

BOLTON ADULT AUTISM SUPPORT

**Minutes of the meeting held on September 25th 2019 at Thicketford Care and Community Centre
Thicketford Road, Bolton.**

1. Welcome and Apologies for absence

Members in attendance were: Chairman, Graham Heywood, Roselle Gorman, Hon Treasurer Charlotte Horrocks, Secretary Barbara Brooks, Chris Bywater, Carolyn Bailey, Gerrie Melling and Befriending Coordinator Rachel Nelmes. Apologies were received from Elaine Birch, Eira Heywood John Ellis and Alison Thompson.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 28th August 2019-10-28

The minutes of the meeting held on 28th August were reviewed but could not be ratified as there were insufficient members present who were also present at the August meeting.

3. Matters arising from the above minutes

RG pointed out that the name Healthwatch (Bolton) was not hyphenated. This fact was noted and agreed but it was pointed out that the computer library preferred the word to be hyphenated. There were 8 members present at the August meeting including the Chairman. There were no matters arising that were not to be dealt with as part of the agenda for September.

4. Ratification of the minutes of the 26th June 2019 meeting

The minutes of the meeting for June could not be ratified due to insufficient members being in attendance who were also present in June.

5. Review of Programme of Social activities and Life-skills activities and the Befriending Plus service update.

Rachel Nelmes, Befriending Plus Co-ordinator gave a brief overview of the service since the last meeting. Rachel informed members that to date there were nine Befriendedees currently engaged with 6 Volunteers and that training was ongoing for those volunteers who had yet to complete training. Rachel confirmed that volunteer opportunities were widely advertised and that she had found facebook to be a good medium for informing people of the Befriending Plus service.

Regarding training Rachel confirmed that in conjunction with discussions with the Chairman she was developing a new training package that it was hoped in due course would be made available to other relevant organisations and individuals. This would be on a pay basis. In due course it was hoped that the training package would have accredited status thus making it even more attractive to organisations and individuals

Rachel continues to promote the Thursday evening sessions on Facebook.

Members thanked Rachel for her update and congratulated her on the results achieved so far.

6. Review of programme of Carers' trips 2019

The Chairman expressed his disappointment at the lack of take-up of places for both the York Trip and the trip to Anderton Boat lift and canal cruise. Various reasons had been offered for the low take-up including prior engagements and timing of the proposed trips. It was hoped that seasonal trips to the theatre in either Manchester or Bolton would be better supported.

7. Meetings attended by the Chairman

The Chairman reported on meetings he had attended on behalf of BAAS since the last meeting.

i) Meeting of the Bolton Independent Advisory Group

The Chairman reported that much of the time at the above meeting had been devoted to a completion of the revision of the governing documentation of the group. Following many hours spent on this task over the past 6 months the task had been almost completed. He informed members that in addition to the revision of governance documents there had also been a very informative presentation by the police on the use of Drones in combating crime and also in relation to public safety generally. The Chairman shared photographs of different Drones that had been on display at the meeting.

ii) Meeting of the GMAC Autism Strategy Criminal Justice and Housing group meetings

The Chairman reported in full regarding the proceedings of the Criminal Justice Implementation group and Housing Implementation group arising from the launch of the strategy by Andy Burnham Mayor of Greater Manchester on March 21st2019.

At the Criminal Justice meeting held on August 18th, group members had been allocated to different tables with each table of members reviewing practical issues such as Arrest and Custody procedures. It had been the intention to gather members' views on the current procedure from the time a person (autistic or LD person) is arrested through to being held in custody. The Chairman had participated in this particular subject and said that a police representative had outlined current procedure but also acknowledging the weaknesses of the procedure currently in practice. Other members at other tables dealt with other relevant subjects such as Court procedures, Prison Sentencing and Community Service.

The Employment Implementation group was held on 20 September 2019 and dealt largely with the question of good practice in employment for people with LD and Autism (or just autism) together with a lengthy discussion on the previous lack of response from Employers and employees about which questionnaires had been circulated to contacts but which exercise had resulted in very little return of information. It was decided that a small sub-group meet to gather relevant good practice and fill the gaps in knowledge that the questionnaires had failed to accomplish.

It was noted that the Chairman had been invited to be a member of the Housing Implementation Group that normally meets in Bolton.

8. Any other business

The Chairman referred to a Well-being Mini conference to take place on October 3rd at the Kings Church from 7:00pm and organised as part of the Vision 2030 Conference.

The meeting closed at 3:30pm.

9. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 30th October 2019 commencing at 2:00pm