

**End of year report December 2021**

Face2Face Parkinson’s C.I.C. went live on 14th July 2020, but its idea was conceived over many years. The catalyst to forming our new company was the withdrawal of much of the existing 1-2-1 specialist support in favour of telephone and internet support. We knew this would isolate many more people and put their wellbeing at risk as many people living with Parkinson’s were unable to seek support by these means. It is also, in my view, often impossible to comprehensively assess someone’s needs if you cannot experience ideally, the environment of the service user and be able to communicate comprehensively with expressions, tone, body language, gestures and words.

We verified this theory with a survey of the members of a large local Parkinson’s branch and this confirmed that 96% of people prefer support face to face, and 100% of members surveyed said they were happy with the community-based service I had offered previously in people’s homes, care homes and in hospitals. I also have an Honorary Contract to provide support within the North Bristol NHS Trust including South Gloucestershire

There was clearly now an unmet need and we wanted to address this at least locally to begin with as a matter of urgency and Face2Face Parkinson’s Community Interest Company came to be. Our mission is to offer a “human” holistic approach to support, to be accessible to all in the area and to work closely with other service providers for the best outcome for our service users.

We also wish to continue to support people living with variants of Parkinson’s and further develop links with specialist organisations.

After working with Parkinson’s for 14 years, it was clear that the most impactful and beneficial changes locally, had been made by the experts, those being the people living with and working Parkinson’s. There is a goldmine of passion and knowledge in the Parkinson’s community and we remain committed to move the evolution of the company in the direction of need as defined by the voice of the Parkinson’s Community.

We are very proud to be managed by people, living with or working with Parkinson’s, and our increasing membership are also able to have a say in major decisions we make as a company.

Despite us laying down the foundations of the company in the middle of a pandemic, our working model has proved a very popular with service users, members and donors with 100% positive feedback to date. We have gone the extra mile to adhere to Covid Regulations and are fully equipped whilst also respecting additional guidelines from those we work with.

Clearly working with vulnerable people and those likely to shield and Isolate due to Covid19 has restricted our impact. But the response has been more than enough to reassure us that our foundations are strong as we look to accelerate our service provision as restrictions lift.



Despite the strict limitations we have all faced both during the setting up of the company and since, I am pleased to share the following.

* We have provided 30 home visits across Bristol, Bath and North East Somerset, South Gloucestershire and North Somerset
* Raised over £186,000 in unclaimed benefits and financial support
* Started a new Surgery in South Gloucestershire with more planned across the service area
* Maintained relations with specialist staff and organisations across the area with a view to supporting their clinics, giving talks, supporting drop ins and carers events and education seminars, as soon as lookdown is over.
* Established a growing membership
* Created a range of literature under the series name of “lets keep it simple” which has proved popular and reflects the feedback of which demanded access to concise and less overwhelming libraries of information.
* Established a website which again from feedback is easy to navigate and simple to use.

Moving forward, we hope to increase the number of surgeries and to include a pop-up shop with low costs aids that are commonly used by people with Parkinson’s and also with crafted items made by people living with Parkinson’s. We hope to launch our company officially on 17th of July which will also be an information/awareness and fundraising event.

We are very keen to return to Hospital based Parkinson’s Clinics as we have evidence that if people meet us in clinic, they are often confident to contact us again when the need arises; it is also a critical time to offer reassurance and a contact route for those newly diagnosed.

We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of time, encouragement and financial support given by the Parkinson’s community and especially by our team who has shown incredible determination and tenacity as well as spending many hours working for free to ensure this company is a success.

We have many fresh and unique ideas but I am most proud of the moral compass and integrity of the team and how every penny is carefully managed to maximise impact and benefit to as many people living and working with Parkinson’s as possible. Our transparency has been such that many people committed to donations even before we had a bank account and we were privileged to be in such a position of trust and promise to do justice to the commitment our stakeholders have shown

I would like to thank the team, our members, the specialists and health care professionals and other service providers we work with, and of course the Parkinson’s community for their enduring support, and patience!

Kevin Carter

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