



North Tyneside LINK E- bulletin March 2011

Please forward this e-bulletin to a friend or colleague who may be interested in [joining LINK](#) and getting involved in improving health and social care services

News from North Tyneside LINK

▶ **LINK annual review – have you booked your place yet?**

Tuesday 22 March from 9.30am to 3pm, lunch included

Langdale Centre, Howdon, Wallsend, NE28 0HG

- Paul Hanson, Strategic Director of Community Services, North Tyneside Council and Phil Clow and Rachel Chapman, NHS North of Tyne will give their views on LINK members contribution to better services
- Hear the results of LINK's work in 2010
- Say what you think is important for LINK in 2011
- Meet other LINK members, the LINK Board and LINK team

Please let us know if you would like to attend by Friday 18 March, phone 0191 200 1429 or email link@voda.org.uk

▶ **LINK Board**

Welcome to our new Board members - Julia Charlton, Lindsay Perks and Sirak Hagos. Please note the LINK Board meeting planned for April has been re-scheduled to Tuesday 10 May from 12 to 2pm at The Shiremoor Centre. [Read past Board papers](#)

▶ **Are you confused by direct payments or personal budgets?**

Has the information you have received from North Tyneside Council or A4E been useful or baffling? We are looking at how information to help people receive personal budgets or direct payments can be as clear as possible. Tell us what experience has been or how you think information could be improved. Send your views to keithwmetcalf@gmail.com or call LINK on 0191 200 1429.

[More about our personalisation project](#)

▶ **LINK to enter and view care services in North Tyneside**

We are talking to North Tyneside Council about our enter and view volunteers going into care services commissioned by the council to look at the quality and choice of services and to hear the views of service users, carers and staff. We will need more volunteers to join our Enter and View team, to find out more call Johanne Mears or Alison Chalmers on 0191 200 1429 or go to our [Enter and view web page](#).

Look out for our enter and view feature on page 50 of [Widening Horizons](#), North Tyneside Council's residents' magazine.

▶ **Your response to plans to move Ward 21 to St George's**

North Tyneside Council Health and Wellbeing Sub-committee heard the response to consultation on plans for Ward 21 to move to St George's Park in Morpeth. [Read the report to the committee and LINK members response to the plans.](#)

▶ **Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board**

John Robson, our LINK chair, is vice-chair of the shadow Health and Wellbeing Board which was set up in December 2010. June Davies will also represent LINK on the board. If John or June are unable to attend, LINK will be represented by Clare Easton.

The Health and Wellbeing Board is working in line with the national NHS reforms, as set out in the Health White Paper. During the transitional period it has been agreed by the Board that papers will not be published. Instead information will be disseminated by Board members through their organisational communication channels. We will put our LINK representatives notes of the Board meetings on the LINK website. [Read their notes of the February meeting.](#)

▶ **Representing LINK**

Read the notes from our LINK representatives attending the February meetings of the [Learning Disability Partnership Board](#) and the [Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Group](#).

▶ **LINK responses to national consultations**

Reform of Disability Living Allowance – [read our LINK response to the consultation](#)
Transparency in outcomes: a framework for adult social care – [read our LINK response to the consultation](#)

▶ **HealthWatch**

The Department of Health has set up a HealthWatch advisory group to provide expert, practical advice and make recommendations to the programme board about implementation of HealthWatch. There are representatives from local LINKs on the advisory group and two LINK representatives will sit on the HealthWatch programme board.

Read minutes of each advisory group meeting on the [CQC website](#)

▶ **Your news in Stronger Voice newsletter**

We will be sending out the next edition of Stronger Voice on 12 April. If you have any news you would like included please email meg.woollam@voda.org.uk by Monday 4 April.

▶ **Keeping your information up-to-date**

To keep you informed about LINK activities and reports we need to be able to get in touch in the best way for you. Please let us know if you change your address, phone number or email and we will update our database. Contact link@voda.org.uk

News from the health and social care sector

▶ **Planning application submitted for emergency care hospital**

Northumbria Healthcare Trust submitted the planning application for the new emergency care hospital in February. [Read more](#)

▶ **Care Quality Commission (CQC) to inspect hospital care for older people**

CQC has launched a targeted inspection programme looking at some of the quality of care for older people in NHS hospitals. They are inspecting wards in about 100 hospitals and are looking at whether older people are treated with dignity and respect and how they help with food and drink when they need it. [More information](#)

▶ **Fall in teenage conceptions in North Tyneside**

The number of teenage conceptions in North Tyneside has decreased from 174 in 2008 to 148 in 2009. Since 1998, the under 18 conception rate has fallen by 26.5%.

