

**DUKINFIELD MEDICAL PRACTICE PATIENT NETWORK GROUP
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 10TH
APRIL 2026 AT DUKINFIELD LIBRARY, CONCORD WAY,
DUKINFIELD AT 12.30PM**

1. PRESENT:

Marion Higgins (Chair), Sheila Frith (Secretary), Joyce Jones (Treasurer), Libby Fox, Caroline McMahon, Ann Wright, Simone Ellams, Jennifer Jones, Betty Taylor, Margaret Mason, Pamela Porter, Liz Goodier, Jean McMullen, Jean Kershaw, Dave Tiplady, Peter Sharp, Bhikhu Mistry, Chris Adams, Roger Acheson, Ann Roberts, Grace Charlesworth, Alida Woods, Charlie Garside, Brian Malpas, Ellen Kenyon, J. Farnworth, Marram Amin, Fred Mycroft, Dr Z Kausar, Christine Robinson, Julie Pregnall, Vivian Jepkemboi

APOLOGIES:

Kath Ratcliffe, Amrit Singh

2. WELCOME

Marion welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Officers and other Committee members. She briefly outlined the role of the Patient Network Group, highlighting that it is not a forum for complaints to be investigated but one that works to improve the quality of care to the patient population; to act as a “critical friend”. Our example has a further strand of having volunteers who organise social activities that ultimately benefit patients and others.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

These were approved as a correct record.

4. CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

Marion’s report in full is attached to these minutes. She started by thanking everyone involved at all levels for their continued support. She reported on the continued success and expansion of the group activities, especially highlighting the Christmas arrangements given the financial constraints that people and organisations are experiencing. She wanted to draw attention to the way in which people who may have been attending one group activity have been drawn into enjoying the social benefits of attending others. She reported on the challenges all the groups face to raise funds to continue; only one had been able to attract a grant in the last year. However, creative ways have been found to continue without charging for any of the activities and it was noted that there are still many funding avenues still to be explored.

She moved on to discuss the newsletter that the PNG has produced for many years. It has become an expensive exercise and the group is exploring ways of producing this in more cost effective ways. Plans are in place to continue its publication by the middle of the year.

Finally, she touched on the work that is constantly ongoing to enhance the partnership with Dukinfield Medical Practice and its volunteers. There are strong links and we aim to improve them over the coming year by increasing the number of volunteers involved, not just for current activities, but to expand, and she encouraged anyone who has an idea or would just like to get involved to contact the Practice.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

Joyce explained how previous grants had supported activities over the last two years. Last year, Tameside Community Fund awarded £2000 to Growing Together allotment project which covered very successful activity for 9 months. She went on to identify the necessity of having a bank account for our community group and the problems associated with finding out that has low or no charges and the reasons for having to change the current arrangements in the immediate future. Her financial account to Trial Balance is attached to these minutes. She also highlighted that if anyone with experience could volunteer, their help would be much appreciated. Finally, she thanked Kath Ratcliffe for auditing the accounts and Geoff Hill for approving transactions.

6. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chairperson: Marion Higgins

Nominated by: Kath Ratcliffe

Seconded by: Ann Wright

Treasurer: Joyce Jones

Nominated by: Simonne Ellams

Seconded by: Ann Wright

Secretary: Sheila Frith

Nominated by: Kath Ratcliffe

Seconded by: Ann Wright

These Officers were duly elected.

7. COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The current Committee members are all prepared to be re-elected

Ann Wright

Brian Malpas

Charlie Garside

Kath Ratcliffe

Amrit Singh

Simonne Ellams

Bhikhu Mistry

Further nominations from: Roger Acheson and Margaret Mason were accepted.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Questions were raised in a broad ranging discussion at the end of the meeting by patients. Some useful feedback was offered and appreciated. One discussion focussed on the future of the PNG newsletter. There was almost unanimous agreement that this was a useful tool and that patients wished for it to continue. To date, several hundred copies are hand delivered, but it has become increasingly difficult to maintain the commitment. (NB What were the numbers in the votes about online access etc. Could someone complete this for me please?). At the end of the meeting, some people had expressed a wish to attend activities in the future and others made offers of help at various levels, all of which will be followed up.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

AGM 20 March 2026

Firstly, I must say a massive thank you to everyone who has supported the PNG and the groups involved.

Our activity groups have all expanded and developed in various ways to make the Patient Group the success it is.

Baby Bundles

The ladies have produced in excess of 80 "bundles" this last year, given out to new babies/mums registered to the Practice. Along with that, we began "Acts of Kindness" to use up all the bits of yarn left over from other projects. Not content with that, they produced a crochet square Christmas tree and decorations. They also decided that a few social outings would be nice - trips to Bury Market and afternoon teas.

