

BOLTON ADULT AUTISM SUPPORT

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 30th OCTOBER 2019

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting and reported apologies for absence from Eira Heywood, Yvonne Poulson, John Ellis and Charlotte Horrocks. There were 7 members present, namely, Chairman, Elaine Birch, Gerrie Melling, Barbara Brooks, Chris Bywater, Rachel Nelmes and Roselle Gorman.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 27th September 2019

The minutes of the above meeting were reviewed and one correction was noted. Rachel pointed out that the words 'currently engaged' in the second line of the paragraph dealing with Rachel's report required to be omitted.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising that were not for discussion on the agenda

4. Minutes of the June 2019 meeting

The minutes of the June meeting were ratified by those who had attended that meeting

5. Minutes of the August 2019 meeting

The minutes of the August meeting could not be ratified as there were insufficient members present at this meeting who also attended in August.

6. Presentation by Greater Manchester Screening and immunisation Team (GMSIT)

At this point in the meeting, we were joined by team members of GMSIT who had been invited to give a presentation on the importance of Cancer screening. Team members included, Amina Lone, Rolana Malik, Nana Oputu and Jessica Pathak. Also present was Deborah Robinson from Healthwatch who had facilitated the team's attendance.

The presentation reviewed the main cancers namely, Breast Cancer, Bowel Cancer, Prostate Cancer and Cervical Cancer. It was pointed out that opportunities for people to take advantage of Cancer screening were readily available but take up was relatively poor with the lowest take up from people of BME communities. The presentation identified a number of reasons why there was such a small take up when screening is free. Barriers such as cultural issues, fear of the unknown,

embarrassment and general lack of awareness were thought to be the main obstacles to take up of opportunities for screening. A campaign entitled, **Answer Cancer** aims to increase cancer screening rates, especially within communities where take-up is currently low. It will achieve this by working with voluntary sector organisations, including faith groups, resident's associations and community groups, to raise awareness of screening and possible symptoms & causes of cancer **Answer Cancer** will support these organisations through training, information **sessions** and possibly grants.

Members actively engaged with the presentation and offered views as to why uptake of screening was a challenge and also shared personal experiences of their cancer screening.

At the end of the presentation questionnaires were distributed together with Cancer Champion forms many of which were completed and returned to the team. It was agreed that those forms not completed on the day would later be completed and forwarded to the Chairman for transfer to Healthwatch.

7. Carers Trips

The Chairman referred to the low take up of offers regarding trips so far this year. He informed members he had been looking at the seasonal brochure from the Manchester Palace and Opera House which had some interesting shows and for which tickets were still available. In particular he highlighted a Meatloaf tribute and Queen 'We Will Rock You'. The Chairman agreed to pursue one of these depending on availability of tickets and members eventual preference.

8. Meetings attended by the Chairman since the September meeting

The Chairman informed members that two meetings had been cancelled at the last moment that he would otherwise have reported upon, Bolton's Autism Partnership Board and a related Task and Finish group meeting involving himself and officers from the local DWP. He referred to a third meeting/event at which he and Barbara Brooks and her Son Christopher attended. This was a 'walk through' of the custody suite at Bolton Police Station at Scholey Street. This event had been organised by our friend Inspector Gail Spruce of GMP. Gail is known to most of our members and this event that she had organised and which BAAS had helped facilitate was to improve knowledge of and practice of 'Arrest and Custody procedures in so far as they relate to the need to ensure reasonable adjustments within the criminal Justice System. Christopher and the Chairman reported on the actual procedure that had been designed to simulate as accurately as possible the environment of a police station as experienced by people with Autism and or Learning Disabilities who have or may be arrested and placed in a police cell.

9. BAAS AGM Wednesday 27th November 2019

The Chairman reminded members that in November our meeting would be the Annual General Meeting at which executive members and non-executive members were to be elected/re-elected. He appealed for a good turnout of members.

He also raised the matter of the traditional bring and share meal at the close of the AGM and informed members there had been suggestions that this year members would like to visit a local restraint for a change. After some discussion it was agreed the Chairman investigate availability of restraint space for a date in December.

10. Format of meetings

Item not discussed. Held over to next meeting if time permits.

11. Any other Business

No other business

12. Date and time of next meeting (AGM)

Wednesday 27th at 2:00pm