



West Lancs and Merseyside Myeloma Support Group

End of Year Report 2017

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 and has continued to meet monthly in Southport throughout 2017. Meetings are well attended by an average of 15 – 20 patients and carers. We are grateful to Parenting2000 for hosting our meetings.

In September this year we changed our name from West Lancs and Sefton to West Lancs and Merseyside to better reflect the community where patients and carers live and are treated. We also opened a charity bank account with Nat West for our support group.

2017 has been a year of consolidation, building on the success of our first year, welcoming new members and continuing to support our local Macmillan Centre.

Our meeting format remains largely unchanged from the previous year, being informal and based around coffee and chat with a loosely structured agenda which allows time for invited speakers or feedback from other activities.

The group has agreed a constitution, election of officers. Any monies raised through fundraising will be used for donations to Myeloma UK instead of funding activities of the group. Day to day running costs of the group are met by the members.

Support group members have attended a number of events to promote the group and provide information about Myeloma UK. These included the Macmillan Health and Well Being Events at Garston on 8th February, Clatterbridge 28th April, Skelmersdale 30th May, Liverpool 22nd June, Southport 20th July, Ormskirk 12th September, Arrowe Park 19th October and Southport on 9th November. Other events have included the Myeloma UK support group leader weekend in Manchester on September 15th and Dublin support group on March 6th.

Members of the group supported Myeloma Awareness Week in June by having a stand with leaflets and posters at a number of local clinics including Fazakerly and Aintree Hospital Clinic G, Arrow Park Hospital Ward 30 and Southport Medical Day Unit.





In raising funds for Myeloma UK, our support group has had another good year, raising a total of £1800. This money came from the Liverpool FC Shirt Raffle (£54), the jazz afternoon in September (£1136) and an individual donation to the group (£610). We are working with Myeloma UK to assist in their Healthcare Professional Training Programme. A big thank you to all our supporters and those who took part.

Our September fundraising event was a jazz afternoon with the Mark Lewis Quintet held Southport and attracted an audience of nearly 80. The raffle, card sales and guess the sweets competition were all well supported. We managed a mention in the printed and on-line editions of Champion and Southport Visitor Newspapers, and On The Spot News. Our support group is now included on the Myeloma UK web site , and also gets a regular mention on the Southport Macmillan website and in the local Trader magazine.



Liverpool was host to the North West Myeloma UK Patient Infoday in November. The event was very popular attracting a maximum capacity of 120 attendees. We had a table with free chocolates and information leaflets to promote the work of our support group. The chocolates were very popular.



Our 2017 programme ended with Xmas lunch at the Hungry Monk which was enjoyed by all who attended.

We look forward to our next year in 2018 hoping to help and support all those affected by Myeloma.

You can find out more about our group by ringing the Myeloma UK Helpline on 0800 980 3332, or by visiting www.myeloma.org.uk

Wishing you all a happy and healthy 2018

David Simister

