



Young
Wolverhampton
Local Group

Coeliac UK Young Wolverhampton Group
Email - youngwolverhampton@coeliac.org.uk

Minutes of the Coeliac UK - Young Wolverhampton Coeliac Group held on **Saturday 6th April 2024**

Present

Leanne Camilleri
Michel Camilleri
Kerry Blunt
Phill Blunt
Sally Hathaway
Nicola Dixon
Emily Curtis

Apologies

Sabrina Ellis
Becky Potter
Marion Burns
Natalia Jenkins

Welcome and introductions

Sally Hathaway presented the minutes for 2023 for members to approve.

Changing from Community Group to a Local Group

New committee

Leanne Camilleri (Treasurer)
Kerry Blunt (Secretary)
Sally Hathaway (Group Organiser)
Proposed and seconded by Nicola Dixon and Emily Curtis

Points discussed

Structure of group

Changing structure of group from a community group to a Local Group with full committee. All members attending agreed to the new format of the group.

Group funding

We need to communicate to all our new families that our group does not receive any funding from Coeliac UK. Our group has to be totally funded by our Young Wolverhampton Coeliac Group members via entry costs, raffles etc.. At present NICS Wellbeing are funding our room hire costs at **£80 per event** for our first year. If we have to start paying room hire costs, we will need to increase the price of entry, ask for financial donations or do some fundraising events. The bring and share buffet is a good way to keep costs down but we are also conscious that coeliac families always have to take food to events.

Communications

We will continue to use Facebook, Instagram, website and bulk email to communicate with members. Kerry's management of our Instagram page and contacts with suppliers has been key to getting the information about our group to new families. We have also invested in flyers to send to dietitians at local hospitals and to use at community events.

Email communication with members

Due to the way the membership database is created, each Coeliac UK member can only be allocated to one local group. This means that in Wolverhampton, Coeliac UK members are automatically allocated to the Wolverhampton Group and this means we are unable to email Young Wolverhampton Coeliac Group members directly. We book a slot with Coeliac UK and then rely on Coeliac UK to identify parents from all the members on their database from the

Young Wolverhampton Coeliac Group SH 2024

Wolverhampton area. Members present felt that our group communications should be sent to all Wolverhampton members not just parents. Any member from Wolverhampton area may know children in the family (coeliac disease can be hereditary) or friends children who have coeliac disease who would like to come along to our child friendly events.

Fundraising:

We discussed many fundraising ideas. We ideally need to run fundraising events which do not cost £80 to rent the room.

Coeliac Awareness Month May – get sponsorship for our Walk along Smestow Valley

September Cooking event – Bake Off competition with £1 fee to enter – all items from the Bake Off to go on the buffet for people to sample

Family quiz/bingo event – maybe in the bar at Woodfield to support Woodfield

Raffle at the Christmas Party

Big Draw – how coeliac disease affects me and my family. Display in the Art Gallery, Express and Star, Coeliac UK, social media. Get the older children to curate them.

Awareness month

Encourage our families to get the Coeliac UK pack for children to talk about coeliac disease with their schoolmates. A good opportunity to explain about coeliac disease and cross contamination and why I can't share food or have to be careful because I'm looking after my health.

Online payments to the group

It would be helpful to have a way to pay online to our group for events or donations.

Meal out

Discussed whether to organise a meal for just the parents to give a chance to chat without the children.

Group Organisers Report

Covers the whole years events

Feedback from members

We were grateful for all the feedback from members. People found the group was friendly and relaxed. The buffet gives a great opportunity for children to try new things and everyone can relax around food. Children and parents benefit from meeting others in the same situation. Need more for older children. Stalls at summer fayres, fundraising events as a group.

Older children

We had agreed as a committee that there needed to be more for older children and will endeavour to plan ahead for older children.

Sports games at the picnic

Cooking event good for all ages

Halloween – pumpkin carving, gunge tank, cocktails and apple bobbing, Halloween tattoos

Other suggestions from feedback: sports day, trips

Future events

May – awareness month cafe visit and walk

June – picnic and sports games with Wolverhampton Group

Sept – cooking event

October – Halloween

December – Christmas Party

Supermarkets

We can contact local supermarkets for donations to the buffet table.

Treasurers Report

The balance of account is £883.80. £783.80 in the bank and £100 cash float with Leanne.

Date of next event: Saturday 18th May Coeliac Awareness Cafe Visit and Walk