



Autism Bucks Bulletin is the quarterly newsletter of Autism Bucks, a charity actively working to help adults with autism in Buckinghamshire. It is produced to keep our trustees, volunteers and sponsors informed of our activities.

This second edition covers the activities since our last bulletin, issued in April and provides an update on our current and planned activities.

### **Covid-19**

### **Membership and Group Meetings**

### **Trustees and Volunteers**

### **Finances**

### **Website, Facebook and social media**

At the time of writing, we have 715 Facebook and 374 Twitter followers and we have recently taken on a volunteer with a brief of looking after our social media profile.

### **Projects**

Growth and development of the charity can only happen with some project based activities on top of our normal operational load. These need to be planned and funded as we would not be able to afford them otherwise. Funding for the most part comes from grants we have to apply for and this activity helps us to define exactly what it is we want to do, how much it will cost and what benefits it will bring. The following is a brief description of the projects we have identified and the current position. Future issues of Autism Bucks Chat will provide updates on the progress of these projects.

**Awareness** – a programme of awareness lectures with handouts to be delivered members and care workers. This project is part of an application to Bucks Community grants and we are waiting to hear if we have been successful.

**Marketing and communications** – There are several strands to this project but at the moment we can say that we have begun to produce a quarterly newsletter for our members and sponsors, and we are investigating buying some lanyards and other publicity material. We are working with our Social Media volunteer to improve communications and are working on a publicity flyer that will replace our existing A5 notelet.

**Website** - Plans to revamp our website are on hold until we can better define the scope of the project and funding required – then we need to find sponsorship to pay for it! Similarly a project to develop our membership list is closely linked to the website and cannot progress at this time.

**Training package** – linked to the awareness project, it was recognised that we have a wealth of expertise to design and potentially deliver training to the NHS etc. There is certainly an opportunity here but recent dialogue on the matter has identified that it is not quite the right environment for us to get involved with yet, and as a result this project is on hold.

**Trustees & Volunteers**– the T&V project is an ongoing activity to review our current needs against what our trustees and volunteers have to offer – at times we recognise we aren't up to it, hence the work to identify volunteer roles and recruit individuals to meet those needs. We also collaborate with Community Impact Bucks and have benefitted from several training and coaching sessions from them.

**Members Group Meetings** In 2020-21 we plan to work towards opening additional groups, with plans to explore potential for groups in additional towns as well as special interest groups (e.g. for young adults, or for women). This work will in part be funded by our Heart of Bucks grant.

### **Our partners and sponsors**

This year we have been lucky to attract significant donations from Waitrose via their green token scheme in High Wycombe, Chesham and Aylesbury. We have further opportunities underway for Beaconsfield, Buckingham and Gerrard's Cross.

We have been working with the National Autism Society branch based in Aylesbury and have recently formed a link with NDSA (Neural Diverse Self Advocacy) and have used their website to host a chatroom forum.

We have applied for a couple of grants and are pleased to report this work has been successful in that we hope to have some funding to come from Heart of Bucks in the near future.

We continue to receive valuable input from Community Impact Bucks and this has greatly helped the Trustees in areas such as fundraising and volunteer recruitment.

### **Coming up**

At this time we should be making plans to host our AGM, but understandably, under Covid-19 our plans are hampered and we continue to follow guidelines set by the charities commission.

We are grateful for your patience and continued support at this challenging time.

The Trustees  
Autism Bucks

Registered Charity no. 1182603  
Email: [autismbucks1@gmail.com](mailto:autismbucks1@gmail.com)