

BOLTON ADULT AUTISM SUPPORT

Minutes of the Meeting held on 25th July 2018 at Thicketford Care & Community Centre

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

There were 8 members in attendance: Graham Heywood, Chairman, Roselle Gorman, Vice-Chair, Eira Heywood, Safeguarding Officer, Barbara Brooks, Alison Thompson, Gerrie Melling, Carol Shaw and John Ellis.

Apologies were received from Yvonne Poulson and Elaine Birch.

Prior to the meeting starting proper, members were introduced to Jane Nuttall who conducted members around the adjacent Autism and Disability Centre to help inform discussions about the establishment of a programme of activities for parents' and carers' sons and daughters.

On returning to the meeting, there was a brief discussion regarding the suitability of the centre and its facilities for the purpose of hosting a programme of activities, including the provision of life-skills training. Further discussion was left over to item 5.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 27th June 2018

The Chairman thanked the Vice Chair for having taken charge of the June meeting whilst he was away on holiday and for the comprehensive nature of the minutes produced. Members reviewed the above minutes deferring matters that were to be discussed as part of this meeting's agenda. The minutes of the meeting of 27th June 2018^h were agreed.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising, save for those items under AOB of this meeting.

4. Ratification of the minutes of the meeting held on 25th April 2018

There were insufficient members available at this meeting who had also attended the April meeting, therefore the minutes of the April meeting could not be agreed. These will now appear on the agenda for the 29th August 2018 meeting.

5. Discussions on proposals for a programme of activities at the adjacent LD Centre

There was further discussion of this matter including the proposed charges from Bolton Cares to be met by BAAS. It was agreed that the centre was suitable for our needs and the service had to be interactive. Several members present agreed to volunteer their services to assist with the proposed activities along-side staff from the centre.

It was thought prudent to first check what services were currently on offer from the Autism Society for the Greater Manchester area (ASGMA), Aspirations Project and Autism Lifeskills Project in the Bolton area. The Chairman agreed to investigate and report back to the August meeting.

6. Carers Trips review and update

The Chairman referred to the schedule of trips previously supplied to members. He indicated that there had been good feedback from members who had been on the trip to Chatsworth House and Garden. The next trip was to the Lake District on 1st August 2018.

Tickets had been purchased for the trip to Liverpool Docks and Liverpool World Museum to view the Chinese Terracotta Warriors. This trip will take place on Sunday 26th August.

A trip to Salford Docks was discussed to take place at member's discretion, however this will have to be carefully planned in light of the expected disruption of train services between Bolton and Manchester during September 2018. The Chairman indicated this would be a free trip except for the train fare as this would involve members' meeting at Bolton Railway Station and travelling together as a party.

7. Befriending Service Update

The Chairman reported that the post of Befriending Co-ordinator had now been advertised with a provisional closing date of 6th August. This date however, could be extended to the full 30 days available in accordance with the Charity Website conditions. The post had also been advertised on the Bolton CVS website.

8. Meetings attended by the Chairman and Vice Chair since the last meeting

At the Bolton Autism Partnership Board (APB) meeting, the Chairman described the current workload of the Board regarding the production of an Autism Strategy for Bolton, led by Judith North, Chief Executive of a company engaged by Bolton Council to develop the strategy. The work was well underway and meetings had been arranged for people to contribute their 'lived experience' of Autism that will be essential in developing services for the betterment of the health and wellbeing of families impacted by ASC. There is also a questionnaire to be completed by parents/carers, the results of which will be incorporated into the strategy. The Chairman indicated that some meetings had been provisionally agreed at which feedback from people with 'lived experience' could be gathered. The Chairman to circulate details in the next few days.

The Chair, Vice Chair and Alison Thompson (member) attended the APB Parents/Carers Strategy meeting, led by Judith North, on 9th July 2018 arranged for parents and carers to feedback their views. This proved to be very worthwhile.

The Chair, Vice Chair and Eira Heywood, our Safeguarding Officer, attended the Autism Community Practice meeting on 18th July 2018, led by Lisa Griffiths-Wood of the newly formed group for autism with lived experience by Bolton Cares. The aims are to share best practice and learn as well as help design and shape future support provided to those people with autism. This meeting was also well attended by professional, non-professional, parents and carers, as well as people with autism.

The Vice-Chair referred to her reports in the minutes of the June meeting and advised members to take a look at the various websites for further information.

9. Correspondence from Sir David Crausby

The Chairman reported he had received an email from Sir David's office confirming that he (Sir David) had written a letter to Esther McVey, Minister for Work and Pensions in Her Majesty's Government, in which he had expressed his concern at the harsh and unfair treatment of families trying to obtain PIP benefits. This follows the Chairman sharing the experience of his son Julian's recent PIP assessment at which the Chairman and his wife, Eira, had accompanied and supported their son.

10. Any Other Business

The Chairman reminded members that the Mindfulness session by Simon Kitchen previously discussed would take place on 8th August 2018 in the Art Room at Thicketford Centre, commencing at 2pm and is free to all members.

11. Date of Next meeting

Wednesday 29th August 2018 at Thicketford Care and Community Centre at 2pm.