

**DUKINFIELD MEDICAL PRACTICE PATIENT NETWORK GROUP  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5th NOVEMBER 2024 AT 1.30 PM AT  
CONCORD WAY**

**Present:** Kath Ratcliffe, Marion Higgins (Chair), Sheila Frith (Secretary), Bhikhu Mistry, Joyce Jones (Treasurer), Julie Pregnall (Partner)

**Apologies:** Brian Malpas, Ann Wright, Amrit Mistry

**1. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising**

The minutes were approved as a correct record. Most of the matters arising were on the current agenda with the exception of:

- Geoff has already started to put items for the next issue together. Others will be “banked” for future.

**2. Treasurer’s Report**

General balance funds brought forward are £52.08. Baby Bundles balance brought forward is £245.90 Craft balance was £418.50 with session costs of £334.95 leaving balance of £83.55. Total funds to date are £381.53.

These activity funds are to fund sessions up to end of March 2025. No second funding will be available from Locala. The last final monitoring and validation of the spending of the funding will then be due.

**3. Activities Update**

Baby Bundles - Marion and Sheila reported on this activity. It continues to prosper with the number of participants increasing. Given that the birth rate has remained static, at approximately 90 babies per year, we are “over producing” and we continue to look at alternative projects such as making gifts for Christmas hampers. There is an active WhatsApp group.

Gardening - Julie reported favourably on progress of this new activity. Numbers are still small and it’s not expected that numbers will increase significantly over the winter period. However, progress and success should be applauded as they are managing to produce organically grown goods in this first year.

Craft - Sessions have been planned and publicised until Christmas. Again, numbers are increasing and it is enjoying success.

Health Walk - Once more, attendee numbers are increasing. Walks at different sites have been arranged and very much enjoyed.

All activities seem to be running well, enjoyed by participants, have very active WhatsApp groups, and are planning future activities including social events. One of the aims of the activities is to promote a caring environment at the Practice. It is evident that this aim is being met as can be seen from the content/messages on the various WhatsApp group chats. Friendships are being forged.

It was recognised that we have to “market” our activities in order to increase their beneficial impact. The waiting room is a “marketplace” in many respects and how we could use the space to advantage has long been a question. Joyce suggested that she has a contact at Tameside College that she could speak to regarding assistance with improving relevant information on the TV screens. It may well prove to be a useful project for a student.

Christmas activities - We are as yet unsure what funding will be available at the moment. In the past, donors have been generous but we cannot assume that those levels are continued. Room hire for the party is already covered at the same venue as last year and

an afternoon tea style was suggested once again. It was felt that the focus this year should particularly be on carers as well as those they care for. Discussion included catering arrangements, suppliers (Park cakes), entertainment. Again, the College was considered as a potential music provider and Joyce had other suggestions that she will pursue.

**Action: Joyce**

#### **4. New Volunteer Update**

Julie reported on progress to date on potential new activities that volunteers can offer. Armchair yoga could be held on Friday afternoons at the library on Concord Way. There would be no associated costs. At the moment, there's probably only one volunteer able to run the activity and two are preferred in case of absence. Kath Ratcliffe said that she would be prepared to be involved, though not if it were a weekly activity. At this stage, that's probably unlikely but Julie will speak to Nisha to discuss. A starting date would probably be January 2025. Libby is now helping with the Health Walk. Julie will continue with these arrangements.

**Action: Julie**

#### **5. Lottery Funding**

Marion outlined the options for further funding into the future. Julie spoke about the Tameside Winter Pressures fund. We meet the criteria and it was agreed that a discussion would be held after this meeting to take an application forward.

#### **6. Impact of "Collective Action"**

Julie reported on the situation to date, and she felt that there had been no negative impact on patients. She said that one outcome has been that some system changes have had a positive outcome. It's important to keep in mind that General Practice needs to be adequately funded in order to play its rightful role in a whole service delivery of health care.

#### **7. Date of next AGM**

After some discussion, it was agreed that the AGM would be held on 7 March 2025 at the Library on Concord Way at 1.30-2.00pm followed by PNG meeting at 2.30-3.30. This change will help to put the schedule in line with other arrangements such as the financial year.

**Action: All**

#### **8. Any Other Business**

There were no other items for discussion.

#### **9. Date of Next Meeting**

7th March 2025 after the AGM.

#### **Funding**

Following the meeting, two bids for funding have been submitted for consideration to extend current activities beyond March 2025. We wait to hear if they are successful.