

# West Lancs and Merseyside



## Myeloma Support Group



### End of Year Report 2023

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 25 – 30 patients and carers, and we have occasional invited speakers. Our programme for 2023 has been based 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 using social media, 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 the Cheshire and Merseyside Cancer Alliance, Leukemia and Myeloma Research UK, Macmillan, Stem Cell Scousers, Lymphoma Action and Myeloma UK.

We have had a busy year which started with an awareness stand at the Clatterbridge Cancer Centre in Liverpool during myeloma awareness month in March, followed by an interview with one of our members by BBC Radio Merseyside. We held two very successful afternoon tea socials, one in May , the other in August. We also took our support group stand to two Macmillan health and Wellbeing events in Southport and one hosted by Everton FC. A fund raising garden party was held in September by one of our supporters. In October we were pleased to welcome our Patron Air Vice Marshall Fin Monahan to our meeting.. Also during the year we have collaborated with our local haematology teams.



We were very pleased to receive £500 from a garden party funding event in September and a similar amount from the Big Help Group in Liverpool. 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 2023 to £1622 which together with a bank balance of £18,442 carried over from 2022 made a total of £20,064 in 2023. We spent £1734 on member support and publicity which left a remaining bank balance plus petty cash of £ 18340 at the end of 2023 carried forward into next year 2024.

We look forward to our next year in 2024 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 2024.

David Simister  
Dave Lovelady

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

Registered Charity: 1187791