**Minutes of the Cheshire & Mersey Patch Meeting – 14 Sept 2023**

**Present**:

Adam Ballinger (Countess of Chester); Mary Bardon (Stockport & Tameside); Graham Breckon (Countess of Chester); Vicki Ferri (Liverpool University Hospitals); John Gale (Mid Cheshire); Samantha Gillies (University of Liverpool); Natalie Hall (Alderhey); Maureen Horrigan (Liverpool Heart and Chest); Naomi Majek (Stockport & Tameside); Tracy Owen (Mersey Care); Susan Smith (Mid Cheshire); Emma Stirland (University of Liverpool). Vicky Bramwell (Cheshire and Wirral Partnership)

**Apologies:**

Carolyn Benny (Liverpool John Moores); Tilly Dixon (Mid Cheshire); Jan Moore (Knowsley Libraries); Debbie Spencer (University of Chester); Alison Thornley (East Cheshire).

**Review of Actions**

* No actions

**Sustainability:**

ES explained a project to promote resources on sustainable lifestyle for World Earth Day. This has proved a popular section: <https://livuni.overdrive.com/collection/1439438>

SG shared work from University of Liverpool for Sustainability Week 2023: <https://libguides.liverpool.ac.uk/blog/-Sustainability-Week-2023>

Ways in which University of Liverpool is promoting, education staff and students on sustainability.

<https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/centre-for-innovation-in-education/curriculum-development/education-for-sustainable-development/student-sustainability-hub/>

University of Liverpool also has a sustainability strategy for the library. Discussion was held about the need of limited way we can work in this space and the need for top down inclusion.

JG talked about sustainability work at MCHFT. He'd attended a meeting of the Sustainability Group but this was for senior staff and he felt he did not have much to contribute to it. He had worked with the Estates Department on green issues though, including green catering and reducing emissions from anaesthesia gases which can be hundreds of times more harmful than carbon dioxide.

JG had been to the green libraries conference in London in March. Public libraries, in particular, were doing great work, benchmarking their estate, cultivating small patches of land around themselves to be bee-friendly and involving children in this, and publicising local car-free walks near the libraries. JG had tried to interest the Trust in converting a courtyard near the library into a garden for Trust staff. Positive noises at the time had not yet been translated into action but the Trust has a rolling plan to refurbish courtyards within the hospital and this courtyard may end up being incorporated into this.

JG said it was a good idea to form close links with Estates and/or sustainability departments, providing evidence and circulating updates (Hampshire do a good Sustainability bulletin). Other things we can do include publicising local bus routes as an alternative to cars and reducing, reusing and recycling clothes as the textile industry is one of the main carbon emitters, and cotton consumes vast amounts of water.

SS added that Mid Cheshire used to participate in the [Green Impact Awards](https://greenimpact.nus.org.uk/) and have changed to energy efficient lighting, improved window insultation and runs recycling schemes for batteries (dropped off at B&Q), [stamps](https://www.reducereuserecycle.co.uk/where_can_I_recycle/used_postage_stamps.php) and [glasses](https://lionsclubs.co/MemberArea/home/spectacles-recycling/#:~:text=Lions%20Clubs%20throughout%20the%20UK,of%20recycled%20spectacles%20each%20year.). [Recycling of crisp packets](https://www.terracycle.com/en-GB/brigades/kpsnacks) has unfortunately ceased. We still use [Better World Books](https://www.betterworldbooks.com/go/donate) for withdrawn stock.

MB is just at the start of the journey and has focussed on reducing copying. Signs are up, heavy users are identified and approached and if printing it will default to Black and White. VF has similar approach and found that locking the paper away is an effective deterrent.

VB is part of the Trust Green Champions Network and raising awareness of the sustainability e-books. VB discussed challenges with sustainability recycled v white paper, reducing email correspondence, vs friendly communications, e-books vs those who find print books suit their visual and learning needs. Someone at the Trust guerrilla plants bulbs on the Trust grounds. SS did something similar (with permission from Estates team using [Kew Grow Wild](https://growwild.kew.org/get-involved/seed-kits/apply)).

Discussion was held on use of plants in the library. Peace lilies, money plants and spider plants are the most resilient!

Discussion was had around how to link with the green agenda through sustainability officers, green networks, risk managers and estates teams.

No-one is currently working on digital sustainability and a discussion was held on print v e-books.

There was also a discussion around how to encourage people rather than turning them off. SS recommended the book [How bad are bananas](https://howbadarebananas.com/), there is a company that specialises in Carbon Literacy and has turned it [into a game](https://bananasgame.co.uk/).

Is this an opportunity for information literacy promotion as so many initiatives claim to be sustainable or green, but evidence may state otherwise?

**AOB:**

New LIHNN pages launched with national list of re-shareable current awareness bulletins and their re-use:[https://www.lksnorth.nhs.uk/resources/current-awareness/](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flinkprotect.cudasvc.com%2Furl%3Fa%3Dhttps%253a%252f%252fwww.lksnorth.nhs.uk%252fresources%252fcurrent-awareness%252f%26c%3DE%2C1%2CgrqM6BEsXZQdclwB1_SYQ6NoCpZano17Hlrw4eibBQfDfslQpqLGXUAeFw2RFzT_xDiR2t-5MelA5RNoN1cHTMzl22m_aVogKHPqP7aU%26typo%3D1&data=05%7C01%7Csusan.smith2%40mcht.nhs.uk%7C0f2c69cea8f347e3123108dbb5000ac9%7Ced272d03fe744d07952af3a15ed3aa40%7C0%7C0%7C638302784015849219%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=c6i1z%2FUvICuyvmD1NdJC9wA%2FDwjM4PqYnLaskSrw7R8%3D&reserved=0)

SS has raised the questions around potential re-use of the ‘[give it a go](https://www.cheshireandmerseyside.nhs.uk/about/digital-and-data-strategy/digital-inclusion-in-cheshire-and-merseyside/)’ digital literacy campaign for NHS staff and other audiences. It is focussed on normalising IT use and has a four-pronged plan campaign plan depending on the user attitude and barriers.

SS has met with Julia Hoffman who is the public library [Health Literacy Ambassador](https://www.england.nhs.uk/personalisedcare/health-literacy/) for northwest. She will be joining the LIHNN Co-ordinating Committee. There have also been discussions whether this year’s [World Menopause Day](https://thebms.org.uk/publications/world-menopause-day-2023/) (18th Oct) theme is an opportunity to raise awareness of health literacy.

VB requested a second part added to the meeting for NHS staff to discuss issues around resource discovery at a local level.

Discussion was held on why people attend the meetings and if the format is still valid. Having themed sessions was still considered helpful.

SS has met with Nicky Freeman from [Academic Libraries North](https://www.academiclibrariesnorth.ac.uk/) (ALN – previously NOWAL). There is a plan to run a couple of joint online conferences for members to share practice (TBC).

* Demonstrating impact from data (May 2024)
* Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (July 2024)

**Actions:**

* VB to draft a survey to support planning on in-person meeting (look at numbers, incentives to attend, available locations) and then assess which locations people would be willing to travel to.
* SS to update Cheshire & Mersey List with further information on the NHS Cheshire & Merseyside Digital Literacy when received.
* SS to add resource discovery to the agenda.
* ALL consider submitting 10-minute talks on shared practice for the joint ALN network event.
* ALL any suggested themes to SS, to update the meeting invites.
* ALL ideas on how we can work collaboratively to improve sustainability across Cheshire & Mersey. Consider what steps would be required to support the library role in this agenda.

**Next meeting:**

12th October 10-11am, topic is When disaster strikes – emergency planning.