

**DUKINFIELD MEDICAL PRACTICE PATIENT NETWORK GROUP
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 1st SEPTEMBER 2026 AT DUKINFIELD
MEDICAL PRACTICE, CONCORD WAY, DUKINFIELD AT 1.00PM**

Present: Marion Higgins (Chair), Sheila Frith (Secretary), Bhikhu Mistry, Margaret Mason, Simonne Ellams, Julie Pregnall,

Apologies: Joyce Jones (Treasurer), Amrit Singh, Roger Acheson, Ann Wright, Charlie Garside, Kath Ratcliffe

1. Minutes of the last meeting

These were approved and there were no matters arising that were not included on the current agenda.

2. Treasurer's Report

As Joyce had sent apologies, this item was deferred to the next meeting.

3. Newsletter Update and Ideas for the next edition

Julie circulated the latest draft of the next newsletter. It was unanimously praised and Julie was asked once again to thank Lydia for her hard work and creativity. The newsletter content is exploring some new avenues and it is hoped that other patients will be able to relate to them. One of the main headlines is to announce the retirement of Dr Harvey. It was good to note that she will still have contact with the Practice via the PCN and some specific clinic work. The current newsletter has two outstanding spaces but the articles are already completed and will be passed to Lydia this week ready for a final draft and proof-reading.

Work began immediately on the next issue, which will be the Christmas one, and a draft was produced speedily. Items include a second article based on patient experience of specific diagnoses, one of the new initiatives, along with a two-page spread on keeping well during the winter season. The online version can contain links which a paper copy cannot. However, it was acknowledged that the finished hard copy version is colourful and informative. These are available in the Practice Waiting Room. Other suggestions included an interview with one of the Practice Paramedics and how their skills and expertise fit in with other clinicians. Marion will arrange. There will also be an announcement of the retirement of another long standing member of staff.

Action: All

4. Survey Feedback Forms

Marion reported on the recent work done to gather feedback directly from patients about their experiences relating to appointments. She said that the vast majority of people's feedback is very positive. She felt that a very important section, was the "free text" where people can express their own opinions and ideas, i.e. a suggestion was made for a menopause clinic. Julie said that this backs up the data from other sources, where larger numbers of participants are involved. She said that the exercise has raised issues that will be looked at further and will feed into work exploring the way in which appointment requests are triaged and allocated. Also of interest is where patients wish to continue to see the same Practitioner for continuity etc., and how this can be managed and/or improved. She thanked the committee members who've spent time speaking to patients in the waiting room. The work will continue as time and opportunity allows. Julie will continue her work with this and other data sources in the coming months. She asked that this be included on the agenda for the next meeting so that she can share an updated report.

Action: Julie/Sheila/Marion

5. Future Funding

Margaret said that she had approached the WI contact that she had spoken to but they had confirmed that they do not support projects such as ours, but mainly work for registered charities. Marion and Sheila had been exploring funding sources and had looked particularly at the Action Together organisation. It offers information on a very wide range but unfortunately the vast majority are not suitable for our particular situation. However, one had stood out as a possibility. On examination, the application form did not appear too onerous. The discussion covered a wide range of issues but it was agreed that it was an opportunity to be explored. It was agreed that Marion would initially source the application form and speak to Joyce, our Treasurer.

Action: Marion/Joyce

6. Christmas Decorations and Activities

Julie confirmed that the handmade decorations in the waiting room last year had been well received by patients and staff. It was left to the activity groups to decide on the content and she suggested 28th November as the date to put them up. Sheila will contact Dawn and Chris.

Funding from a local business has been tentatively promised which cover the cost of Christmas activities, i.e. party, hampers etc. This is always a popular item on the committee agenda and resulted in a lively discussion. Once again, a small working group will take responsibility and those who were unable to attend today, but who normally get involved will be approached to confirm their participation. Marion confirmed that members of the Baby Bundles group have already produced most of the gifts that make up a significant part of the "hampers" and that local businesses will once again be approached to make a contribution towards the cost of sweet Christmas treats that are also included. Julie felt that the practice of inviting "Carers and Carees" be continued. Marion had identified sources of entertainment for the event which she'll pass on to Julie. Julie proposed 3rd December for the party, at the usual time and venue, offering an afternoon tea style meal.

Action: All

7. Flu and Covid Update

Julie reported on this year's arrangements. Over the last couple of years, these have been changed and changed again. Responsibility is now back with Practices to offer immunisation clinics. As Covid vaccine is now only offered by the NHS to people over 75, the Practice has decided to offer two Saturday sessions only. She will have a limited number of vaccines. However, pharmacies etc. are widely offering the vaccine and patients should not have difficulty sourcing immunisation to suit their own convenience if the clinic times at DMP do not suit.

However, flu vaccines are slightly different and rolled out in a different order. September sees children and pregnant women receive vaccine. Julie orders sufficient quantities for patients at DMP and next year's numbers will be determined by uptake this year. Again, there is "competition" from local pharmacies and Julie acknowledged that putting on clinics is inevitably a drain on nursing resources. However, she urged people to attend the Practice for the "flu jab" as supplies are available.

The arrangements will be printed on the front page of the next edition of the newsletter, which is due out very soon.

8. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

9. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday, 13th October 2026 at 1.00pm at Dukinfield Medical Practice.