

**DUKINFIELD MEDICAL PRACTICE PATIENT NETWORK GROUP  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10 JUNE 2025 AT 1.30 PM AT DUKINFIELD  
MEDICAL PRACTICE, CONCORD WAY, DUKINFIELD**

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

**1. Apologies:** Bhikhu

**2. Minutes of the last meeting**

These were approved as a correct record. Matters arising were included on the agenda for the meeting except that a draft protocol regarding newsletters is still ongoing.

**ACTION: Julie**

**3. Treasurer's Report and new bank account**

Joyce reported as follows:

The changeover to the Metro bank is now complete after long appointments in Manchester with myself, Julie and Geoff.

Geoff had to be a committee member to meet the criteria whilst we were there. An emergency committee meeting had to be called to fulfil the Metro bank's criteria and our Constitution had to be changed. Thanks to everyone for attending. We now have two paying in books and 48 cheques that need two signatories to sign. Electronic payouts can also be made, so everyone needs to let me have their bank details if they need paying back. The £38.54 has now been transferred from my personal account into the Metro bank. As yet the £2,000 grant has not been paid in and a further form requested from Tameside has been completed today. We hope to receive monies soon for Growing together Activity and we have to thank Julie's

Presentation for that. Therefore the balance brought forward is £38.54 General Fund. It should be noted that the grant has specific spending criteria for just Growing Together.

**4. Update on funding award evening**

This was hosted by TMBC at Old Chapel in Dukinfield. Eight projects in total had applied for funding. Each group did a presentation to the Council officers, officials and fellow attendees on their project and winners chosen based on the number of votes awarded to them by the attending groups. You were allowed to vote for your own project but you also had to use half to vote for other groups. All the projects were fully funded as there were sufficient funds and we were awarded the full amount that we had bid for - £2,000.

Everyone agreed that the evening had been both entertaining and very informative. It was really interesting to learn of other volunteer projects within our particular area of Tameside. Useful links have been made and assistance was readily extended. The money has yet to arrive in the bank account but our official start date is not till 25 June. Some elements of the project have gotten under way and the project has a very positive feel to it. There are some really interesting ideas being put forward. LEAP, which is the organisation through which we obtained the allotment, has not yet been successful in having their funding renewed but as our project is self-sustaining, it will not be adversely affected. We have rights to the allotment for several years to come. Everyone is keen to progress and plans are in place for marketing the activity, attracting new volunteers and participants to benefit.

**5. QI Meeting**

Marion reported on the most recent meeting that she attends as a patient representative. The main issue for discussion had been Safeguarding. She reported that the discussion had surprised her in as much as she had not previously been conscious of the implications

and issues that must be considered by a health professional when dealing with his/her patients. Conditions including asthma, dementia, etc., and those people who have additional care needs are probably what spring to mind but safeguarding requirements are so complex that they probably impact on most people's care.

The discussion went on to include Power of Attorney provisions. Julie made us aware that, although a Health PoA is inactive until one loses capacity to make decisions, the information should be lodged on our GP records. This can be done by presenting the original copy at the GP so that a copy can be made and appropriately stored within the health record.

Julie further reported on schemes which are aiming to assist people who are returning to work after a period of sickness, especially if it's a prolonged spell of illness, e.g. fit to return to work, although it may not be the original work.

The discussion was acknowledged to have been really useful and informative. It was agreed that it would be a useful topic for a newsletter item.

## **6. Funding and Sponsorship**

This issue has been addressed in previous meetings. Grant funding for activities is often difficult to access and the suggestion has been made that a sponsored event could raise funds that ensure activities currently available will continue. It was agreed that if money was raised by one particular sector/activity that the resulting funds should be paid into the general fund and be available for all activities within the DMP. A sponsored walk was suggested and Julie said that she would discuss with Dawn and David. Others could be involved if they wished and have differing responsibilities in fund raising. A car boot sale was also considered. Items for sale could include previously donated goods. Julie said that she might be able to assist in this area.

**ACTION: Julie**

## **7. Any Other Business**

Repeat Prescriptions. The way some prescriptions are requested is coming under scrutiny. Many patients order their own repeat medication via the NHS app as they need it. However, a practice, left over from covid, has resulted in some pharmacies taking on the responsibility of ordering medication on the patient's behalf and in some cases appear to fail to contact the patient prior to check that the medication is in fact required on that occasion. This is resulting in unnecessary waste of medication and the associated costs. There will always be instances when the pharmacy needs to act on behalf of a patient but in the vast majority of cases, we will be encouraged to take ownership for ordering our own medication as needed. Tameside has set itself a target for this to be in place by April 2026.

Hyde Hub: A question was asked about how appointments at the Hub are booked. It was explained that some appointments at the Hub are available for DMP to allocate. However, others are offered directly by the Hub via a telephone call from them.

## **8. Date of next meeting**

9th September 2025 at 1.30 pm at Dukinfield Medical Practice, Concord Way.