

West Lancs and Merseyside



Myeloma Support Group



End of Year Report 2024

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 2016. Meetings are well attended by an average of 25 – 30 patients and carers, and we have occasional invited speakers. Our programme for 2024 has been based at our 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 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 2024 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, the Bloom Appeal, Lymphoma Action and Myeloma UK.

Our social media presence continues to expand and support our members.



We have had another busy year including awareness stands at Southport Hospital, Southport College, One Knowsley Centre, the Atkinson Centre Southport and two WI venues. Our support group has been interviewed by Heartbeat Radio, Mighty Radio and Liverpool Live. In March we had an interesting Q&A with haematology Clinical Nurse Specialists from St Helens Hospital. We held two very successful afternoon tea socials, one in May, the other in August. We have collaborated with the Liverpool University Air Squadron who ran a fund-raising half marathon for our group. Invited guests have included a talk from Sepsis UK, art activity with a local artist, visits from the West Lancs mayor and the High Sheriff of Lancashire. Also during the year we have also collaborated with our local haematology teams.



We were very pleased to receive £500 from the Air Squadron Half Marathon in March. £1200 from Macmillan towards new audio / visual equipment, £150 from West Lancs Council and £750 from One Knowsley to support raising awareness. Our funds have also 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 2024 to £4,095 which together with a bank balance of £18,340 carried over from 2023 made a total of £22,435 in 2024. We spent £3,960 on member support and publicity which left a remaining bank balance plus petty cash of £18,476 at the end of 2024 carried forward into next year 2025.

We look forward to our next year in 2025 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 2025.

David Simister
Dave Lovelady

www.wlm-myeloma.uk

Registered Charity: 1187791

