

BOLTON ADULT AUTISM SUPPORT

Minutes of the meeting held on February 27th 2019

Item No

1. Welcome and apologies for absence.

The Chairman extended a very warm welcome to all present. There were 11 members in attendance, namely; The Chairman, Charlotte Horrocks (Treasurer), Roselle Gorman, Brian Robinson, Janine Robinson, Sophie van Brevern, John Ellis, Barbara Brooks, Rachel Nelmes (Befriending Plus service Coordinator) Tina Bell and Chris Cartledge. Apologies were received from Eira Heywood (Safeguarding Officer) Gerrie Melling and Yvonne Poulson.

2. Minutes of the meeting (AGM) held on Wednesday 28th November 2018

The minutes of the above meeting were addressed. Roselle brought to the Chairman's attention a number of required corrections/additions. It was agreed these corrections required to be reflected in the minutes before they appeared on our website. The Chairman thanked Roselle for her astuteness in identifying the needed alterations/additions. Subject to these alterations/additions, the minutes of the November 2018 meeting were agreed.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising save for those items that were to be dealt with on the current agenda and the matters acknowledged above in item 2.

4. Chairman's report on meetings attended since the last meeting

The Chairman reported on two meetings he had attended since the last meeting, namely the Equality Target Action Group (ETAG) held on 15th January 2019 and the Voluntary and Community Forum held on 20th February 2019.

Regarding the ETAG meeting, the Chairman reported the agenda was relatively short but included a brief feedback report from Nicola Onley, Associate Director of Communications and Engagement NHS Bolton Clinical Commissioning Group (Bolton CCG). At previous presentations the CCG had asked for feedback on the performance of the operation of the organisation in engaging with Bolton's Communities. This meeting provided the opportunity to inform the public on the actions undertaken under the heading of 'You said, we Did).

Other agenda items of note included a presentation on overcoming barriers to health and wellbeing and working together to deliver a better service for people with sensory loss. This presentation was notable for the rapid interpretation of signing by staff members from Bolton Deaf Society and of peer advocates from Sensory advocates NW.

Lauren McKechnie, Volunteering and Development services Coordinator, Bolton CVS spoke of 'Giving Back in Bolton' designed to encourage organisations and individuals to give back by means of time and talents on a voluntary basis.

The second meeting on 20th February of the Voluntary and Community Sector Forum was extremely well attended with a packed out audience representing a diverse range of organisations. David Bagley, Chief Executive of Urban Outreach spoke of the recent work of the Bolton Vision Partnership, of which BAAS is a member and mentioned particularly, the ongoing work with the youth of the town and of the upcoming vision conference to be held in Spring (April/May). There was a short presentation by Carol Corbett on the Walsh Trust with an invitation to apply for small pots of grant aid. The Chairman of BAAS, together with Rachel, BAAS Befriending Coordinator, gave a presentation on the Befriending Plus service, highlighting the lengthy journey from inception through to the appointment of Rachel Nelmes as Befriending Plus Coordinator. Rachel informed members of the progress of the service since she commenced her duties. Other presentations included a funding update from Bolton CVS and a presentation from Patrick Long of Bolton Council on 'Finding a Group'.

5. Presentation on the work of Respect 4 All

In the absence of the Chief Executive of Respect 4 All, Mr David Gibbon, Rachel Nelmes gave a brief overview of the organisation and how it was proposed a partnership with BAAS would help strengthen the Befriending Plus Service. It was agreed Mr Gibbon be invited to the next meeting of BAAS in March.

6. Befriending Plus Service update

Rachel Nelmes, Befriending Plus Coordinator gave a brief update on the progress of the service, after which members congratulated Rachel for the admiral progress and results achieved to date.

7. DBS clearance for members who have volunteered to assist in delivering a programme of activities at Thicketford Care Centre.

There was a discussion on the progress of this item and it was reported that some potential volunteers had experienced difficulties in completing the online registration. However, these problems were likely to be resolved by end of March.

8. Chairman's Correspondence with BAAS Patron Sir David Crausby MP

The Chairman reported upon his recent letter to Sir David regarding a Mail on Sunday newspaper article that highlighted the plight of young people with Autism being incarcerated in NHS funded Psychiatric Units. The Chairman expressed his horror at reading this particular article that chronicled the experiences of Kyle Gibbon who went into a unit at 18 years of age, initially for an assessment to determine his needs when living in the community. The period of assessment was expected to be about 6-8 weeks but Kyle remains confined after 13 years. During this time Kyle had suffered a great deal of abuse from those who were there to care for him including being forcefully injected with various drugs. The

Chairman further reported that Sir David said he had seen the article in the Mail on Sunday and he, in his reply to the Chairman also expressed horror at the plight of Kyle and other people in similar situations. The Chairman then read a letter of reply sent to Sir David from Government Minister for Care, Caroline Dineage MP in which she had set out the measures the Government were currently taking to address the issues as highlighted in the Mail on Sunday, including a complete reassessment of such units mentioned in the newspaper article. The longer term intention of the Government is to close many of these units.

Members discussed this matter and congratulated the Chairman on his actions and asked that this matter be monitored over the next few months with a view to the Chairman seeking a progress report from the Minister via Sir David.

9. Any other Business

There were no other items for discussion or reporting and the Chairman duly closed the formal business of the meeting, after which, members shared personal experiences in OPEN FORUM time.

10. Date and time of next meeting

March 27th at 2;00pm at Thicketford Care and Community Centre