

**DUKINFIELD MEDICAL PRACTICE  
PATIENT NETWORK GROUP  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2024 AT 12 NOON  
AT DUKINFIELD LIBRARY, CONCORD WAY, DUKINFIELD**

**1. Present:** Marion Higgins (Chairperson), Joyce Jones (Treasurer), Julie Pregnall (Practice Partner), Sheila Frith (Secretary), Kath Ratcliffe, Bhikhu Mistry, Vernon Marshall-Coulaudon, Ann Wright

**2. Apologies for absence:** Amrit Singh, Brian Malpas

**3. Minutes of the last meeting**

These were approved as a correct record.

**4. Treasurer's Report**

Joyce presented her report as follows:

Previous balance brought forward £389.11

(this includes £87.03 donation) less Baby Bundles postage and packing debit £23.93 (general funds £365.18).

Baby Bundles refreshments had credit of £68.36.

Walking Groups refreshment had credit of £61.68 totalling credit £130.04.

Debits of £14.99 £17.50 £45.00 £55.00 (total £132.49). Overspend of £2.45. Nil left in both groups (general funds balance £232.69). First Aid spent £125.00 also now nil. Cash in bank general funds £107.69.

**5. Thoughts on future events**

It was felt a key area for the future was encouraging more volunteers to join the ranks. It was acknowledged that an important part of the GP contract is to promote social wellbeing. Our existing activities meet that brief but in order to expand, additional resources are necessary. Engaging with all parts of the patient population is a challenge and not unique to our organisation. Further work is necessary, but the following initiatives were suggested:

- Texts from the Practice similar to those used to recruit Health Champions
- "Bring a Friend" to existing activities
- Picnic in the Park (aimed at families in particular)

**Action:** Include in the agenda for next meeting.

**6. Update on First Aid Training**

This continues to be a challenge. Options have been identified but it was felt that those currently considered were either too expensive or lacked adequate interaction. Enquiries will continue to be made. Consideration could be given to combining with other Practices in order to make savings of scale. The provider must be able to provide the necessary accredited documentation.

**Action: All**

**7. Update on Trainee GPs/Staffing**

Julie updated the meeting on the current rotation of GP trainees. These are doctors who have completed their training but are now training specifically as GPs. They spend fixed periods of time within GP surgeries (rotations). The Practice currently hosts 3 trainees but that will be reduced to 2 in March. Details regarding the situation related to Dr Dowling's retirement will be circulated in due course. Dr McBride will now be the named doctor for all patient records taking this role over from Dr Dowling. It is required purely as an

administrative action. Dr Williams will become a Partner in the Practice and will increase her hours to 3 days per week.

### **8. New Community Pharmacy Service**

Julie presented information on this new initiative which has superseded the previous arrangement with pharmacies (Minor Ailments). Unlike that arrangement, the current scheme requires a referral from your GP. It is now operational. There are 7 identified pathways for referral, although DMP will use only 5 initially. Patients will continue to use the online triage system and if it is decided at the triage stage that patients meet the criteria for the CPS then they will be advised to make an appointment at the nominated pharmacy, allowing time for the referral to be sent. Pharmacists will be able to issue prescriptions which will either be paid for or free of charge depending on the patient's status. One of the aims is to reduce pressure on GP appointments, but it is also recognised that pharmacists are often an under-utilised resource. The concept was generally warmly welcomed and generated several questions including which pharmacies would be involved and how the additional workload might affect other services. A list of pharmacies will be issued. Julie explained that this project is being very closely monitored.

### **9. Any Other Business**

Julie asked if the patient surveys could be re-started. Marion said she would initiate.

#### **Action: Marion**

Joyce explained that in one of the funding applications, names and addresses of committee members had been requested. The application was not considered as we had not complied with this as well as other elements. However, she asked that, if this situation were to occur again, would people be in agreement to having this information disclosed. There was a mixed reaction and it was agreed that should this issue occur again, we would review it at the time. The application in question had been submitted with very little time before the deadline, not allowing time for the consultation to happen.

### **10. Date of Next Meeting**

16 April 2024 at 2pm at DMP, Concord Way, Dukinfield.

The meeting closed at 12.50pm.