

**DUKINFIELD MEDICAL PRACTICE PATIENT NETWORK GROUP  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 OCTOBER 2025 AT 1.30 PM AT  
DUKINFIELD MEDICAL PRACTICE, CONCORD WAY, DUKINFIELD**

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

**1. Apologies: Bhiku**

**2. Minutes of the last meeting**

These were approved as a correct record. Matters arising were included on the agenda for the meeting,

**3. Treasurer's Report**

£38.54 General Fund b/f plus £30 Brian's pipe money making donation. Total £68.54  
Out of the Baby Bundles £30 donation £12.25 spent on babies gift bags, leaving balance of £17.75.

£1,573.43 Growing Together funds b/f. Monies spent on hinges, locks for storage boxes, tools, stools, cups, kettle, flyers, advertising £539.91 leaving GT balance of £1,033.52 plus £86.29 leaves total funds of £1,119.81.

**4. Bank Account Going Forward**

Joyce outlined the issues to date and suggested that we continue with the current bank account paying the monthly fee until the next AGM in order to ensure a full year's account figures and data. This was agreed. Various options were discussed in brief and a more detailed discussion will be held at a future meeting when further information is to hand. Monzo and Sterling were organisations offering free banking though these offer entirely on line services.

**Action: Future agenda item**

**5. Newsletter**

Marion reported on the progress of the sub-group that had been established to look at the future sustainability of the newsletter in its current form. It is recognised that it is too much work for one individual and that this was an ideal time to have a root and branch investigation as to how it continues. There is quite a high cost associated to its production and it would seem that most "copies" are read on line. Several hundred copies are hand delivered. This also presents difficulties and we have no way of knowing how many are actually read or go "in the bin". It was agreed therefore that questions about the newsletter and its content could form part of future surveys, to help gather vital information. It was a lengthy discussion considering the role of any future editor, who produces the content, how it would look, the form of paper copies in the surgery etc. Design could be easier with the assistance of IT solutions. It had been previously agreed that Geoff would step back from his work producing the newsletter given this decision but he will continue to help Julie with work on the website and assist us with producing leaflets and flyers for the various activity groups. His professionalism and development of the newsletter was acknowledged. It was unanimously agreed that "it's come a long way from its humble beginnings". It was agreed to continue the discussion at future meetings along with agreeing suitable survey questions.

**Action: Future agenda item**

**6. Christmas Decorations**

Marion reported progress to date on status of donations made and "promises given". It was suggested that patients could be asked to make nominations for suitable recipients for

the gifts via waiting room notices or text messages. The date agreed for assembling the gifts is **12 December 2025**. Time and venue to be confirmed.

Julie reported on similar issues related to the Christmas party which will be held on **2nd December 2025, from 11-3 at Dukinfield Cricket Club**. The target group from last year, Carers and Cared For, will once again feature. Afternoon tea had been very popular and comparatively easy to cater for. A working team was identified. Suitable entertainment was considered though a final decision remains outstanding.

Sheila also reported progress that has been made by the activity groups to putting together the plans for Christmas decorations in the waiting room. The enthusiasm that this project has received was readily acknowledged. Sheila suggested that the local press may be interested in a "good news" story and Simonne offered to give her contact details for The Reporter. The decorations will be put in the waiting room the weekend of **29th November**.

### **7. Ideas for Volunteer Recruitment**

Marion talked about how previously patient volunteers have conducted surveys in the waiting room with patients. A re-formulated survey, including issues noted elsewhere in these minutes, along with the usual quality and other service matters, could also address volunteering opportunities and ideas. Marion and Julie agreed to work together to look at how this could be achieved and suitable enquiries.

**Action: Julie and Marion**

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

For the Growing Together activity, Joyce has contacted various organisations by phone and personally to participate in the allotment. Flyers and items in Newsletter and on TV screens in surgery have helped to promote the project.

To date social activities have been enjoyed by a mixed group and regular attendees from Venture Disability Care (a service for people with learning difficulties) have come and learned new skills, picked vegetables, planted, recycled and composted and enjoyed refreshments and the outdoors. (Next week Brian and Terry are to help the SEN young adults to make bird boxes.) The vegetables the group have taken back with them were made into a meal, so additional skills learned were too. All these SEN adults are really enjoying their time on the allotment and their new experiences.

Library Roof Repair - several suggestions were put forward as to how pressure can be applied on the Council to carry out the necessary repairs. Charles and Brian will make personal contact in the immediate future with identified forums. As activity groups are unable to use the room, it is having a significant impact on their ability to carry out their work. Although the meeting room is available in the Practice, its location on the first floor makes it inaccessible for some people and inevitably has an impact on the Practice's staff and work.

**Action: Brian and Charles**

Amrit reminded us of the upcoming celebrations for Diwali and good wishes were exchanged.

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

25th November 2026 at Dukinfield Medical Practice. PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF TIME TO 1PM FOR THIS MEETING ONLY.