

**DUKINFIELD MEDICAL PRACTICE
PATIENT NETWORK GROUP MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 23 MARCH 2023 AT 7PM
AT ST JOHN'S CHURCH CONFERENCE CENTRE, DUKINFIELD**

Present: Marion Higgins (Chairperson), Geoff Hill (Secretary), Amrit Mistry (Treasurer), Sheila Frith (Asst Secretary), Julie Pregnall (Practice Director), Joyce Jones, Brian Malpas, Dawn Alston, Ann Wright, Kath Ratcliffe, Bhikhu Mistry, Pat Bradshaw, Dr Vernon Marshall, John Dewsnap, Norman Liggins, Paul Byrne, Janet Broadbent, Olwen Barker, Barbara Beith, Betty Taylor.

Apologies for absence: Joan Drummond, Chris Eckersall, Gillian Eckersall

1. Minutes of the last Meeting and Matters Arising

Minutes were approved as a correct record.

Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising that were not on the agenda.

2. Proposed Projects for 2023

Marion opened the discussion by inviting updates and reports on current and proposed activities.

2.1 Health Walk

Dawn reported on the progress and development of the walking group. She said that funding had been requested that would enable the group to undertake a wider range of activity and venue. She is planning a "buggy walk" which would be aimed at families. DBS and first aid training will be necessary before it can begin but Dawn said that she was hoping that she will be able to start during April.

Julie said that the Practice is always interested in different ways of getting information such as this and other issues out to patients. Text messages are extremely effective but they have a policy not to over-use the method. Suggestions such as supermarket community boards, a wider range of social media platforms and other local information points were offered. Other suggestions can be made via the PNG email or in person/by telephone at the practice reception. (PNG email is: dukppg@gmail.com)

There was a general discussion on how to improve effective communication. It was acknowledged that this is a problem in most organisations. If information is distributed but isn't relevant to an individual at that precise time, it's rarely stored in one's memory but equally individuals can have problems articulating exactly what it is they want. It is known that patients will present to their GP with e.g. a physical problem but there might be an underlying anxiety or depression.

These are issues that the PNG will keep on their agenda into the future and everyone was encouraged to feed ideas and suggestions into the process.

2.2 Health Event

It was strongly felt that a follow up event would be welcomed. The feedback from participants had been very positive. Similar timing, i.e. September, was suggested. A sub group will be formed in due course to organise the event. There has been a lot of discussion previously on how we can make the event suitable for all parts of the patient population. However, holding two events is being considered so that focus can be on services that are of particular interest to specific groups.

2.3 Focal point for the PNG

Marion outlined the previous discussions and suggestions that have been considered regarding this issue. Julie said that a noticeboard had been purchased waiting to be mounted on the wall.

Brian offered to do this. This will give the opportunity to display up to date information, photographs of events etc. However, what would be welcomed was a space that things could be put on. Ideas for a craft group could be tied into this and it could provide a site for a “listening table” which has been discussed on many occasions - a point where members of the PNG and patients could interact. This is a developing area.

2.4 Hampers

Marion said that the Group had been considering distribution of hampers this coming Christmas and how to identify the recipients. Anyone can nominate an individual/couple or family.

2.5 Gardening

Brian told us about his previous attempts to secure use of an allotment for a gardening group. He had little hope of doing so, but reported that he had contacted a group called LEAP who do have a plot at the Meadow Lane allotments in Dukinfield. He and a colleague had met with the project leader and he was very impressed with what they had achieved. It is a very large plot and the site has facilities for making hot drinks, toilets etc. To date, the project can only open on one day a week due to staffing levels but they hope to increase to 4 days. The aim is to attract anyone who would benefit from such an activity (acknowledged to be one of the best ways of tackling isolation, mental health issues etc.) The project leader has offered to give a small presentation to the PNG and it was agreed that this would be beneficial. The project is still in its early stages but Brian felt this was an ideal time to be involved. She has committed to keep in touch with Brian and Julie as the project progresses. This could be an exciting development.

3. Any Other Business

There was no other business

4. Date of next Meeting

2nd May 2023 at 1:00pm at the Practice in Concord Way.
NOTE: This is 30 minutes earlier than previous meetings

The meeting closed at 8pm.