



## North Tyneside LINK E-Bulletin July 2010

### News from North Tyneside LINK

#### ▶ Taking a Look at LINK – Event Report now Available

On 24 June 2010, almost 40 people attended LINK's half-year review event, Taking a Look at LINK. The event saw the launch of LINK's Annual Report for 2009/10, plus the team give an overview of current projects and the activity of LINK Representatives and Board. Attendees were then asked to discuss and prioritise the five health and social care issues they wished LINK to consider. The afternoon session saw four workshops take place on the following subjects: North Tyneside Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, Mental Health, Staff Attitudes on Hospital Wards and Adult Social Care. A full report from the event is available to [download here](#) – this will also be sent to relevant statutory bodies to ensure they are aware of the concerns and recommendations made in the workshops. You can download [LINK's Annual Report here](#) or request a hard copy from the team on 0191 200 1429 or email [link@voda.org.uk](mailto:link@voda.org.uk).

#### ▶ LINK Plans Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) Meetings

As part of our ongoing commitment to involving LINK members in the refresh of [North Tyneside's JSNA](#), LINK is organising two meetings in conjunction with North Tyneside PCT. The purpose of the meetings will be to review the JSNA topic summaries and consult with LINK members on how to prioritise these. Director of Public Health Dr Fu Meng Khaw will be in attendance to introduce the themes. Topics for consideration include the prevention of long-term conditions, mental and emotional wellbeing and personalisation. The meetings take place on **Friday 24 September** and **Wednesday 6 October** between 10am and 1.30pm, with lunch included (venues tbc). To book your place contact the LINK team on 0191 200 1429 or email [link@voda.org.uk](mailto:link@voda.org.uk). You can read more about the JSNA and LINK's involvement [here](#).

#### ▶ Changes to LINK Board and Staff

As announced in June's edition of Stronger Voice, LINK's Development Worker Hannah Claydon is leaving the team in August. She will be replaced by Alison Chalmers (formerly a LINK Board Member and employee of Learning Disabilities Federation). This leaves a vacancy on the Board for an Organisational Member. If you are interested in learning more about this position, please contact LINK Manager Johanne Mears on 0191 200 1429 or email [johanne.mears@voda.org.uk](mailto:johanne.mears@voda.org.uk). We would also like to announce that LINK Communications Worker Amy Rudd will commence maternity leave from the end of August 2010, and will be replaced by Meg Woolham. Look out for more details in August's edition of Stronger Voice.

### ▶ Feedback from LINK Representatives

In June's edition of Stronger Voice, we listed your LINK representatives and the groups they sit on. LINK is currently formalising the arrangements for reps to communicate with the wider membership. In the [Membership Space](#) of our website, you will find the [LINK Representatives](#) page, which includes a list of representatives and their notes from recent meetings. These pages will shortly be updated to include the background and terms of reference for each group (where available), along with ways current topics and ways to communicate with your representatives. Recent additions to the page include feedback from the Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Group and VONNE's Health and Social Care Group.

### ▶ LINK Enter and View Volunteers

Following a second round of interviews, ten LINK members have now been appointed as authorised LINK Enter and View volunteers. Read a full list and more about their duties [here](#).

### ▶ Dementia Project Review Board: Papers Now Online

LINK staff are invited to sit on the NHS North of Tyne Dementia Project Review Board, which has been set up to oversee and monitor the commissioner-led Service Review of dementia care services across the North of Tyne area. As part of the Project Space on our website, we have uploaded some relevant documents from the Project Review Board, including the North of Tyne Action Plan, Communication Plan and notes from the latest meeting. [Read more and view these documents here](#).

### ▶ NHS North of Tyne Respond to LINK Report

NHS North of Tyne has responded to LINK's commissioned report into Transgendered People: Accessing health and social care services in North Tyneside. This response can be [read here](#).

## News from the Health and Social Care Sector

### ▶ NHS Faces Major Overhaul

The big national news is the government's proposed overhaul of the National Health Service, under which up to £80billion for patient care would be passed to family doctors. See below for the implications of the White Paper. You can read about this from several sources, including the [BBC website](#).

