



North Tyneside LINK E-Bulletin January 2010

News from North Tyneside LINK

▶ LINK Annual Event: Last Chance to Book

There is still time to book your place on LINK's Annual Review Event which takes place on Thursday 28 January, 10am to 3pm at The Langdale Centre in Howdon, Wallsend ([click here to see a map of the venue](#)). The event will give attendees the chance to:

- ▶ Hear about LINK's background and achievements so far
- ▶ Have your say on health and social care priorities and contribute to LINK's work plan for next year
- ▶ Network with LINK's Board, representatives and members, plus health and social care providers

To book your place contact LINK on 0191 200 1429 or email link@voda.org.uk. Visit our [website](#) for more information.

▶ Request for Information: Community Services for Patients Discharged from Hospital

As part of LINK's work with North Tyneside General Hospital to improve hospital discharge procedures, we are currently gathering information on services in North Tyneside that can support patients, their relatives and carers once they have left hospital and are back in the community.

You can help us by telling us what services you either know of, or that your organisation offers that can support people once they have been discharged from hospital and are back in their community. This information will be passed on to staff working with patients and carers at North Tyneside General Hospital so that they can make appropriate referrals and signpost people to local services.

Please send a brief summary of the relevant services, plus a contact name and number to link@voda.org.uk. Or you can telephone us on 0191 200 1429 or write to us at FREEPOST NT LINK. Thank you for your help!

▶ Appeal for 'Individual' Board Members

There are still two places on LINK's Board open to individual members of the North Tyneside Community. This would involve working with LINK's manager to prepare an application based in present skills and experience, followed by an interview with LINK

members (including a current Board representative). If you are interested in applying please email LINK Manager [Johanne Mears](#) or telephone 0191 200 1429.

▶ Appeal for 'Enter and View' Volunteers

Are you interested in visiting local services and working with them to improve how they deliver their services to the North Tyneside community? If so, then North Tyneside LINK wants to hear from you. This would involve working with the LINK team to complete an application form detailing skills and experience, followed by an interview. Those who are successful will be required to complete a Criminal Records Bureau checks and a training programme to take place in April / May. If you are interested in learning more, please email LINK Manager [Johanne Mears](#) or telephone 0191 200 1429.

▶ LINK Submits Response to NHS Constitution Consultation on New Patient Rights

Following an article carried in our December edition of Stronger Voice, LINK has now submitted its formal response to the consultation on new patient rights within the NHS Constitution. A summary of responses can be read [here](#).

The consultation closes on 5 February 2010 so for your chance to still make a contribution [visit the website](#).

News and Event Round-Up

News, information, events and training from the health and social care sector

▶ NHS Parking: Consultation on Improving Access for Patients

The NHS is currently consulting the public on ways to improve access to patients. The consultation, which closes on 23 February 2010, outlines a range of options including giving all inpatients free hospital car parking for their visitors and placing a cap on charges for priority outpatient groups.

- ▶ [Read the covering letter from the NHS](#)
 - ▶ [Download the Consultation Document](#)
 - ▶ [Visit the Department of Health's website for full details and documents](#)
-

▶ Live Department of Health Consultations

The following is a round-up of current consultations that LINK members may be interested in responding to:

- ▶ [Age Equality in Health and Social Care](#)
Closing date: 15 February 2010
- ▶ [Strengthening National Commissioning](#)
Closing date 19 February 2010

- ▶ [Personal Care at Home](#): A consultation on proposals for regulations and guidelines
Closing date: 23 February 2010
 - ▶ [Pharmacy in England](#): asking for views on draft regulations and guidance on PCTs publishing pharmaceutical needs assessments
Closing date: 28 February 2010
 - ▶ [The Proposals to Implement 'Generic Substitution' in Primary Care](#)
(further to the Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme 2009)
Closing date: 30 March 2010
-

▶ [**Consultation Report on Revised Eligibility Criteria for Adult Social Care**](#)

The consultation on the Green Paper, Shaping the Future of Care Together, closed in November 2009. The Department of Health has reported that the response to the consultation was largely positive and that the majority of respondents thought the revised guidance was an improvement. The final revised guidance will be published by February 2010 and will be available from the Department of Health [website](#). (LINK members can also request a paper copy from LINK if they are unable to download the document. Contact us on 0191 200 1429 or [email us](#) to request this.)

