

Support
throughout
central vision
loss


Macular Society



Press release

Volunteers needed to help run Abergele-based support group

29 January 2018

A leading sight loss charity is calling for volunteers to help run an Abergele-based support group for people with macular disease.

The Macular Society is appealing for anyone living locally who would be willing to give up some of their time to help organise and run the group's monthly meetings, with help from the charity's services and volunteering team. The group is also looking for people to assist with general tasks such as booking guest speakers each month.

The Abergele Macular Support Group meets on the third Monday of each month, from 1.30-3.30pm, at 1 Hafod-Y-Parc, Kinmel Avenue, Abergele, Clwyd LL22 7LX. It is one of 25 groups of its kind in Wales and more than 350 in the UK offering vital information, encouragement and friendship to people who are affected by macular disease. The group's next meeting will be on Monday 19 February.

As our population ages, increasing numbers of people are being affected by age-related macular degeneration (AMD). In Wales AMD is the leading cause of blindness, with around 6,300 people diagnosed every year.

Adele Francis, Macular Society regional manager, said: “The Abergele Macular Support Group provides a real lifeline for people living locally with sight loss. The peer support offered by the groups is absolutely vital – it’s incredibly reassuring for people to know that there are others who truly understand their situation.

“With more than 200 people in the UK being diagnosed with macular disease every day, the existence of our support groups has never been more important. If you have some free time and would be willing to help out once a month, either by helping to organise the meetings or assisting in some other way, we would love to hear from you.

“We will also be available to support our volunteers as they learn their new roles and provide any guidance they need going forward.”

In Wales, the Macular Society has been able to establish and run new sight loss support groups and recruit volunteers across the country thanks to more than £340,000 of funding from the Big Lottery Fund, made possible thanks to National Lottery players.

For more information about the Abergele Macular Support Group, please contact Adele Francis on 01639 843236 / 07494 468007, or email adele.francis@macularsociety.org

For more information on macular degeneration, call the Macular Society’s helpline on 0300 3030 111 or email help@macularsociety.org

Ends

Notes to editors:

The Macular Society is the leading charity fighting to end sight loss caused by macular disease. Every day over 200 people in the UK face the shock of a diagnosis of macular disease. This sight loss can rob people of their independence, leaving them unable to drive, read or recognise their family. We help people adapt to life with sight loss, regain their confidence and independence, and take back control of their lives. We fund the research that will one day find a cure. Our work is solely funded by your generous donations.

For more information on this press release contact Andrew Gray, assistant press and PR officer, Macular Society on 01264 326621 or andrew.gray@macularsociety.org