



North Tyneside LINK E-bulletin July 2011

News from North Tyneside LINK

> LINK annual report 2010/11

Find out how LINK made a difference in 2010/11 and our plans for the next year.

[Read the LINK annual report 2010/11](#)

For a paper copy of the LINK annual report please call 0191 643 2623 or email link@voda.org.uk

> Have your say on the future of health and social care

Join in discussions with LINK members and representatives from NHS trusts and social care services and hear more about:

- CareFirst and Engage Health clinical commissioning groups
- Developing a health and wellbeing strategy for North Tyneside
- Plans for the introduction of HealthWatch

Thursday 29 September from 10am to 3pm at the Langdale Centre, Howdon

Make a note in your diary and let us know if you would like to attend by emailing link@voda.org.uk or call LINK on 0191 643 2623.

> Interested in carers rights or personalisation?

We have five free places for LINK members to attend a briefing by Luke Clements on carers' rights to support from social services and a discussion on personalisation and how personal budgets can be challenged.

Wednesday 17 August from 9.45am to 2.30pm, lunch included, at the Langdale Centre, Howdon

To book one of the free LINK places at the event call LINK on 0191 643 2623 or email link@voda.org.uk

> Tell us your in-patient experiences

Have you been an in-patient at North Tyneside General Hospital in the last six months? We are following up our report on patient experience and want to hear from you.

Call Alison Chalmers on 0191 643 2624 or email alison.chalmers@voda.org.uk

Read our [patient experience report and response by Northumbria Healthcare NHS Trust](#)

> Your top three health and social care issues

Does your organisation come across the same issues time and again? We want to hear about your top three health and social care issues and what needs to change to make things better. Phone the LINK team on 0191 643 2623 or email link@voda.org.uk

> Are you affected by autism?

We want to speak with people affected by autism to hear their experiences and their ideas about how the lives of adults with autism could be improved.

- **Do you know how or where to get help?**
- **What do you think of services for adults with autism in North Tyneside?**

LINK is part of a local autism working group looking at how things might move forward. If you are affected by autism or your organisation is involved with people affected by autism we want to hear from you.

Find out more about [LINK's involvement in the local strategy for adults with autism](#)

> Do you have experience of the reablement service?

We want to hear from people and their carers who have had experience of reablement services in their own home:

- Did you get enough information about the service?
- Who was involved in your care?
- Were you able to express your hopes and fears?
- What happened after the service ended?

Contact Alison Chalmers, LINK Development Worker to arrange a time to go through our quick questionnaire. We can meet you in person or talk over the phone.

Call LINK on 0191 643 2624 or email alison.chalmers@voda.org.uk

Find out more about our [reablement project](#)

> Information about personalisation of social care

LINK asked Keith Metcalf to look into the information people need about personalisation including personal budgets and direct payments. We have sent his draft report to North Tyneside Council and local NHS trusts to make sure it is factually correct and for them to read Keith's initial findings. Find out more about [LINK's personalisation project](#)

Keith will present his initial findings at an event run by A4e on Thursday 28 July from 12.30 to 3.30pm at the Shiremoor Centre. To register for this event or for more information about A4e call 0191 258 8930 or email northtynesidedp@A4e.co.uk

Lancaster University and In Control have published the results of their national survey of people using personal budgets and their carers.

Read the results of the [National Personal Budget Survey](#)

> Update on the dementia strategy in North Tyneside

North Tyneside's joint action plan was updated in February 2011 and it is likely that a 'task and finish' group will be set up to map out the dementia pathway and address any outstanding actions in the plan. [Read the updated action plan](#)

The dementia adviser project run by the Alzheimer's Society concluded that the Dementia Adviser Service has been vital in supporting carers and people with dementia to receive information at the right time, access the appropriate services and receive financial support available to them following a diagnosis of dementia. [Read the report of this pilot project](#)

> LINK Board

The next LINK board meeting is on Tuesday 30 August from 12.30 to 2pm at the Shiremoor Centre. Please note the later start for the board meeting so that our LINK reps can attend the health and wellbeing board.

[Read the minutes of the June board meeting](#)

[Find out more about joining the LINK Board](#)

News from the health and social care sector

> Local healthcare – what’s happening?

Clinical commissioning groups (previously known as GP commissioning consortia) and Taking Part workshops will be at festivals across North Tyneside this summer, go along and have your say on health services:

- **Whitley Bay Park View Shopping on 30 July**
- **Health and Horticulture Show on 20 August**
- **Burradon Family Fun Day on 2 September**

[Find out more about taking part workshops](#)

> A picture of health in North Tyneside

The Department of Health has published a new profile of health in North Tyneside. It is designed to help local government and health services understand their community’s needs, so that they can work to improve people’s health and reduce health inequalities.

