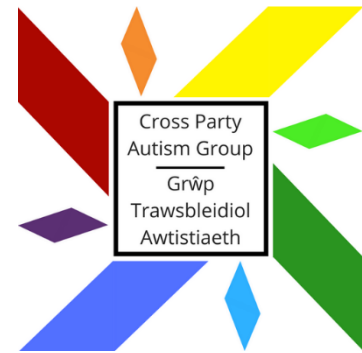


Cross Party Autism Group

Annual General Meeting

Friday 1 December 2023, 1:00pm



Attendees

Mark Isherwood AS/MS (Chair) (MI)
Tim Nicholls, National Autistic Society (Acting Secretary) (TN)
Alexander Still, on behalf of Hefin David AS/MS (AS)
Rhys Livesy, office of Rhys ab Owen AS/MS (RL)
Paul O'Brien, office of Rhys Ab Owen MS/AS (PO)

Minutes

1) Welcome and introductions

MI welcomed attendees to the meeting.

AS confirmed he had authorisation to nominate on behalf of Hefin David. (This has been sent to the secretariat for record.)

2) Election of Chair

MI recused himself from the Chair and nominations were sought for the Chair.

Nominations had been received for MI from:

- Hefin David
- Janet Finch-Saunders

No other nominations were received. MI was elected Chair.

3) Election of Secretary

MI sought nominations for Secretary.

Nominations were received from:

- Hefin David
- Janet Finch-Saunders

No other nominations were received. TN was elected Secretary.

ACTION: TN to circulate finalised draft annual report for comment to members by end of next week.

4) Reflections on the last year

MI reflected on the last year.

The Group has had a good calendar of meetings, with three public meetings:

- January 19, 2023 – Hybrid meeting, Ty Hywel/Microsoft Teams
 - o Overview of the National Autism Team
 - o Presentation on education and transition from NAS Helplines.
- April 17, 2023 – Hybrid meeting, Bangor University/Microsoft Teams
 - o Presentation on parental blame and PDA
- September 28, 2023 – Hybrid meeting, Ty Hywel/Microsoft Teams
 - o Experiences of being elected
 - o Work of the National Neurodivergence Team
 - o Presentation on the Equal Power, Equal Voice project.

Chris Haines who was the secretary has moved on from the National Autistic Society Cymru and is now back as a journalist reporting on Senedd proceedings. Tim Nicholls is has been elected to take on the secretary role while a replacement is found.

A full report to the Table Office will be prepared and submitted following the AGM in accordance with the rules.

5) Plans for next year

We are planning a meeting on Monday 22nd January at 10am. This will be attended by the Deputy Minister for Social Services, Julie Morgan AS/MS and give the opportunity for her to update on progress with the Autism Code of Practice and also answer people's questions about services in Wales.

6) AOB

AS reported that Hefin David had met with the EHRC which is working on deprivation of liberty, analysing treaties that UK is part of. He said that representatives would be Interested in joining future meetings.

ACTION: TN to add them to invite for future meetings.

AS also reported that Hefin David met with a Member of the Welsh Youth Parliament, Georgia Miggins. She is a member on behalf of Learning Disability Wales and recently gave a speech.

ACTION: AS to send a link to the speech to TN. TN to circulate the clip.

7) Close

The meeting closed at 1:25pm.