

**DUKINFIELD MEDICAL PRACTICE
PRACTICE PATIENT GROUP MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 31 JANUARY 2023
AT DUKINFIELD MEDICAL PRACTICE, CONCORD WAY AT 1.30 PM**

Present: Marion Higgins (Chair), Geoff Hill (Secretary), Sheila Frith (Assistant Secretary), Amrit Mistry (Treasurer), Julie Pregnall (Practice Director), Joyce Jones, Brian Malpas, Dawn Alston, Ann Wright, Kath Ratcliffe, Joan Drummond

Apologies for absence:

This was an ad hoc meeting to discuss two items needing resolution before the Annual General Meeting. Therefore the minutes of the last meeting were not reviewed.

Marion opened the meeting by reflecting on last year's activities and progress. She said that she looked forward to the opportunities that the current year could bring. She acknowledged that there had been some "learning curves" but felt pride in what had been achieved and thanked everyone for their contribution. She felt a key ambition was to improve communication at a number of levels, especially as we come out of all the covid restrictions and the limitations that period put on us.

1. Title for the combined group of Practice Patient Group and Health Champions

Following the recent vote for a new name, issues had been raised about the process that was involved. Julie outlined the position from the Practice's perspective. Marion put forward her opinion on the issue, which, on reflection, she felt she hadn't expressed well and apologised to anyone who might have misconstrued her view. However, the Group collectively expressed their satisfaction with the way the vote had been progressed and a majority of the group felt that the title of Patient Network Group was the preferred choice. It was agreed that whilst this title was fine for use on the website for example, any marketing or other material should include Dukinfield Patient Network Group so as to distinguish it from other groups using this title.

It was acknowledged that this change should also be the trigger to revise some parts of the Constitution, website etc. The Constitution document was adapted from others offered to us as examples from other established groups. It was equally acknowledged that this would be another learning experience for the group.

2. Suggestions for future Activities

Julie reported that she had identified funding streams and that, although requests could be submitted up to June of this year, she felt it was important to identify the events that we particularly want to put on or start so as to get effective costings and be able to plan well in advance.

Suggestions were plentiful. It was agreed that the Health Event should be repeated, perhaps expanding or changing the exhibitors. Amrit suggested approaching the Wellbeing College based in Ashton. Ideas for targeting younger people and families were discussed including attendance at events such as school "open days" for new intakes etc. A market research project might signpost us to other potential outlets.

We could build on the success of existing activities i.e. the walking group. Dawn suggested a “Stroller” walk, including parents/caregivers/babies. Other activities have been done before such as knitting and craft groups. Location, storage and transport have to be factored in when organising such activities but it was recognised that they would be welcomed by a number of patients. Joyce had identified another potential site and Julie briefly discussed a possible development that could benefit the community overall. Both suggestions would need to be further investigated.

Suggestions for new groups were put forward, e.g. a “games” club. Brian reported that he’s still pursuing the option of renting a local allotment. Waiting lists are lengthy. An important event this year is the Coronation of King Charles III. National proposals for the long weekend have suggested that the day after the ceremony could host the “Big Lunch” and that the bank holiday Monday could be a focus for voluntary work. It was acknowledged that there will probably be lots of events being organised but it was felt that wasn’t a reason for us not to consider doing an event at the Practice.

Consideration was also given to the ways in which we engage with patients, to identify patient satisfaction or otherwise. Ideas were put forward for improving the current survey tools. Engaging with younger patients continues to be a challenge and one suggestion was that “virtual meetings” could take place periodically via Zoom or Teams. A format for such occasions might not follow the usual one but could be that of a QA for instance. A search of GPs with Outstanding CQC (Care Quality Commission) ratings had produced some useful material that we could adapt to our own needs.

Actions:

- A date for the AGM needs now to be arranged so that decisions can be ratified etc.
- Funding applications need to be put together. Julie said she would be able to help with this but the group will need to work on costings etc. in order to complete and make an effective application.
- Continue to identify ideas and feed them into the group.
- Arrange a further meeting to discuss and agree on the required changes to the Constitution, including the definition and members of The Committee etc.

3. Date of next meeting

14th February 2023 at 1.30 at Dukinfield Medical Practice.