▶ [**You're Welcome: Young People, Health Services and the Role of the Voluntary Sector**](#)

The You're Welcome quality criteria sets out how organisations who deliver health services can prove they are young-person friendly. This half-day training session takes place on **Thursday 11 March**, 9am to 2pm at Seven Stories, Lime Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, and is aimed at voluntary and community sector organisations. Topics covered will include the policy background to You're Welcome, the implications of the initiative and how the third sector can get involved. [Visit the website](#) for more information or to book online, or email conferences@ncb.org.uk

▶ [**No Smoking Day Briefing Session 2010**](#)

This year's No Smoking Day takes place on Wednesday 10 March 2010 and aims to help people who want to 'break free' from smoking. To help professionals support the day locally, Newcastle and North Tyneside Community Health are holding a **free** briefing session for staff who wish to be actively involved in the day. The session is being held on **Friday 12 February**, 12noon to 2pm at The Oxford Centre, Longbenton. To book your place please complete an [application form](#) and return it to sally.faulkner@northtyneside-pct.nhs.uk. Places are limited and will be allocated on a first-come first-served basis.

▶ [**Macmillan Cancer Support Training Session**](#)

Macmillan Cancer Support is offering a new **free** online self-management course for people living with cancer. Cancer; Thriving and Surviving covers such topics as managing stress, taking care of your own health and ways to cope with difficult emotions. Find out more by [visiting the website](#).

▶ **Launch of North East Third Sector Learning Disability Provider Network (NETWORK)**

This new network aims to bring third sector learning disability providers from across the North East together for the first time. A free launch event is taking place on **Friday 12 February**, 10am to 3.30pm at The Quayside Exchange, Wylam Wharf in Sunderland. Currently being hosted by VONNE, the network will give providers the chance to identify the big issues. Debate and share practice, to influence policy and network. [Visit the website](#) for more information or contact VONNE on 0191 233 2000 or email jo.whaley@vonne.org.uk

▶ **North Tyneside Council: Have Your Say on Equality**

Residents and groups in North Tyneside are invited to take part in a consultation on the council's forthcoming Corporate Equality Scheme, covering the period 2010-13. This will set out the council's actions, ambitions and responsibilities with regard to promoting equality and eliminating discrimination on the grounds of: age, gender and gender identity, disability, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation.

The council is especially keen to hear from people or groups who have experience relating to these areas. The consultation runs until the end of January 2010. To take part please email equalities@northtyneside.gov.uk or telephone 0191 643 5608.

▶ **Healthy Community Awards 2010**

Is your group improving health and well-being in North Tyneside? If so then you may be eligible for a Healthy Community Award. These annual awards run by North Tyneside Community and Health Care Forum (CHCF), acknowledge residents efforts towards improving health and well-being in the borough e.g. by promoting healthy lifestyles, improving care, bringing about a positive difference and working in partnership with others.

For more information or an application form contact Paul Peart at CHCF on 0191 295 4233 or email paula.chcf@btinternet.com. The deadline for applications in Wednesday 24 February with the awards taking place in March 2010.

▶ **NTDF Health and Wellbeing Club**

North Tyneside Disability Forum runs the regular weekly range of sessions:

Monday	9.30am	Selected Therapies
---------------	--------	--------------------

Tuesday	1.30pm – 2.30pm	Dancercise
	1am to 11am	Tai Chi
Wednesday	10.30am to 12noon	50+ Extended Gentle Exercise
Thursday	9.30am	Reflexology
	10am to 11am	Relaxation
Friday	9.30am	Aromatherapy

For more information contact NTFD's main reception on 0191 200 8570 or email info@ntdf.co.uk

ends

For more information about North Tyneside LINK visit our [website](#) or telephone 0191 200 1429.

To request this E-Newsletter in alternative formats or languages, please contact LINK on 0191 200 1429 or email amy.rudd@voda.org.uk