

BOLTON ADULT AUTISM SUPPORT

Minutes of the meeting held on 28th August 2019

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chairman extended a very warm welcome to members, particularly to Susan Smith (Wife of Andy Smith) this being her first visit to the meeting. There were members in attendance, namely Eira Heywood, Roselle Gorman, And Smith, Susan Smith, John Ellis, Charlotte Horrocks and Befriending Plus Co-ordinator, Rachel Nelmes. Apologies were received from Barbara Brooks, Elaine Birch, Alison Thomson, Gerrie Melling, Yvonne Poulson and Brian and Janine Robinson. The Chairman informed members that Barbara Brooks was absent due to her Husband, Gerrard having recently had a stroke but who it was understood was progressing well following the stroke. The Chairman also reminded members that Alison was still recovering from her long-term illness. Members agreed that the Chairman pass on to Barbara and Alison their very best wishes for a return to good health accordingly.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on July 31st

The minutes of the meeting held on 31st July were reviewed and were approved by members present at that meeting.

3. Matters arising from the above minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes that were not to be further reported upon at this meeting.

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

The above minutes could not be ratified because there were insufficient members at this meeting who also attended the June meeting.

5. Befriending Plus service update

Rachel Nelmes BAAS Befriending Plus Co-ordinator gave a brief update on the progress of the service since the last meeting. Members were pleased to note an increase in Befriendees from 4 to 8 that included two pairs. Six Befriendees were waiting to be matched. Rachel informed members that training continued to be a crucial element of the recruitment process and that henceforth in agreement with the Chairman autism awareness training would be led by Rachel and assisted by members as needed. Rachel was currently constructing a training package and over time this training could possibly be provided for people outside BAAS. For this we would be seeking to have the training package validated externally. The Chairman reminded members that the new social activities and life-skills sessions together with the parent/carer drop-in would commence on Thursday 19th September from 7-9pm and continue every third Thursday thereafter.

Rachel would be promoting the events on our Face-book page.

6. Meetings attended by the Chairman during the past month

The Chairman reported upon the meeting of the Bolton Autism Partnership Board held on August 12th. The meeting dealt solely with a review of the draft edition of Bolton's Autism Strategy and which is now an all age strategy. There was much discussion of the draft and the discussion highlighted the need for more feedback from families with lived experience. To this end, it had been decided to hold several meetings which families were to be invited to in order to capture their much valued experience. A poster had been prepared that was to be circulated widely inviting families' participation. The Chairman informed members that a similar exercise had taken place last September/October and it was pointed out that the poster now prepared was to be amended so as not to confuse families with the similar exercise carried out in 2018. At the meeting there had also been much discussion of some of the data in the draft strategy that was to be expanded upon and amended where necessary. The original time-frame for publishing of the final draft was to be October but it was now accepted that this date was unrealistic given the need to incorporate more details of various topics and also the 'journey' that the draft would have to pass, i.e. through the various Officer working groups and various committees of the Council. Meetings of the APB were to be on a Bi-monthly basis until the task was completed. To this end a task and finish sub-group would be established.

7. Health-watch and Greater Manchester Screening and Immunisation Team promotion. Cancer treatment for women

The Chairman informed members of an initiative promoted by Bolton Health watch in conjunction with GMSIT. He felt this was such an important issue that he was recommending a representative from Health-watch and or someone from GMSIT be invited to the next or subsequent meeting to give a presentation on this initiative. Members agreed that we invite an appropriate person to join us at the next available meeting, Roselle mentioned that she had attended a briefing on this initiative held at the CVS HUB in the morning and informed members that initially the emphasis would be on Cervical screening and that groups were being invited to apply for small amounts of grant to be used to promote the benefits of early screening.

8. BAAS Trips

The Chairman informed members that for various reasons interest/support for carers trips this year had been very poor. The proposed trip to York and York Minster had to be cancelled and he had decided to reschedule the proposed trip to Anderton Boat Lift and canal cruise from a Saturday to a Thursday in the hope that more people would be able to go on a weekday.

9. Any other business

There being no further business the meeting closed and Open Forum followed.

10. Next meeting

Wednesday 25th September **commencing at 1:30pm (not 2:00pm as we usually start)**