supervision or needs 2/3 people to move them or needs to be kept an eye on, could be under Intensity.

If they are immobile and at high risk of developing bed sores this may constitute a Complex need.

An Unpredictable need would be how the need fluctuates or whether it can become unstable and rapidly deteriorating.

The Recommendation is whether funding would be available.

Health and Social Care Professionals have to look at the overall scores and consider the overall health and social needs for the Indicators.

If the decision is for Continuing Healthcare or there is any disagreement with any part of it, then the family has to give a valid reason.

Finally, when the final letter is received, you can appeal on the level of need and will require a reason/s and proof.

You can also ask your Social Worker and Learning Disability Nurse to help you complete the form.

Further information: on Dept. of Health website, can ask your Social Worker or contact the team direct on 01204 462293.

There followed an interesting question and answer session.

7. Befriending Service

The Chairman reported two expressions of interest in the last few days for volunteering via Bolton CVS Do-it. Advertisements have been placed in the 'Cascade' magazine and the main theme of the Volunteer Event on Saturday 2nd June will be volunteer recruitment. The Chairman invited members to join him and Eira Heywood at the event between 9.00am and 2.00pm in the Market Place, Bolton. This event falls within National Volunteers week. The Chairman will distribute flyers at future meetings of the Autism Partnership Board and ETAG. All together at this time the BAAS volunteering opportunity had been distributed to no less than fourteen outlets/distribution points. Further distribution would take place over the next few weeks and would be ongoing as needed.

8. Any other Business

The Chairman informed members that he had booked a stall to promote BAAS at the Carers event planned for 13th June and organised by Bolton Carers Support. The event will take place at the Holiday Inn Bridge Street Bolton, commencing at 11am and close at 2.30pm.

Again members support at this event would be most appreciated.

There were no other items to discuss as part of item 8 of the meeting but there followed a short period within 'OPEN FORUM' to allow members to share experiences of particular concern.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 27th June 2018 at Thicketford Centre commencing at 2.00pm.