

BOLTON ADULT AUTISM SUPPORT

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24th APRIL 2018

Item 1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chairman extended a very warm welcome to all present.

Apologies were received from Roselle Gorman, Elaine Birch, Eira Heywood, Yvonne Poulson, Brian Robinson, John Ellis and Rachel Nelmes (Befriending Plus Co-ordinator).

In attendance were the Chairman, Barbara Brooks, Janine Robinson, Gerry Melling, Charlotte Horrocks.

Item 2. Minutes of the meeting held on March 27th

The minutes of the March meeting were reviewed but could not be ratified as there was not a quorum of members in attendance that had also been present at the March meeting.

Item 3. Matters arising from the above minutes

DBS checks for members volunteering with the Befriending service. There had been some delays to the process due to confusion regarding required personal documentation but all volunteers had now completed the task.

Item 4. Meetings attended by the Chairman since the March meeting

The Chairman reported upon the following meeting:

- (i) Attending a stall in the Marketplace to promote our Befriending Plus service on April 12th as part of World Autism month. The Chairman, Roselle Gorman and Charlotte Horrocks, Eira Heywood and Rachel Nelmes were in attendance. Whilst there had not been many people engaging, it was nonetheless deemed to be a useful exercise because it enabled BAAS to be in the public's consciousness.

Item 5. Report of the Befriending Plus Co-ordinator

In the absence of the Befriending Plus Co-ordinator the Chairman distributed Rachel's report of activities and events since the March meeting. In summary, Rachel reported there were now 10 volunteers, and 7 Befriended. We know that volunteers are finding us from several different routes, namely, Do-it (volunteering platform), Bolton CVS, Bolton University and by word of mouth. One pair has been matched and ready to start meeting. Others are expected to be active in the near future.

Rachel reported on the upcoming Befriending Day which we shall be supporting along with a number of other volunteering organisations. The event takes place on July 3rd from 1-00pm to 7-00pm. The purpose of this event is to recruit both volunteers and Befriendeds.

Preparations are underway for Volunteers' week, to be held 1-7th June. We shall be celebrating and appreciating our own volunteers as well as promoting volunteering generally. A party for volunteers will be held on Thursday 6th June at Bolton CVS Hub. Members expressed appreciation of the work undertaken by Rachel and asked the Chairman to convey to her their thanks.

6. Draft schedule of trips for carers for 2019.

The Chairman reported on proposed trips for 2019, an application in the sum of £1000.00 had been submitted to Bolton CVS. Proposed trips included The Liver Building experience and Docks area; Anderton Boat Lift and Canal cruise; York Minster and City and a theatre trip to the Albert Halls Bolton. In reporting on these proposals, the Chairman said that there had been a very sharp increase in Transport costs for 2019 compared to the previous year from one previously well used supplier. The increases were up to 100% and this had implications for this year's trips and for future years also. Fortunately, an alternative provider of transport had kept its charges in line with 2018.

7. Any other Business

There being no further business, the formal meeting closed at 4:00pm following which there was sharing of information in OPEN FORUM.

8. Date of next meeting

May 29th at 2.00pm at Thicketford Centre