



North Tyneside LINK E-Bulletin November 2009

News from North Tyneside LINK

▶ LINK Board Appoints New Chair and Board

North Tyneside LINK's Interim Board officially handed over to the newly appointed members during November's meeting. We are pleased to report that John Robson, representing the Coalition for Disabled People, has been appointed as Chair of North Tyneside LINK's Board. A full list of Board members can be viewed on our [website](#). We would like to thank the Interim Members for all of their hard work in setting up and establishing LINK and wish the new members good luck in their new roles.

There are still vacancies for three individual and one organisational member, as well as one co-opted member of the Board. If you are interested in applying or finding out more visit our [website](#) or contact LINK Manager Johanne Mears on 0191 200 1429 or email johanne.mears@voda.org.uk

▶ Your Chance to Comment on the Quality of NHS Services

Quality Accounts are the reports that providers of NHS services must make about the quality of their services. Quality Accounts replace what were previously known as Health Checks. On **Wednesday 25 November**, Northumbria Healthcare NHS Trust is teaming up with LINK for an event which will give people the chance to hear about, and comment on, their Quality Account. This takes place at Wallsend People's Centre between 2pm and 4pm. **To book your place telephone LINK on 0191 200 1429 or email us.** Read more about [Quality Accounts here](#).

▶ LINK Holds Hospital Discharge Event: Friday 4 December

In a follow-up to our previous work around Hospital Discharge, LINK is holding a public meeting about hospital discharge procedures for older people. Taking place at The Oxford Centre, Longbenton between 10am and 12noon (with lunch provided), this is your chance to comment on current procedures, make suggestions for a new Information Pack and hear from the Medical Social Work team and staff from North Tyneside General Hospital. [Read more here](#).

To book your place contact LINK on 0191 200 1429 or [email us](#).

▶ Date for the Diary 1: LINK Annual Event Thursday 28 January 2010

LINK is holding an all-day event on Thursday 28 January at The Langdale Centre, Wallsend for its members, the public and health and adult social care staff. Details of how to book are coming soon! To register your interest email [Christine O'Brien](mailto:Christine.O'Brien@link.org.uk) or telephone LINK on 0191 200 1429.

▶ **Date for the Diary 2: LINK Young People's Event: Saturday 23 January 2010**

LINK is holding an event on Saturday 23 January (times and venue tbc) in order to find out the health and social care priorities of young people in North Tyneside. This event has been planned with the help of a group of young volunteers and will be a fun and informative day for young people and providers of services. Details of how to book are coming soon but for more information on this project or to register your interest email [Hannah Claydon](mailto:Hannah.Claydon@link.org.uk) or telephone LINK on 0191 200 1429.

▶ **Young People's Survey**

As part of the Young People's project, LINK has developed a short survey in order to find out what the health care priorities of young people are. The results will go on to inform the event described above and the overall workplan of LINK for 2010. All entrants can enter themselves to win one of five £20 cash prizes, the closing date for which is Friday 4 December. **If you are aged under 25, you can complete the survey by [clicking here](#).**

If you are involved or work for a youth-orientated group or organisation and wish to help distribute this survey, please contact Amy Rudd at LINK on 0191 200 8563 or email amy.rudd@voda.org.uk

▶ **Away Day Session for LINK Representatives**

On **Monday 30 November 2009**, LINK is holding a second away-day session for members who are interested in becoming a representative of LINK. The event will take place between 10am and 12noon (followed by lunch) at The Parks Leisure Centre in North Shields. It will look at the role of a LINK representative, what is expected of that role and what support representatives can access from the LINK host team. [Read more](#) about representing LINK on our website.

For more information or to book a place on the away-day event contact us on 0191 200 1429 or [email us](#).

▶ **Opportunity to Carry out Work for North Tyneside LINK**

LINK is still looking to commission a piece of project work around the health and social care concerns of minority groups. The value of this project is £1,500 (including VAT and expenses). Visit our [Commissioning](#) page to read more, including LINK's Commissioning Process.

For an informal chat about this project please contact LINK Manager Johanne Mears on 0191 200 1429 or email johanne.mears@voda.org.uk

News and Event Round-Up

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

▶ Prime Minister States Care for Elderly a Priority

Improving the care available for the elderly will be Labour's domestic policy "priority" should it win the next election, Gordon Brown has said. [Click here](#) to read more.

▶ NHS Performance Ratings for 2008/09

The Care Quality Commission has published performance rates for all 392 NHS Trusts in England. The 'annual health check' (which is being replaced by Quality Accounts – see above) shows big improvements in some areas but a declining rate in others. Read more by [clicking here](#). To find out how the North East region rated click here.

▶ The Reform of Adult Social Care Law

The Big Care Debate, the consultation on the reform of adult social care, closed on November 13. The responses received will be used to shape the new National Care Service for England. To keep up-to-date with developments visit [the website](#).

▶ The Health Work and Well-Being Challenge Fund

This £4million grant scheme is funded by the Department for Work and Pensions. Small and medium sized businesses and local partnerships can apply for grants of between £1,000 and £50,000 to set up new projects that improve workplace health and welfare. E.g. projects that alleviate stress, provide healthy activities, ensure work-life balance. [Click here](#) for more information or to book a one-hour information session in Newcastle email carla.braid@dh.gsi.gov.uk

▶ New Facility Lets Public Compare their Local GP Practices

Members of the public can now air their views about their GP practice and compare their practice with others in the locality thanks to a new online tool. The service has been provided by NHS Choices and is available by visiting www.nhs.uk

▶ Sexual Violence Education and Prevention

The third North East Conference on Sexual Violence takes place on Monday 23 November between 9.30am and 4.30 pm at Newcastle City Council Chambers. [Read more](#) or to book your place email katherine.glendenning@durham.ac.uk

▶ **Emergency SMS for People that are Deaf and Hard of Hearing**

Emergency SMS are trialing a service that lets deaf, hard of hearing and speech-impaired people in the UK send an SMS text message to the UK 999 service. This will then be sent to the police, ambulance, fire rescue or coastguard. If the trial is a success, the service will be launched during 2010. You need to register your mobile number before using the trial. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.

▶ **New Drop-In to Quit Service in North Tyneside**

Following the success of other drop-in sessions across North Tyneside and Newcastle, a new stop smoking drop-in session has been set up at Wallsend Library on Ferndale Avenue. People wanting to quit are invited to drop in at the weekly sessions - which will take place between 12.30pm and 2pm every Tuesday - to get free practical support and products to control cravings. [Read more](#) and find out where other drop-in sessions take place.

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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