

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7 MARCH 2025 AT 2.30 PM AT DUKINFIELD LIBRARY, CONCORD WAY, DUKINFIELD**

Present: Marion (Chair), Sheila (Secretary), Joyce (Treasurer), Julie, Kath, Amrit, Bhikhu, Brian, Simone, Ann, Charlie

1. Apologies: None

2. Minutes of the last meeting

These were approved as a correct record. All matters arising were included on the agenda for the meeting.

3. Treasurer's Report

General funds b/f were £52.08 less £9.08 towards Christmas hamper wrap leaves £43 less an overspend of 21p, balance 42.79. Additional credit of £125 awarded by Forever Manchester, which was fully spent on DMP Carers Christmas party, leaving balance of £42.79 again.

Baby Bundles Activity balance b/f £245.90 less costs of £246.11 (21p overspend out of General Funds).

Craft balance b/f £83.55 costs of £83.55 leaving all Activities with nil balances. Locala Grant therefore now fully spent. Total General funds going forward £42.79. This is insufficient to maintain the bank account as shortly the bank charges will probably be £51p.a. plus transactional charges. It is suggested we close the Lloyds account until we can find a free alternative, if the committee agrees. Options for alternative banks include Metro and Monzo. Geoff has already provided information on Metro and will research Monzo. The Group must have a current bank account in order to apply for any funding opportunities. When the new account is opened the signatories will be: Joyce Jones (Treasurer), Julie Peggall (Committee Member) and Geoff Hill (Volunteer).

4. Updates for all Activities/Future Events and Recruitment of Volunteers

There was a general discussion which provided some useful ideas going forward. For instance, Baby Bundles could work on gifts for siblings of those babies receiving the initial gift. Julie said that this information could be provided by admin staff i.e. boy/girl/age so that a suitable gift could be added. "Acts of Kindness" - a handmade toy, to be taken away. A small display could be sited in the waiting room.

It was recognised that recruiting additional volunteers will be an ongoing project and various ways of doing this were considered, i.e. notices in key positions, keeping information "fresh" on practice tv screens, notice boards etc. "Word of mouth" is also key. As group members establish relationships, the social benefits are clear. Additional social activities are being planned and new interests explored and shared. It has also become clear that some people are largely housebound and though able to join in an activity with support, we do not have the resources to offer additional support for extension activities or events. For instance, a person can access an activity at the library with support but not be able to do so on an organised trip to a market or event. Julie urged us to consider the social prescribers for help with this issue. Finally, it was strongly suggested that we return to previously well attended coffee mornings at a local venue.

These suggestions were welcomed and will be followed up in due course.

5. Update on Collective Action and the Impact on Partners and Patients

Julie explained the background on this initiative, that it was GPs' way of highlighting the way that patient care has evolved from clear divides between hospital and GP responsibilities to something more much integrated. GPs have, for some time, been carrying out work traditionally done in hospitals but unfortunately the costs haven't transferred with it. The latest government offer of 7.2% (though 4.8% net) has been welcomed but it remains to be seen whether GP staff will be exempt from the recent NI increase as other NHS staff are.

A positive outcome from this exercise has been that some of the changes that were introduced as part of the "action" have been shown to offer "safer" ways of working, i.e. the number of patients seen by a clinician in a day, the way in which consultation requests are categorised. The benefits were quickly recognised and have been adopted in many cases into daily working practice.

#### 6. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

#### 7. Date of next meeting

15th April 2025 at 2.00pm at DMP Concord Way, Dukinfield.