

North Tyneside

Developing a Local HealthWatch

This briefing summarises the latest information about Local HealthWatch.

Ideas are still developing all of the time and much is still open to debate.

However, through these regular briefings, we hope to explain some of the key information and more importantly tell everyone what we are doing in North Tyneside to plan and prepare for our Local HealthWatch.



A new start date has been announced for local HealthWatch bodies



New start date

April 2013

Following feedback from local authorities and Local Involvement Networks (LINKs), Councils now have until April 2013 to work with local health experts and volunteers to establish the local HealthWatch.

The previous date was October 2012.

National News

The new date for establishing Local HealthWatch supports the need to align this closer to the establishment of other new bodies such as health and wellbeing boards. However in North Tyneside the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board has been established since December 2010.

The extended deadline will also support preparations for implementation and enable HealthWatch England – which will be established in October 2012 – to provide the leadership and support to local HealthWatch organisations.

From next year, an additional £3.2m will also be made available nationally, to help Councils establish their Local HealthWatch. This money can be used in any part of Local HealthWatch development, including sharing best practice, engaging more with the community, and financially supporting volunteers.

The funding will be allocated as part of the DH learning disabilities and health reform grant in 2012/13.

When will this happen?

LINKs will come to an end when
Local HealthWatch begins
in April 2013



National News cont...

Under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, local authorities will need to continue to provide a Local Involvement Network (LiNK) and funding for this continues to be allocated as part of the local government Formula Grant in 2012/13 and the £3.2m will be in addition to this.

The Department of Health will provide further advice for planning purposes about funding for Local HealthWatch in 2013/2014, at the end of 2012.

Regional and Local News

- HealthWatch will cover social care for adults but **Health for all** – we are working locally and with our colleagues in other North East Councils, to consider how we engage children and young people about our proposals to ensure their views are included in the design of North Tyneside's Local HealthWatch.
- We are considering a Tyne/Tees regional approach to the commissioning of the **Independent Complaints Advocacy Service (ICAS)**.

The North Tyneside HealthWatch Transition Group has been established and is made up of people from the two local GP Clinical Composing Groups (CCGs), North of Tyne Primary Care Organisation, North Tyneside Council, North Tyneside LiNK and the Community and Health Care Forum.

The Group will be reporting progress to the North Tyneside Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board and North Tyneside Commissioning Executive for health and social care services.

Whilst the national announcement of the new April 2013 target will allow more time for planning, our Transition Group is keen to progress local work and aims to move on work around engagement and advice and information, where it can, well in advance of the new timescales.

Key principles agreed for our Local HealthWatch

- Local ownership by current LiNK members.
- Break down barriers between public and statutory organisations.
- To coordinate data and information.
- A place where people can be heard.
- A recognised brand and consumer champion.
- Mix of volunteers and paid employees.
- Representative of local community.
- Reach out to the wider community.
- Flexible and responsive to 'new' issues.
- Influence decision making.
- Streamline processes.
- Firmly rooted in the community.
- Accessible and visible to the community.