Enhancing the Kidney Information Network

The Kidney Information Network was established in 2013 with the introduction of the GMKIN website and closed Facebook group. Since its inception the network has continued to grow and gained national recognition in the form of a Health Education England/Innovation UK award in 2016 and the Big Chip Award in 2018. Posters produced on the development of the network also won 3 awards at successive UK Kidney Week conferences.

A previous grant from Kidneys for Life allowed us to redesign the website and create a brand for GMKIN. In 2018, KIN further expanded with the addition of the website to include Royal Liverpool Hospital and to introduce the CaMKIN closed Facebook group to support renal patients, their family members and carers across Cheshire and Merseyside. Over the years, the network has noted an increased growth on other social media platforms (Twitter, Youtube, and Instagram) engaging a wider patient population and clinicians.

This grant will allow us to enhance and secure the existing website and facilitate the development of a closed Facebook Group to support kidney patients, their families, and carers at Royal Preston Hospital. With the recent sad demise of the Lancashire and South Cumbria Kidney Patient Association, the creation of the group will also allow greater communication between the clinicians at RPH and its renal patients across its large and varied catchment area – a successful feature of both the Greater Manchester KIN and the Cheshire and Merseyside KIN.