



New LINK Health and Wellbeing Forum to hear local views

North Tyneside LINK's new Health and Wellbeing Forum will meet on Tuesday 22 November from 10.30 to 12.30 in the Main Hall at the Shiremoor Centre, Earsdon Road, NE27 0HJ. Local residents interested in health and social care will have the opportunity to share their views on local services and national plans for better social care and support.

At this first meeting of the forum LINK members and local residents will tell LINK's representatives on the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board what is important to them and what improvements to health and social care they want to see. They may suggest topics for future forum meetings or bring issues they think LINK should look into further. They will also have the chance to meet with others who share their interests and talk over coffee and cake.

LINK's first forum will also look at 'Caring for our future' the government's plans for improving social care and support. The plans cover quality of care, personalisation of social care, shaping local care services, prevention, health and social care working together and the role of financial services. The views and ideas from the forum will form the LINK response to the Department of Health to be fed into a government White Paper to be published in April 2012.

North Tyneside LINK Press Release 7 November 2011

John Robson, Chair of North Tyneside LINK, said “As a LINK representative on North Tyneside’s Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board I need to hear directly from local people if I am to represent them properly. The Board will have increasing influence over local health and social care services and will look at how they need to change and improve. Our new LINK Health and Wellbeing Forum will give everyone the chance to tell us what they think and make sure they have a voice, through us, at the Health and Wellbeing Board.”

For more information and to book a place at the LINK Health and Wellbeing Forum call LINK on 0191 643 2623 or email link@voda.org.uk or go to www.linknorthtyneside.org.uk

LINK is a network of local people and groups who are interested in improving health and social care services across the borough. If you would like to become a member of LINK or are interested in learning more about its work, contact the team on 0191 643 2623, email link@voda.org.uk or visit the website www.linknorthtyneside.org.uk. It is free to join and anyone with an interest in health and social care services in North Tyneside can become a member.

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Press contact: for further information or photographs contact Communications Worker Meg Woollam on 0191 643 2623 or email meg.woollam@voda.org.uk

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Editor's notes

1. **Local Involvement Networks (LINKs)** were introduced by the Department of Health in April 2008 and aim to give communities a stronger voice in how their health and social care services are delivered. Run by local individuals and groups and independently supported - the role of LINKs is to find out what people want, monitor local services and to use their powers to hold them account. Visit www.linknorthtyneside.org.uk for more information.
2. North Tyneside LINK is hosted by North Tyneside VODA (Voluntary Organisation's Development Agency). VODA, the voluntary and community sector infrastructure body in North Tyneside, provides independent specialised support for voluntary and community groups and volunteers in the borough. This includes advice on setting up and developing community and voluntary groups, training, information, developing networks and partnerships, ICT and recruiting, placing and supporting volunteers. For more information visit www.voda.org.uk.