

Calderdale NAS Branch
Annual General Meeting
September 17th 2016

1. Welcome and Introductions....

Sarah Allard - Branch Chair
Davina beck - Vice Chair
Tim Soetens - Treasurer
Luke Brunning - IT Officer
Karen Nelson - volunteer
Sam Goacher - volunteer
Cath Dawber - volunteer

2. What has happened this year....

- Activities - Sarah and Davina
- Coffee Mornings - Davina
- Facebook - Sarah and Davina
- Training - Davina
- Fundraising - Sarah
- Duke of Edinburgh Award - Davina
- CAMHS - Sarah

3. Feedback received on how we have done so far....

- Feedback from activities
- Survey monkey feedback
- Suggestion box

4. Treasurers Report....

- Feedback to the branch with how the finances have been - Tim and Sarah

5. Confirm branch members....

- Branch Chair - Sarah
- Vice Chair - Davina
- Treasurer - Tim
- IT - Luke
- Volunteer - Karen
- Volunteer - Sam
- Volunteer - Cath

Colette Hampson is our branch support person from the National Autistic Society

6. Plans for next year....

- Monthly activities and occasional additional sessions
- Facebook
- Website
- Newsletters
- Continued support and links with Dawn Collins re Adult Group and social services agenda
- Continued input and liaison with planning services - ASD Adult strategy/ CAMHS
- Continue to support ASD Team training
- Look in to D of E opportunities
- Compile a resource of objects/ books/ toys/ communication aids for members to look at for ideas of things available - Cath
- Continue to look at opportunities for grant applications and funding opportunities - Samantha
- Research available training opportunities for parents/ carers of people affected by ASD - need volunteer to facilitate

- Young persons group/ social opportunities - need volunteer to facilitate
- Fundraising: Brighthouse Gala - Davina

Halifax Gala - need volunteer

Halifax show (craft stall??) - need volunteer

Any contributions from sponsorship from members is always greatly appreciated.

- Volunteers are always welcome either for a specific task, if you would like to organise a one off activity, help at the charity stalls, raise some sponsorship money, bring new ideas to the branch. Please email the branch if you would like to get more involved with the branch.

MINUTES....

NAS AGM 2016

Thanks to everyone for coming Introduced all committee members

Apologies for CH and KN SA discussed the activities we had organised in the past year.

Via the ASD Coffee Mornings we have been offered; - PHSE Training (Personal Health and Sex Education) - Introduction to Autism Course There is a concern that training from the ASD team only covers people who already receive a service from the ASD team. This excludes anyone who's child is in special school and anyone who is does not have a diagnosis.

The Facebook group was mentioned to anyone who was not aware we had one

Last year's fundraising was noted; the main events were:- Brighthouse Charity Gala - Halifax Charity Gala - Charity Stall in Halifax organised by SG - Lots of individual donations (Mrs W's Garden Party)

We have investigated Duke of Edinburgh for older members but have not had enough interest to peruse this.

The monthly newsletter was mentioned which everyone should know about as all members present booked tickets via the link from the newsletter.

CAHMS - KN is involved with a feedback group which is assisting CAHMS with developing the service. Updates from Karen are sent via the newsletter.

TS gave a financial report:- available to download. Highlights are we still have over £10k in the bank and made a profit this year mainly from the fundraising efforts. Most of our expenditure was on events. We reminded members that the money is theirs, so tell us what sort of events they want!

Elections Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer were all nominated, seconded and accepted.

Ideas for Future Events were; - Taekwondo - Indoor Skydiving - Mechanical Horse/Bucking Bronco - Abseiling

We reminded everyone of our link with Adults; Adults Aspergers group which was via DC at Calderdale Council and JW and KN also had links via the Adult Autism Strategy and CAHMS.

We discussed a plan to offer a pool of resources to look at which we could bring to events/ take to coffee mornings.

We are looking at training as currently this is delivered the ASD team and provided by the NAS but only to people who are serviced by the ASD team; not all our members are. We would need to tender for an independent training service, but could still use the NAS training package. It was noted that if your child is in mainstream school you cannot access service from the disabled children's team at Calderdale Council. SB offered to look at the issues around training to see what our options are.

Earlier in the year some attempts were made to facilitate a social group for teens but this had not gained any traction despite an initial meeting of the young people. If there is anyone who wants to help out with this, please make yourselves known!

SG, our champion fundraiser is going on holiday next year the the time of the Halifax Gala so we need someone to come forward to assist with this next year. The Halifax Gala is a major source of our annual income. We may have the opportunity to have a stall at the Halifax Agricultural Show, but again we need volunteers for this.

The need for volunteers was re-iterated; you can help out as a one off at an event or in a more involved matter. Anyone is welcome! All the volunteers were thanked by SA for their efforts this year.