



# Stronger Voice

Your newsletter from North Tyneside LINK

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As a LINK member, this is **your** newsletter. If you wish to contribute an article, or if there's something else you would like to see, please email [link@voda.org.uk](mailto:link@voda.org.uk)

## Your Local Involvement Network is Here

Welcome to the first edition of Stronger Voice, the newsletter from North Tyneside LINK. In future editions, you'll find all the news, events and developments about the work of the LINK, as well as updates from the world of Health and Adult Social Care in North Tyneside and beyond.



For this first edition, LINK Co-ordinator Dave Shaw (pictured, left) introduces the project and team (page 2), and writes about the progress of LINK so far:

"It's never simple setting up a new organisation, especially an organisation where the guidance from government is still evolving, but I think that we are making real progress:

- Recruiting members is going well with over 70 individuals and organisations expressing an interest in joining LINK, and new membership forms being returned every day
- Publicity materials have been circulated throughout North Tyneside and our website is now live - visit it at [www.linknorthtyneside.org.uk](http://www.linknorthtyneside.org.uk)
- The policies and procedures required by the legislation that set up LINKs have been agreed by the Board and will soon be available to view on our website

Most importantly, we've been gathering information on the issues that you want us to look at. The **Launch Events** (see back page) will give us more detail and the Board will then set out our work programme for the first few months. I look forward to working with you on the issues that matter to the people of North Tyneside."

# Meet the LINK Team



**Hannah Claydon, Development Worker:** “I have been involved in community and youth work in Tyne and Wear since 2004. With LINK, I am looking forward to getting to know the local community and encouraging people to have their say on health and social care services.”



**Amy Rudd, Communications Worker:** “I really enjoy working in the voluntary and community sector - I find it very rewarding. I look forward to using my skills to report on the work done by the LINK and to keeping its members up-to-date with developments.”



**Christine O'Brien, Administrator:** “I've worked in the voluntary and community sector for five years now and really enjoy it. I'm looking forward to building LINK's membership and getting to know the members as individuals. Another part of my role will be arranging events so that news and information can be passed on.”

## Could YOU be a Board Member for North Tyneside LINK?

The current members of the LINK Board (see right) were all nominated by the organisations that set up the LINK (**VODA**, Age Concern North Tyneside and North Tyneside Community and Health Care Forum). This was on the clear understanding that they would eventually be replaced by new members drawn from the LINK membership. In February or March the current board will agree the timetable for recruiting these new members. We will be looking **for six individuals to represent our organisational members** and **six to represent individuals**. All applicants will be interviewed by a panel drawn from LINK members and this panel will ensure that the new board all understand the role and have the skills and commitment that are required to do the job.

If you might want to be a member of the board then please watch out for further details. If you would like to be part of the panel that will appoint the board please get in touch with Dave Shaw as soon as possible on 0191 200 1429 or email [link@voda.org.uk](mailto:link@voda.org.uk)

### Current LINK Board Members:

#### North Tyneside VODA:

- Hazel Parrack
- Jeff Watts
- Val White

#### Age Concern North Tyneside:

- Gordon Dennet
- Alan Gerono
- Glenis Stringer

#### Community and Health Care Forum

- Norma Playle
- John Robson
- Huge Welch

# LINK Report: NHS North of Tyne Strategy Consultation

Early in December 2008, North Tyneside LINK and North Tyneside Community Network held an event to gather feedback on the NHS North of Tyne Five Year Strategic Plan. Those in attendance were asked to consider the document's 26 goals as well as identifying any gaps.

The event was attended by 27 individuals and organisations representing a wide spectrum of the community including carers, older people, young people, people with disabilities, local NHS and PCT services as well as local residents.

Participants were given the opportunity to vote on which goals they considered priorities. Although the participants all agreed that the majority of the goals and initiatives in the NHS Plan were important, some priorities clearly stood out. These included;

- Improving access to primary and community care services
- Reducing health inequalities by positively influencing lifestyle change
- Delivering an integrated system of accessible urgent care
- Improving the patient experience of discharge and rehabilitation
- Increasing the number of adults receiving appropriate assessment, diagnosis and effective interventions for *Autistic Spectrum Disorder*, with particular focus on transition from children's into adult services
- Well co-ordinated services for end of life care
- Personalisation and choice also featured highly on participants priorities.

Participants identified several gaps in the plan, in particular that the role of carers is not recognised in the document. Other feedback highlighted the need for the public to know how this plan will be delivered, how they would know when the goals have been met, and which partners (statutory, voluntary and community) will be involved in its delivery. There was a strong consensus that the voluntary and community sector has a lot to offer in terms of delivering accessible services locally and that this resource should be utilised

## LINK Website: Going Live!

North Tyneside LINK's website ([www.linknorthtyneside.org.uk](http://www.linknorthtyneside.org.uk)) is now officially live. The easy-to-use website contains the background to LINKs, downloadable versions of our policies and procedures, and up-to-date news from the world of health and social care in North Tyneside. The website will be a space for you, LINK members, to use, contribute to and shape. The space will grow and develop as the LINK does but if you have any comments or if there is anything else you would like to see on the website, please email [link@voda.org.uk](mailto:link@voda.org.uk)



# North Tyneside LINK Launch Events

**Do you have ideas about how to improve health  
and social care services in North Tyneside?**

LINK is a network of individuals, organisations and groups, who will work with the providers of these services to help improve health and social care - **for everyone.**

To find out more and to make sure that the issues important to **you** are covered on the LINK agenda, come along to one of our launch events:

Tuesday 27 January, 10am to 12noon <b>The Shiremoor Centre, Earsdon Road</b>	Thursday 29 January, 6pm to 7.30pm <b>Wallsend People's Centre</b>
Tuesday 3 February, 10am to 12noon <b>Oxford Centre, Longbenton</b>	Thursday 5 February, 6pm to 7.30pm <b>Linskill Centre, North Shields</b>



To book your place contact the LINK team on  
**0191 200 1429** or email **link@voda.org.uk**

## Contact Us

Telephone: 0191 200 1429      Email: [link@voda.org.uk](mailto:link@voda.org.uk)

Website: [www.linknorthtyneside.org.uk](http://www.linknorthtyneside.org.uk)

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