

West Lancs and Merseyside



Myeloma Support Group



End of Year Report 2020

The West Lancs and Merseyside Myeloma Support Group was formed to provide an opportunity for all those affected by myeloma to meet in a supportive environment; to share experiences; to exchange information and ideas; to learn more about myeloma and keep up to date and to provide support to each other.

The group held its first meeting on 6th January 2106. Meetings are well attended by an average of 15 – 20 patients and carers. Our programme for 2020 has mostly been suspended because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and because many of our members have been placed in the Governments 'extremely vulnerable/shielding' group.

Because of the COVID restrictions, we have put in place alternative arrangements for everyone to keep in touch, welcoming new members and continuing to support our local Macmillan Centre and haematology clinics.

In 2020, we successfully registered our support group with the Charity Commission for England and Wales as an independent charity No 1187791 and with HMRC for receipt of Gift Aid. Donations can be made through our website www.wlm-myeloma.uk which is linked to the Charity Aid Foundation.

The group has agreed a constitution and election of officers. We use our funds to support our charitable objectives and for the benefit of our group and the local community. Day to day running costs of the group are mostly met by the members. The charity's trustees are satisfied that the support group has been run in accordance with its charitable objectives.

We continue to work closely with key stakeholders including Myeloma UK, Macmillan, Stem Cell Scousers and Lymphoma Action.



Support group meetings this year have mostly been arranged remotely using the Zoom remote platform. We have also encouraged our members to keep in touch by email and telephone as appropriate. This has been successful in supporting members undergoing or recovering from treatment.

One of our main activities this year has been in collaboration with the Knowsley CCG and Clatterbridge Cancer Centre to arrange myeloma specific training for Healthcare professionals. A successful training event was held in Knowsley on 6th February 2020 attended by approx 20 healthcare professionals. We also raised awareness of myeloma for the first three months of the year being part of the Tesco 'Bags of Help' scheme which had stands at seven Tesco stores in postcodes PR8 and PR9.



Our support group was successful in it's bid to benefit from the Tesco Bags of Help scheme and was awarded a grant of £1166 . We did not hold any public funding events this year because of COVID restrictions, but received anonymous and miscellaneous donations to our support group funds of £426. Our total income for 2020 was therefore £1592 which together with a bank balance of £7867 carried over from 2019 made £9459 in 2020. We spent £370 on member support and publicity which left a remaining bank balance of £9088 at the end of 2020 carried forward into next year.

We look forward to our next year in 2021 hoping to help and support all those affected by Myeloma in our local area of West Lancs and Merseyside.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy 2021.

David Simister
Dave Lovelady

www.wlm-myeloma.uk

Registered Charity: 1187791