North of Tyne NHS Trust say the improvement in the figures for teenage conceptions reflects the long term work carried out across health and education including the work of the young people's sexual health outreach team, who have worked to develop sexual health services specifically for young people. This includes ensuring that young people have access to professional health advice and support, as well as access to effective contraception in places they find easy to access.

Live national consultations

▶ **The future of children's heart services in England**

Safe and sustainable – A new vision for children's congenital heart services in England

There are four options for the number and location of hospitals that provide children's heart surgical services. The Freeman Hospital is included in three of these options.

[Read the proposals and register for a consultation event at the Newcastle Discovery Museum Thursday 7 April from 6.30 to 8.30pm.](#)

Consultation closes **1 July 2011**

▶ **Healthy lives, healthy people – proposals for changes to public health**

The Department of Health is asking for views on the government's proposals for public health:

- Consultation on funding and commissioning routes for public health
- Transparency in outcomes, proposals for a public health outcomes framework
- Strategy for public health in England, White Paper consultation

Consultation closes **31 March 2011**

Look out on the LINK website for our response to the consultation based on what you said at our LINK event on 28 February.

[Read more here](#)

▶ **What makes a good doctor?**

The General Medical Council (GMC) are reviewing guidance for doctors. They are looking for initial suggestions on areas where the guidance might be improved to ensure it continues to be relevant to all doctors and reflects what patients want from their doctors.

Survey closes **8 April 2011**.

[Go to the GMC consultation website to give your views](#)

Local news round up

▶ **All together better parent carer forum**

Forum for parents and carers of children or young people, aged 0 – 25, who have disabilities or additional needs. All together better has been set up to encourage parent and carer participation and make sure your views are heard when services are being developed and reviewed in North Tyneside.

Phone 0758 162 6210, email info@alltogetherbetter.info or write to All together better, PO Box 805, Whitley Bay, NE26 9BU

▶ **Help make mobiles more accessible**

A research project is looking at the design of software for a mobile device with improved accessibility options that can be tailored to individual needs. You will test mobile devices for indoor navigation and as an alternative to remote controls to check TV programmes.

Are you aged between 18 and 65? Do you have computer experience and use a mobile phone? The project is looking for:

- People who have mobility problems, difficulty walking up and down stairs or walking for long distances.
- People with low vision, they need a screen magnifier when using a computer
- People who have difficulties with fine motor skills.

Phone Sarah Armstrong, Institute for Ageing and Health at Newcastle University on 0191 248 1288

▶ **Time to get personal**

Haley Hudson, North Tyneside Council will be talking about personalisation of social care at the Carers Forum, Learning Disability Partnership Board.

Thursday 31 March from 10am to 1pm at The Oxford Centre, Longbenton, NE12 8LT

To book your place, or if you need help with transport or care, phone Barry or Suzanne on 0191 200 1100 or email learningdisabilities.federation@virgin.net

▶ **Healthy Community Awards**

Are you a community group with no paid workers?

Does your group improve health and wellbeing for residents of North Tyneside?

North Tyneside Council and North Tyneside Primary Care Trust acknowledge residents efforts through this annual awards scheme and by awarding cash prizes to the winners at the awards event on 5 April.

For more information or to apply email paula.chcf@btinternet.com

▶ **Art auction for the Alzheimer's Society**

Original artwork in A5 postcard form on sale, plus an auction of original donated artwork. Artist Sarah-Jane Szikora will be doing a short talk about her work and her connection to dementia. Friday March 18 from 6.30 to 9pm at Mansion House, Fernwood Road, Jesmond. Places on the night are limited so please book by emailing zoe.thomas@alzheimers.org.uk

▶ **Get moving**

Adult cycle training starting March 2011. Improve your skills and confidence with (almost) free cycle training with fully qualified instructors at Cobalt Business Park. Or try healthy walks, cycle rides or volunteer walk leader training. For more information contact Emma Spence, Project Coordinator on 0782 4813054

▶ **Join the March March 2011 to help stamp out mental health stigma**

One-mile awareness raising walks to help stamp out mental health stigma and start a conversation. The March March is part of the 'Time to change' campaign and is open to anyone. To register email register@themarchmarch.org.uk stating which event you will be attending.

Newcastle on Tuesday 22 March at 12 noon, meet at Newcastle Civic Centre clock tower at 11.45am.

Morpeth on Thursday 24 March at 12 noon, meet at Morpeth Market square at 11.45am.

▶ **Meet the funder workshops**

VODA is holding a series of Meet the Funder workshops throughout the coming months. Starting with the Hadrian Trust on 23 March, these free events give groups the chance to meet face to face with some of the region's top funders. You will be able to ask questions and get answers about the sort of projects they are looking to fund and what makes for a good application. [More information](#)

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

To ask for this e-newsletter in alternative formats or languages, please contact LINK on 0191 200 1429 or email meg.woollam@voda.org.uk