

Alison Chalmers
Development Worker Project Update March 2011

- Enter and View

Jemma Hurrell and Willene Dembrey from North Tyneside Council ran a training day for Enter and View volunteers in preparation for visiting care homes for North Tyneside Council to collect service user feedback.

This may be a large piece of work but is being well supported by Jemma. She's keen to get this up and running as soon as possible.

Jemma said: 'I loved the training day, it has really inspired me and I think we can make this a fantastic project'.

We are hoping to start the Enter and View visits at the end of March. There are 36 care homes. We have made it clear to NTC representatives that our volunteers may not be available to cover all of the homes and they may need to prioritise which visits should be carried out first. Each of volunteer team will be supported by a Contracts and Monitoring Officer at NTC who will ensure that our volunteers are introduced to the Care home staff and welcomed.

I have been invited to attend the launch at the Provider Forum to speak with Jemma about the volunteers.

We are also recruiting further Enter and View volunteers via newsletter and Widening Horizons. Mary Ayre kindly agreed to feature.

- Equality and Diversity Training

A successful day with good feedback from all active participants.

- Medicines Management Group

Following on from the generic prescribing project proposal many of the issues raised are national issues and I am seeking board approval that this is beyond the scope of North Tyneside LINK.

However, three LINKs North of Tyne group are looking at issues around medicines and prescribing with the pharmacy lead. Our last meeting looked at pharmacy leaflet and amended this accordingly from patient's perspectives. Thus there is ongoing consultation and request for member involvement from specific users as and when required. Pat Bottrill attends as LINK rep.

- LINK reps

All LINK reps are receiving monthly updates, attending meetings, submitting reports and wearing badges! Equality and Diversity, Older People and Learning Disabilities Partnership Boards have now ceased, we are awaiting further clarification from NTC as to what will replace them.

- Development

Met with member organisations (LDF, Age UK, Carers' Centre) to discuss any issues – ongoing piece of work.

Christine and I will be running recruitment drive at Wallsend People's Centre.

- Meetings

Including Young People in LINK (Leeds)
Mental Health and White Paper 'Meeting the Challenges'
(Newcastle)
North East regional LINKs and CQC meeting (Newcastle)