### ▶ Future of LINKs Implicated as White Paper is Published

Earlier this week the government published a Health White Paper entitled Equality and Excellence: Liberating the NHS. This sets out the vision for the future of the NHS, rooted in the coalition's core beliefs of freedom, fairness and responsibility. The paper proposes that

LINks will become local Health Watch, under the umbrella of a national consumer champion, Health Watch England. There are a number of other proposals of direct relevance to public engagement and the health sector in general, all of which may be of interest to LINK members. The government is consulting on this paper until 5 October 2010. [To read more and take part in the consultation, visit our website.](#)

### ► Review into Palliative Care Funding

The Department of Health has announced it is to review the funding of palliative care. The review will look at how Government can make sure that the money intended to help look after people who are approaching the end of life is spent in the right way. The review will make recommendations for a funding system that will cover care provided by the NHS, a hospice or any appropriate provider:

- which encourages more community-based care, so a patient can remain in their own home; and
- that will be fair and transparent to all organisations involved in palliative care.

The review will cover both adults' and children's services and will report back by summer 2011. [Read more here.](#)

### ► National Patient Choice Survey: Latest Results

The Department of Health has published figures from the latest National Patient Choice Survey, which took place in February 2010. The main findings of the survey include an increase in patients being offered a choice of hospital for outpatient appointments to 49% and 67% of patients being able to go to the hospital they wanted. The survey also found that 7% of patients were satisfied with how long they had to wait from the time their GP referred them to being given a hospital appointment. [Read the full report here.](#)

### ► Catalyst Magazine

Catalyst is a new magazine which addresses health and social care issues for BME (Black and Minority Ethnic) communities. You can download the first edition from [LINK's website here.](#)

## Local News Round Up

### ► Residents Asked for their Views on Pharmacy Services

NHS North of Tyne is asking residents for their views on the current provision of pharmacy services. A survey, which is available online and through local libraries and community groups, is being circulated as part of an assessment of the overall quality and availability of pharmacy services across Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland. The results will be used to inform the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA), which will be published in February 2011, after a period of consultation. The aim of the survey is to seek the views of local people on a wide range of issues including opening times and ease of access. The questionnaire is open until **1 September 2010**. [Take the survey here](#) or to be sent a paper copy telephone 0191 217 2599 or email [contactus@northoftyne.nhs.uk](mailto:contactus@northoftyne.nhs.uk)

### ▶ **Chance to Comment on Local Pharmacy Applications**

LINK members have also been asked to submit any comments they may have about two local pharmacy applications, one is a change of ownership in a premises in Whitley Bay; the second is an application for a pharmacy in the Walkergate area (but circulated to North Tyneside due to its proximity to the borough). [Read more and make your comments here.](#)

### ▶ **Mental Health Forum in North Tyneside**

Are you at risk of losing your Incapacity Benefit? Unsure how service changes in mental health will affect you? If so, why not go along to the Mental Health Forum and have your say? The next event takes place on Thursday 5 August 2010, from 12 noon to 2.30pm at the Linskill Centre, North Shields. For more information contact Jane Noble on 07912 991391 or email [jane.linda.noble@googlemail.com](mailto:jane.linda.noble@googlemail.com)

### ▶ **Local Sexual Health Nurse receives MBE**

Pauline Handy, lead nurse with Newcastle and North Tyneside Community Health received the award for services to healthcare at an awards ceremony at Buckingham Palace on 2 July 2010.

### ▶ **Linskill Healthy Walks Coffee Morning**

The Linskill Centre in North Shields runs a Healthy Walks session as a way for local people to stay fit and healthy. They are holding an informative coffee morning on Thursday 5 August at the Linskill Centre, from 10am, in order to give people the chance to register and hear more about activities that promote better health in the community. For more information telephone 0191 257 8000.

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**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](mailto:amy.rudd@voda.org.uk)**