

**DUKINFIELD MEDICAL PRACTICE PATIENT NETWORK GROUP  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25th NOVEMBER 2025 AT 1.00 PM AT  
DUKINFIELD MEDICAL PRACTICE, CONCORD WAY, DUKINFIELD**

**Present:** Marion Higgins (Chair), Sheila Frith (Secretary), Julie Pregnall, Kath Ratcliffe, Joyce Jones (Treasurer), Brian Malpas, Simonne Ellams, Charlie Garside, Bhikhu Mistry

**1. Apologies:** Amrit, Ann

**2. Minutes of the last meeting**

These were approved as a correct record. Matters arising were included on the agenda for the meeting. The new bank account and future plans for the newsletter were items that will be discussed further in the new year along with developing a patient survey and plans for future volunteer recruitment. It was noted that the library roof was now repaired meaning activities could return to their usual schedules. Thanks were extended to those people who had raised the issue in various forums.

**3. Treasurer's Report**

General Funds b/f £86.29 less £10.32 for wool and £14.35 for baby gift bags leaving balance of £61.62. Growing Together funds b/f £1033.52 less £18.99 for canes leaves £1014.53.

Total funds b/f £1076.15. Recent £500 Christmas Activities donation makes total £1576.15.

**4. Update on Christmas Activities**

Julie reported a donation of £500 from a local business to be spent on Christmas activities. Marion reported that all the decorations made for the waiting room are finished and ready. The waiting room will be decorated on 29 November.

We usually create approximately 40 hampers. It had been decided that this year that hampers will be donated to a local residential home that cares for several DMP patients. Enquiries show that there are 32 residents and a further 4 people who live in an adjacent nursing home will also be included. Gifts will include a handmade item along with some seasonal confectionery. A small team will meet at Dukinfield Library on 12 December to deliver. Marion will meet with staff at the care home within the next week or so.

Julie said that so far 35 patients had been identified to attend a Christmas afternoon tea party and invitations will be sent out imminently. Last year's event was very successful and highly praised so we hope to build on that this time.

**5. New GP Contract**

Julie reported on some of the headline changes that are included in the new contracts between GPs and the government. Probably one of the most significant changes is that GPs must ensure that an online triage system is available from 8am to 6.30pm. It cannot be turned off. This means that, say, on training days alternative arrangements are necessary so that patients understand where they direct their request. The headline figure for additional finance might appear to be generous but it is a sum that has to take account of all increased costs including any enhancement to services. She reported that DMP will continue to take on new patients for the time being as this will increase the amount of funding received. There are still issues to be resolved, including how third party information is included in a patient's record. For instance, if a patient visits a pharmacy for advice and subsequently medication is prescribed. Further, all health care providers need to record "significant events" so that the information is available across a wider base rather than in an individual patient record only. This still requires work. Julie explained that DMP

has been well placed in addressing some of the changes so there is less impact on patients. She felt that the Practice is well positioned to carry forward the issues raised.

#### **6. Newsletter**

This item will be deferred to the new year. However, Marion wished to record that she has located the documents used for previous patient surveys and that the work involved in updating them to extract relevant information from patients on a range of issues, including a newsletter, should be given appropriate amounts of time and care. It's not always easy to engage patients in waiting room surveys so it's important that we "get it right". It was agreed that this item should be a major topic for the next meeting.

**Action: Marion/Sheila**

#### **7. Any Other Business**

Regular attendance of SENs adults have enjoyed their time on the allotment. They transplanted some cuttings and cleared one of the troughs ready for winter fertiliser. Brian and Terry would be showing them how to make bug boxes next weather permitting. Other potential attendees have also been identified.

#### **8. Date of next Meeting and AGM**

The AGM will be held on 6th March 2026 at 1pm in the Library on Concord Way and will be followed by PNG meeting. Speaker to be identified.

**Action: Marion/Julie/Sheila**