



Gateshead LINK

Carers Working Group
2009/10

Where did we start

We began looking at the priorities identified by local people at the last Annual Conference and the Carers Group concluded that some of these were already being looked at by other organisations including Gateshead Carers Association and Crossroads Care – The LINK felt it did not want to duplicate work and would rather move into other areas in which we could make a distinct contribution.

So Where Next ?

What we did

We invited Gateshead Council to tell us how the money for care packages is decided within the **Resource Allocation System (RAS)**

This led to a realisation that a lot of people in Gateshead wanted to know more about the personalisation agenda and the transition for young people to adult services.

What is Personalisation ?

“Personalisation means thinking about public services and social care and support in an entirely different way – starting with the person rather than the service”

(Source Julie Jones CBE, Chief Executive, SCIE)

Personalisation

We worked with Gateshead Advocacy Network(GAIN)
To look at gaps in services. As a result of this work we
decided to hold an open event to raise awareness of
Personalisation and Direct Payments called:

A Rough Guide to Personalisation



This was held in April and was a great success with over
60 people attending on the day



From this event the Steering Group consulted the LINK membership and it was agreed the Carers Working Group would transform and look at personalisation as it was seen as a “Hot Topic”

Carers issues would still remain constant through all LINK work.

The Personalisation and Independent Living Working Group-

The aims are

- To raise awareness of the 'personalisation agenda' amongst the people of Gateshead.
- To establish a set of principles that should apply to all people and agencies involved in personalisation and independent living.
- To research and discover what the existing policies are in Gateshead and who are the delivery agents.
- To actively recruit those involved in personalisation and independent living, to become members of the LINK. This will help us be better informed and raise our credibility in this field.
- To ensure LINK representation and influence on the relevant partnerships and bodies.

Progress made so far

- We work in partnership with the Local Authority to establish ways of looking at improving information sharing and communication.
- We are now represented on the Personalisation Partnership Board and Workforce Development.
- We have set up a task group which is bringing the voluntary and statutory sector together to ensure that personalisation is delivered in an inclusive way.

The Residential Care Group

- The group had a similar experience to the Carers Group.
- We felt our contribution was not unique and distinctive.
- The Steering Group- guided by the membership decided that we could make a real difference in the field of transition.

What is Transition ?

Transition is the transfer of young people with long term conditions from Children's to Adult Services

(Source Department of Health)

The Transition Working Group

- Set up to respond to concerns of parents and carers, particularly of people with learning and physical disabilities.
- This is such a huge area of concern that we are still establishing a focus for the group- a working party is meeting in the next few weeks aiming to identify a clear action plan. So far our aims are---

The Transition Working Group

- To raise awareness of the needs of young people and their carers in relation to transition.
- To establish a set of principles that should apply to all people and agencies involved in the transition to adult services.
- To research and discover what the existing policies are in Gateshead and who are the delivery agents.
- To actively recruit those involved in transition, both young people and their carers to become members of the LINK. This will help us be better informed and raise our credibility in this field.
- To ensure LINK representation and influence on the relevant partnerships and bodies.
- Liaise with partners to promote advocacy services related to transition and encourage it's take up

The Transition Working Group

- Gateshead LINK is represented on the Local Authority Transition Working Group.
- With the changes proposed in the Health White Paper and the 'Transformation of Adult Social Care' the LINK has a vital role to play.
- Already the LINK has participated in consultations on Child and Adolescent Mental Health and the Special Educational Needs Green Paper

The future

- The groups are growing in size and becoming more diverse in membership.
- We believe that we can make a real difference in these areas.
- You will find the meeting dates in your pack
- Come along and be involved.