

# West Lancs and Merseyside



## Myeloma Support Group



### End of Year Report 2021

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 6<sup>th</sup> January 2106. Meetings are well attended by an average of 15 – 20 patients and carers.

Our programme for 2021 has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, and because many of our members have been placed in the Government's '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.



Our new meeting venue in Ormskirk has provided us with an opportunity to meet face to face in a COVID secure environment.

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](http://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 during 2021 the support group has been run in accordance with its charitable objectives.



We continue to work closely with key stakeholders in our local community.

Support group meetings this year have been a mixture of using the Zoom remote platform, meeting outside in a member's garden and using new meeting venue in Ormskirk which has provided us with an opportunity to meet face to face in a COVID secure environment. We have also encouraged our members to keep in touch using social media, email and telephone as appropriate. This has been successful in supporting members undergoing or recovering from treatment.

In March this year we collaborated with Leukemia and Myeloma Research UK to mark International myeloma awareness month. One of our support group members was featured in a patient experience story following a stem cell transplant. We have also helped an undergraduate at Oxford University who is writing a dissertation about myeloma experiences.

We have successfully built-up our social media presence on Facebook, Twitter and WhatsApp. This provides a platform for support group members to keep in touch outside the scheduled meeting programme as well as helping to raise awareness. Our last meeting of 2021 was the occasion of our Xmas social.

Our support group was successful in it's bid to benefit from the David Wilson Homes Community Fund and was awarded a grant of £1000 . We did not hold any public funding events this year because of COVID restrictions, but received additional anonymous and miscellaneous donations to our support group funds of £972. Our total income for 2021 was therefore £1,972 which together with a bank balance of £9,131 carried over from 2020 made £11,103 in 2021. We spent £1,421 on member support and publicity which left a remaining bank balance of £9,677 at the end of 2021 carried forward into next year.



We look forward to our next year in 2022 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 2022.

David Simister  
Dave Lovelady

[www.wlm-myeloma.uk](http://www.wlm-myeloma.uk)

Registered Charity: 1187791  
Patron : Air Commodore Fin Monahan OBE, DFC PhD

