

# West Lancs and Merseyside



## Myeloma Support Group



### End of Year Report 2022

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 2016. Meetings are well attended by an average of 15 – 25 patients and carers, and we have occasional invited speakers. Our programme for 2022 restarted with face to face meetings at our new venue in Ormskirk, but retained the option of joining in with Zoom for those unable to attend. Our meetings have been subject to a COVID risk assessment. 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.

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 the support group has been run in accordance with its charitable objectives.

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

We have had a busy year which started with a series of hospital radio interviews during myeloma awareness month in March. In June we held an awareness event at a local Tesco superstore and were joined by the Mayor of West Lancashire. In October our patron was a participant in the Sahara desert banger rally which raised funds for our support group and awareness of myeloma. We also took our support group stand to a Macmillan health and Wellbeing event in Southport. In November and we attended the Firwood Waterloo Rugby club fireworks evening to promote our support group. Also during the year we have collaborated with our local haematology teams. We also helped an undergraduate at Oxford University by asking some of our members to be interviewed voluntarily.



At the start of 2022, we received a very generous donation of £5000 from the management and customers of the Lunya restaurant in Liverpool. Our support group was successful in it's bid to benefit from the Tesco Bags of Help scheme in June and was awarded a grant of £500 . We also successfully applied for a grant of £1000 from the Benefact Group. Our collection at the Fireworks event raised £282, and the Sahara Banger rally raised £1729. We were also very grateful to receive a funeral donation of £1220 from the passing of a family member in the support group. Our funds have been used to support our social programme of events which has included afternoon teas at local garden centres, and a Xmas social. Together with other miscellaneous donations and Gift Aid brought our total income for 2022 to £10,946 which together with a bank balance of £9711 carried over from 2021 made a total of £20,657 in 2022. We spent £2,169 on member support and publicity which left a remaining bank balance of £18,442 at the end of 2022 carried forward into next year.

We look forward to our next year in 2023 hoping to help and support all those affected by Myeloma in our local area of West Lincs and Merseyside.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy 2023.

David Simister  
Dave Lovelady

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

Registered Charity: 1187791

