

BOLTON ADULT AUTISM SUPPORT

Minutes of the Meeting held on 26th September 2018 at Thicketford Care & Community Centre

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

There were 8 members present.

Apologies were received from Allison Thompson and Carolyn Bailey.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 29th August 2018

The Minutes were ratified and agreed.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising that were not scheduled for discussion on this meeting's agenda.

The minutes of the April 2018 meeting remain unratified due to insufficient members.

4/5. Meetings attended by the Chairman and Vice Chair

The Chairman guided members through the minutes of meetings he had attended and thanked the Vice-Chair for her comprehensive contribution regarding the meetings she had attended during the previous month. A copy of the notes of the Healthwatch meeting attended by the Vice-Chair were handed to members present. The theme was Technology Enabled Care (TEC). Handouts were also provided showing examples for Volunteer Recruitment, Code of Conduct for Volunteers, Volunteer Programme Flow Chart, Volunteering Policy and a copy of the Bolton Volunteer Charter. Advice was given on where to find further information and templates to use, including Age UK, MacMillan, MIND and Know How websites.

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. The Chairman thanked the Vice-chair for her contribution.

Bolton IAG:

The Chairman reported that at the last IAG (Independent Advisory Group) meeting there had been much discussion of the anti terrorism measures in place throughout Greater Manchester.

There had been a discussion of the local command structure in Bolton and GM wide. The discussion had been supported by a chart showing specific officers and their respective duties/responsibilities. The chart was not for general distribution to members owing to the personal and sensitive nature of the information given on the chart. It was however, reassuring that there was an officer for each of the areas relating to public safety etc.

Other matters dealt with included: Hate Crime Awareness; FGM within certain Communities of Bolton and, also much information (insight) on modern day slavery; drugs misuse and trafficking and finally the Chairman referred to a visit of members of the IAG to a town centre facility from which surveillance cameras were monitored and which covered the whole of the town centre.

Bolton Autism Strategy:

The Chairman attended the 'Listening' event held by Judith North who is now preparing an event entitled 'Living with Autism'. These form part of the autism strategy which has to be approved by Bolton Council by April 2019. Additionally, the Greater Manchester Autism Consortium (GMAC) are hoping to approve a 'kyte mark/symbol' which hopefully will be implemented across all the twelve Boroughs of Greater Manchester as part of the Greater Manchester Autism Strategy.

In recent years BAAS has contributed to the completion of the National SAF (Self Assessment Framework). Each local authority is required to complete a SAF that reports to the Government the stage reached in establishing accessible services for people with ASC. The SAF will need to be completed by end of November 2018 and will help inform the work on Bolton's Autism Strategy.

6. Appointment Befriending Co-ordinator

The Chairman reported that we had now appointed Rachel Nemes to the post of Befriending Co-ordinator. Rachel has a wealth of experience in counselling skills both privately and within her former post at Blackpool Sixth Form college. Rachel will commence employment with BAAS on the 15th October 2018. She will attend and represent BAAS at all future Befriending Coordinator Forum meetings.

7. Programme of Social activities and life-skills training

Welcome to and update from Lisa Griffiths-Wood, Operations Manager Bolton Cares:

Lisa joined the meeting at 3.00pm. She 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.

Firwood Fold Centre is now being considered as a preferred option but again this also is in the consultation stages. Lisa will keep members informed of any future progress in this area.

Lisa discussed options available to utilise the Learning and Disability and Autism Centre at Thicketford for the Week Day evening 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 (a wish list) 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. Several members present expressed interest in acting as volunteers.

Lisa confirmed that if members were willing to be volunteers (pending successful DBS checks) costings would be cut down to a minimum dependant on BAAS volunteers agreeing to attend the statutory training provided by Bolton Cares.

8. Any other Business

There were no items for AOB

9. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 31st October 2018 at Thicketford Care & Community Centre at 2pm.