Walking/Health Group

The Walking Group, who now meet on Tuesdays, hail, rain or snow, have a regular group of at least min 10 to max 20 and have again progressed from Dukinfield Park to Stamford Park, Ryecroft Hall, Cleveleys, Alexandra Park, Greenfield, Daisy Nook, Chester Christmas Market. They also have enjoyed attending social evenings together.

Growing Together

Although we have been through some horrendous weather this last year, our gardening group has developed with the help of a £2000 grant from Tameside Community Funding allowing the group to buy tools, equipment, seeds, plants, poly tunnels and has provided refreshments. Joyce, Terry and Brian also managed to involve a group of SEND people who really got a lot of benefit from the afternoon. A successful start considering the weather.

Craft Group

Also continues to thrive with various ideas throughout the year. Seasonal ideas of paper flowers, cards and Christmas decorations. They made a great contribution to the Practice Surgery's Christmas decorations with snowmen, robins and garlands.

I feel its important to mention these these groups have now become integrated with one another, where attendees join in with more than one activity. Again, the feedback is that they have made new friends and feel more confident in joining in apart from taking part in the various skills be it at their level or just learning a new skill. This was one of the main aims when starting these groups. Little did we know how successful they would become.

NEWSLETTER

We did continue with the newsletter part way through the year but this is one area with a question mark around it. This is something on our agenda for the next meeting with how to move forward with this due to rising costs and how to measure its success. Its a case of "watch this space".

As the year went on we always start to think about Christmas and our ever successful Christmas party. This was held again at Dukinfield Cricket Club thanks to a large donation from a local entrepreneur. We held it for those people who need a carer plus their carer. Also at Christmas we did our hangers but this year knew our supermarket donations would be few so had an alternative of giving a Christmas gift hamper. These consisted of mince pies, shortbread and chocolate plus a knitted gift (gloves, slippers, lap blankets) that again

the baby bundles ladies made. These were given to Fir Trees and Yew Trees care homes. We were not quite sure how the gift hamper would be received, but we had excellent feedback, especially from ladies who used to knit and crochet in the past. The staff were overjoyed as the majority of their residents are patients at the Practice.

We are now looking forward to this year where we are constantly trying to enhance the Practice and ties with partners, clinicians, admin staff and of course patients. We are constantly looking to recruit new volunteers, not just for the above groups but anyone who feels that they can contribute in any way, be it new ideas or just to support existing groups or just to come along and have a coffee and a chat.

Thank you again for all your support, especially Sheila and Joyce for the extra time they always give.

PATIENT NETWORK GROUP ACCOUNTS			
<u>JUNE 2025 TO MARCH 2026</u>			
<u>TO TRIAL BALANCE</u>	DEBIT	CREDIT	BALANCE
Balance b/f		42.79	
Lloyds Bank charges	4.25		
Balance b/f to Metro Bank			38.54
Donation Baby Bundles wool		30	68.54
TAMESIDE COMMUNITIES FUND GRANT		2000	2068.54
Soil	102.82		1965.72
Plants Seeds	118.87		1846.85
Canes Nets Bags	29.98		1816.87
Gloves Feed	21.48		1795.35
Refreshments Storage Cleaning	97.68		1697.71
Soil Gloves Feed	55.74		1641.97
Storage locks hinges	18.97		1623
Packaging	12.25		1610.75
Donation		30	1640.75
Tools Kneeling stools Flask/kettle	241.08		1399.67
Cups	79.86		1319.81
Flyers Marketing Adverts	200		1119.81
Wool	10.32		1109.49
Cone cane	18.99		1090.5
Donation for Christmas Activities		500	1590.5
Gift Bags	14.35		1576.15
Seeds Plants	47.97		1528.18
17 Biscuits at £4.00	68		
Discount		34	
Mince pies Biscuits	49.36		
Chocolate oranges	22.5		
Gift		25	
Wadding Xmas tree	15		
Sundry	0.22		1432.1
Fruit Trees	160		1272.1
Chocolates	19.75		
Sandwiches	158.9		
Cakes	12.53		
Bingo	28.09		
Biscuits and Savouries	55		
Costco food	72.85		
Mince pies	31.8		
Drinks	19		
Glasses	6		868.18
Bank charges December	3		865.18
Gift bags	21.99		843.19
Compost	130		713.19

Lock storage	12		701.19
Plants	215		486.19
Bank charges January	3		483.19
Trolley/stool/storage bench	125		358.19
Cups	39.93		318.26
Flask	32.99		285.27
Tomato liquid feed	7.94		277.33
General feed	21.98		255.35
Stakes Canes	23.44		231.91
Wire	11.45		220.46
Discount		2.37	222.83
Refreshments milk etc July to March	105.97		116.86
Bank charges February	3		113.86
CASH IN BANK	113.86		
	2664.16	2664.16	
ACCOUNTS AUDITED BY K RATCLIFFE			