

# **Alison Chalmers - project and development update January 2012**

## **Projects**

### **Strategy for adults with Autism**

I ran two workshops with young adults with autism at Tyne Met in November about the Autism Strategy and discussed if the students felt that the key issues were being addressed locally.

Students felt that:

- In health reasonable adjustments are being made and young people appear to have a positive experience
- Young People appear to get out and about independently or with support
- Young People have aspirations for the future around work but worry about the future after college. The Tyne Met course is viewed positively
- Young People are not well supported in the criminal justice system
- Young People would like to be involved in consultations

Due to the success of this event we will be engaging further with the young people and meeting with parents/carers of students.

### **Personalisation**

Health and Wellbeing Committee councillors wanted to gain an understanding of and investigate the personalisation process from a service user view point and asked LINK to organise a meeting with the third sector members group. This was held in December and was a very lively meeting – the councillors went away with lots of new information about personal budgets etc from the third sector's perspective. Notes of the meeting are available if board members are interested. A follow up meeting is planned.

Thanks to Ellen Vick for attending.

In January the councillors are planning to meet with individuals affected by personalisation, users of services, recipients of a

personal budgets etc. I will be supporting them with this and if any board member is interested in getting involved see me!

## **Young People**

The work LINk has done with young people has been flagged up by the National Children's Bureau as a national example of good practice.

The CQC are also looking at LINks work with young people and congratulated North Tyneside on the work undertaken.

## **Young People and Mental Health**

We are planning to work with Woodlawn 6<sup>th</sup> Form students to create an inclusive lesson plan and teaching guide for schools/colleges. This will include working with students with disabilities and mental health issues as well as teaching staff and LINk members with a special interest in mental health.

## **Home Care**

Work has begun on the Home Care project. I have been out and about with an Enter and View volunteer talking to recipients of home care services in North Tyneside.

## **Black and Minority Ethnic Groups**

In January and February I will be attending an African Group's meetings at Wallsend Peoples Centre to initially highlight the work of LINk and to record issues this group has around health and social care. Already we have collected some anecdotal evidence from the community workers.

## **Influencing**

I have attended several consultation events about proposed changes in adult social care.

I have met with Scott Woodhouse, Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Commissioner and other 3<sup>rd</sup> sector reps on how to best engage with people with learning disabilities.

I have supported Sharon Ranade, Democratic Officer, NTC on how best to support councillors around information about personalisation.

## **Development**

### **Enter and view**

Work visiting care homes is on-going. I have supported 2 members around issues raised about a specific care home and feedback information about another to North Tyneside's team.

I have been supporting a new initiative by North Tyneside Council working with service users as independent observers of services. The pilot will involve 2 service users with learning disabilities and 2 members of council staff looking at learning disability services. Two of our Enter and View volunteers have expressed an interest in being involved.

I am beginning to look at recruiting the next tranche of Enter and View volunteers.

### **Events, engagement and recruitment**

I attended the Community Health Care Forum's AGM and the Learning Disabilities Federation's AGM.

I met with Helen Farrow from Pearey House.

I met with BME community workers.

### **Training**

I attended a 2 day training course on mental health first aid.