

BOLTON ADULT AUTISM SUPPORT

Minutes of the meeting held on 29th May 2019

Item 1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chairman extended a very warm welcome to all in attendance. There were eleven members, present namely; The Chairman, Eira Heywood, Roselle Gorman, Barbara Brooks, Brian Robinson, Jamie Robinson, Yvonne Poulson, Gerrie Melling, Charlotte Horrocks, John Ellis and Saf Patel. Apologies were received from Elaine Birch, Rachel Nelmes and Janine Robinson. Anne and David Telling joined the meeting briefly.

Item 2. Minutes of the last meeting held on 24th April 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on 24th April were reviewed and agreed by those in attendance at that meeting.

Item 3. Matters arising from the above minutes

It was confirmed by Barbara Brooks and John Ellis that they had not yet received their DBS certificates. All others appeared to have received them and the Chairman said he would relay this information to Lisa at Bolton Cares. The Chairman has since been advised by Lisa that member volunteers were also required to complete a form specific to the requirements of Bolton Cares operating procedures. The Chairman will progress this matter with Lisa.

Item 4. Ratification of the minutes of the March meeting

The minutes of the March meeting were now ratified by those present at this meeting who had all been at the March meeting, subject to the name of Sophie Von Brevern being added to the list of attendees.

Item 5. Report of the Befriending Coordinator, Rachel Nelmes

Rachel being on holiday, she had produced a written report of the progress of the Befriending Plus Service. Particularly, Rachel advised she had organised a 'thank-you' event that recognises the support of our volunteers, including trustees. Also it was noted that Rachel, had arranged involvement of BAAS in the Befriending Day. This event, scheduled for July 3rd will be a recruitment exercise involving a number of local charities with Befriending services, the aim to help recruit more volunteers who will be able to choose from those attending the event. Roselle confirmed she had sent a copy of the poster to Sue Mc Neil, editor of Cascade magazine for publication in the June/July edition. Members noted the content of the report with great pleasure and agreed with the Chairman that on their behalf he thank both Rachel and volunteers for a most encouraging report.

Item 6. Proposals for promoting the programme of Social activities and life skills training.

The Chairman outlined his thoughts on how to kick-start the promotion of a programme of events. He emphasised that this element of the Befriending Plus Service was crucial to the overall success of the service. He also indicated that Rachel, Befriending Plus Coordinator had canvassed volunteers and current Befriendees for their views. Feedback confirmed that board games, quizzes, art/painting

and general discussions were things that would be welcomed. It was agreed that a poster be produced and distributed to libraries, GP Surgeries etc to help promote the service by way of an 'open evening' to try and gather additional ideas. The Chairman agreed to pursue this action.

7. Meetings attended by the Chairman since the April meeting.

The Chairman gave feedback on meetings he had attended on behalf of BAAS since the April meeting

(i) Greater Manchester Autism Consortium Employment Sub-group 7th May

This meeting was for members of the Employment into transition working group. The members of this sub-group were from a diverse range of backgrounds and professional organisations including NHS, Voluntary organisations, Parents and Carers and Self Employed. The Chairman outlined the method of gathering information by table top discussions and sharing findings/ideas. One particular view from a business man was that he felt rather than continuing to tackle businesses for a lack of provision of reasonable adjustments in the workplace 'we' should be approaching workplace suitability for autistic people from an economic model, that is, rather than saying what the business failings were, approach employers with a challenge by explaining why their business cannot afford to ignore the skills and talents of autistic people.

(ii) Greater Manchester Autism Consortium Parents and Carers Group 15th May

As the name suggests, this is a forum where parents and carer members are able to share lived experience stories, highlight good practice where it exists in the community and gather case studies for publication in future documents and for sharing in different forums.

(iii) Equality Target Action Group 14th May

The Chairman gave feedback on this meeting held at and organised by Bolton CVS Hub. Two notable items a feedback presentation from the Bolton Health and Care Partnership which sought feedback on the proposal to bring together budgets of several service providers, including Bolton Council, Bolton CVS, NHS Greater Manchester Mental Health and Bolton NHS Bolton Foundation Trust. Feedback was gathered following round table discussions and feedback was positive and supportive of the proposal to bring together whole or elements of budgets of these organisations to ensure more targeted and fairer use of financial and other resources.

Another presentation from NHS Commissioning Group was on actions taken following on from previous surveys of what the public said they want to see happen. 'You said- we did'.

8. Feedback from meetings attended by other trustees.

Safeguarding Officer (Eira Heywood) and Secretary (Barbara Brooks) Gave feedback on a meeting of the Greater Manchester Autism Partnership Criminal Justice group. The meeting was comprised of highly placed people representing various aspects of the Criminal Justice System (CJS) including Coroner's Office, Police and Probation Service in addition to voluntary organisations. There had been a lively debate on a number of issues relating to autistic people and the CJS. It was rather a case of deciding at what point in the life of an autistic person the Criminal Justice System should be kick started. After much debate it was agreed that early intervention was of the utmost importance, that

is when people are in school and before they are subject of criminal justice proceedings, at which time it could, for many be too late in their lives to be of real use.

9. Carers trips 2019

The Chairman reviewed the proposed programme of trips and confirmed that a decision on our grant application to Bolton CVS in the sum of £1000.00 is still awaited.

10. Any Other Business

Roselle referred to a LIVING BOOK initiative organised by Bolton CVS and confirmed she had agreed to speak on Autism Awareness at this upcoming event. Attendance is by prior invitation.

11. Date and time of next meeting

Wednesday 26th June at 2:00pm at Thicketford Centre