[See the North Tyneside health profile 2011](#)

> Government response to NHS Future Forum report

The government explains how it will make significant changes to improve their plans for health and social care.

[Read the government response](#)

> Dilnot report on funding of care and support

The Commission on Funding of Care and Support presented its findings to the government in its report Fairer Care Funding, published on 4 July 2011.

[Read the report](#)

> Read the results of this year’s NHS staff attitudes survey

This year’s survey includes questions about staff attitudes towards the planned changes to NHS health services.

[Read the survey results](#)

> CQC to review learning disabilities services

Following the BBC Panorama programme the Care Quality Commission is to make unannounced inspections of learning disabilities services across England.

[Find out more](#)

> Get involved with NICE

NICE (National Institute for Clinical Excellence) is looking for patients and carers to join working groups and respond to public consultations. [Find out how you can get involved](#)

NICE is currently consulting on [standards and guidance for patient experience](#) and standards for [users of adult mental health services](#).

> Your views on school nurses

If you're aged 11 to 18 and in school or sixth form college the Department of Health wants to hear your views on the school nurse service. As a thank you for taking part in this survey you can **enter a prize draw to win a £50 Love2Shop voucher**.

[Enter the school nurse survey](#)

> Check your child's vaccinations before going on holiday abroad

Health experts are urging parents to make sure their children have had their primary vaccinations in particular the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine before travelling abroad. Nationally, the Health Protection Agency (HPA) is seeing an increase in cases of measles particularly in cases among the under 25s.

Ask your GP or go to [NHS Choices](#) for more information

> Eating disorder training for professionals

From 10am to 4pm on Tuesday 2 August, Tuesday 27 September or Tuesday 30 November at Newcastle City Library, Bewick Room

Cost £100 for voluntary organisations, £120 for statutory organisations.

For more information email maria.lavelle@themwifies.org.uk or phone 0191 261 9923.

To book a place email lesley.hall@themwifies.org.uk or phone 0191 232 7445.

> Mind North East training programme

Mental health and wellbeing courses from July to December.

For more information email training@middlesbroughandstocktonmind.org.uk phone 01642 257024 or go to [Mind North East website](#)

> End of life care conference

Free conference for health, social care, community, voluntary and other organisations, groups or individuals.

- How can we make sure that the last years and months of life are dignified and fulfilling?
- How can we ensure that people's health and wellbeing is as good as it can be at the end of life?

Friday 9 September from 9am to 4pm

School of Health and Social Care, Centuria Building, Teesside University

To book your place email r.casey@tees.ac.uk

If you have any questions about the conference please contact Professor Edwin Pugh, Consultant in Palliative Medicine on 01642 624548 or email edwin.pugh@nth.nhs.uk

> VODA new training programme

Check out VODA's new training programme for September 2011 to January 2012. The programme is full of free and low-cost quality training sessions aimed at the voluntary and community sector.

[Find out more about VODA training](#)

Local news round up

> Age takes centre stage awards 2011

Your chance to nominate a group or individual for this year's 'Age takes centre stage' awards sponsored by Age UK North Tyneside and DFDS Seaways. [Find out more](#)

> Pathways4all summer activities

The big day out on Friday 26 August - free entry to Adventure Valley, Brasside, Durham for children with disabilities or additional needs and their families who live in North Tyneside. Book your place by 14 August.

To book your place or find out more about Pathways4all summer activities contact Lynn on 0191 280 8163 or email lynn4pathways@gmail.com

> FANE celebration, music and BBQ

Friends Action North East (FANE) supports adults with a learning disability to make and keep friendships. They have lots to celebrate and would like to do it with you.

Join FANE at their AGM on Monday 1 August from 2.30 to 6.30 pm at The Ouseburn Regeneration Centre (the Old Boathouse) Spillers Quay, Newcastle, NE6 1BU.

To book a place email friendsaction@googlemail.com or phone 0191 231 4327.

> DNEX independent living exhibition

Free exhibition offering information, advice and equipment for disabled people, older adults, carers and health and social care professionals on a range of disability related issues.

Wednesday 21 and Thursday 22 September from 10am daily at Newcastle racecourse

For more information about DNEX 2011 contact the events team on 0191 294 0480 or email events@disability-north.org.uk

> Take part in research into food for older hospital patients

The Institute for Ageing and Health is looking for volunteers aged over 65 to try out touch-screens to be used for managing food for hospital in-patients. £10 voucher and travel expenses paid to participants. Contact Sarah Armstrong on 0191 248 1288.

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For more information about North Tyneside LINK visit our [website](#) or phone 0191 643 2623.

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