



# Gateshead LINK Members e-bulletin

## 23 January 2012

Please forward this e-bulletin to a friend or colleague who may be interested in joining Gateshead LINK (follow <http://fd9.formdesk.com/alphacommunication/GatesheadLINK>) and getting involved in improving health and social care services in the borough.

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### **New Venue for QE Services**

Gateshead Health NHS Trust is now providing services within the new Blaydon Primary Care Centre. You are invited to come along and learn more about the services that will be being provided which will include rheumatology, orthopaedics, vascular cardiology, ultrasound, gynaecology and more services to follow. Come along on **1st February 2012, 4-pm-6pm** and speak to doctors, clinicians and governors.

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### **VONNE Briefing Sheets – Health & Wellbeing Boards & JSNA**

VONNE has produced 2 new briefings on the new health and wellbeing boards and links with JSNAs. Visit [http://www.vonne.org.uk/news/news\\_article.php?id=1667](http://www.vonne.org.uk/news/news_article.php?id=1667)

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### **CQC Acting Together - Get involved in checking services. And make a difference!**

Acting Together' is the name the Care Quality Commission (CQC) has given to involving people as Experts by Experience in inspections of health, mental health and social care services. This new and important partnership has meant that all around the Country people who have experience of services or who care for someone are being called on to play a central role in improving support and services. Now, people who have personal experience are making an important impact on how services are checked and are judged to be up to standard. By carrying out inspections of services with an inspector, they are valued members of the inspection team and are paid for the visits, or other work they do. **Why is this important?**

Investigations over the last few years and the Panorama programme shown in 2011 have sadly made it all too clear that some people continue to experience bad and abusive support or care. Involving people as Experts by Experience, helps CQC get a clearer picture of what it is like to live in or use a service, as the experts have a better understanding of how people's needs could and should be met. As one paid Expert from Choice Support says, "Who would have thought it! My view about what I think is being respected and taken into account. I've had opportunities to be out and about visiting lots of different services, and sharing my expertise. I've also had the chance to see things from the other side and I've learnt so much from the inspectors. I was nervous at first but once I got going I haven't looked back! Who supports and pays the Experts by Experience? Choice Support employs Experts

by Experience, and gives support and arranges payment to Experts by Experience. Choice Support also leads a consortium of self-advocacy organisations who employ Experts.

**What do you need to do become an Expert by Experience?** To become an Expert by Experience you need to have personal experience of using services or of caring for someone. You will need to complete an application and personal profile form which we will send to you. We will also arrange a Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) check, ID badge and training for you. But most of all you need a commitment to making a difference. And knowing that being an Expert can be a life changing experience not only for you but for everyone who uses services! What should you do if you want to find out more? If you want to make a difference and you have personal experience of services or are a family carer we are really keen to hear from you. You can: Write to Choice Support, 100 Westminster Bridge Road, London, SE1 7XA. Or email us on [ExpertsByExperience@choicesupport.org.uk](mailto:ExpertsByExperience@choicesupport.org.uk)

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### **Autism Questionnaire**

Maria Hall, Gateshead resident and parent of a young adult, who is on the Autistic Spectrum has created a questionnaire regarding improving services in Gateshead. Maria attends the South of Tyne Region, Autism Development Group as a parent/carer representative and is carrying out a piece of research on behalf of the North East Autism Consortium. You can complete the attached brief questionnaire and your input will assist in improving services in Gateshead. Completion of the survey is expected to take about **10 minutes** of your time. You may omit any question you prefer not to answer. Participation in this project is anonymous. Furthermore, all information you provide will be considered confidential. The data collected will be kept secure while the findings are evaluated and then will be securely destroyed.

***If you are interested in participating in this study, please return the completed questionnaire to 17, Valley Crescent, Blaydon, Gateshead, NE21 4HJ by Friday 3rd February 2012.***

If you have any questions or concerns about this research, or would like additional information to assist you in reaching a decision about participation, please feel free to contact me on 0191 4409932.

In addition to this I would also like to inform you that there is an Autism Working Group, made up of parents/ carers, council officers, health staff and voluntary organisations. It meets monthly at Gateshead Civic and its aim is to develop and monitor delivery of the Autism Strategy in Gateshead.

In addition, in 2011 Gateshead Autism Group was set up to support, and be a voice for those affected by Autistic Spectrum Conditions including their parents, carers and families. It is a voluntary organisation, we meet once a month at Gateshead Carers Association our next meeting is 16<sup>th</sup> February 11am until 1pm. We are holding a conference on 2<sup>nd</sup> April at Gateshead Advice Centre, Davidson Building, Swan Street, Gateshead. NE8 1BQ, where we also have our offices. There is also a focus group session on 9th February at the Civic in Room S21 from 10am until 12 noon, all those with ASC or living or working with someone with ASC, are welcome.

If you have any questions or require information or support please contact us on 0191 4785100 or email [info@gatesheadautismgroup.co.uk](mailto:info@gatesheadautismgroup.co.uk)

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## **NHS Reforms – The Winners and Losers in the VCS**

CAOH and Newcastle CVS are working together to assess the implications for Newcastle's voluntary and community sector of the Government's Health and Social Care Bill.

Can you answer YES to any of these questions?

- Does your organisation provide a service that could benefit health service patients in Newcastle?
- Have you tried to 'sell' your organisation to local GP practices or Clinical Commissioning Groups?
- Has your organisation ever had PCT funding to deliver services?

Can you spare 15 minutes before **Friday 3rd February** to talk about your experiences of working alongside the NHS at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/nhsreformvcs>

If you would like further information or require the survey in a different format contact Lin O'hara - [lin@caoh.org.uk](mailto:lin@caoh.org.uk)

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## **DWP PIP Mobility and Daily Living Allowance**

The Department for Work and Pensions has published its draft proposals on entitlement levels for PIP Mobility and Daily Living Allowance. The Department is keen to hear views from all interested parties but in particular from disabled people and disability organisations. **Deadline 30th April.**

See <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/consultations/2012/pip.shtml>

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## **Offender health services in the NE**

2 events are being held to consult on whether existing offender health services in the North East meet the health and social care needs of offenders with mental ill health and learning disabilities and to make recommendations for improvements. The two events are 9th and 10th February in Middlesbrough and Newcastle. For more see

[http://www.vonne.org.uk/policy/policy\\_article.php?offset=0&id=1681](http://www.vonne.org.uk/policy/policy_article.php?offset=0&id=1681)

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## **FREE Training – Financial Inclusion**

The Council will be running FREE financial awareness workshops for all staff who work with residents, families and organisations in Gateshead. Tuesday 7 February, 10am - 3pm, Beveridge Room, State of the Art Dryden Centre, Low Fell, Gateshead, NE9 5UR. This interactive session will explore ways to work together to improve financial awareness. It will explore : Why does money matter?, working together, resources that you can use, agencies that provide financial services Please note places are limited. To book your place, please contact: Karen Milne 0191 433 8635, email: [karenmilne@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:karenmilne@gateshead.gov.uk) - [www.gateshead.gov.uk/moneymatters](http://www.gateshead.gov.uk/moneymatters)

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## **Job Opportunity - Finance Officer GVOG**

Part time - 28 hours per week with potential to rise to 35, Salary: £27,849 fixed - pro rata. This is an exciting opportunity for an experienced Finance Officer with an accounting qualification or who can

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demonstrate a similar skill level and understanding through experience, this is a key role in supporting the work of GVOC. The role requires someone who has a very good understanding of finance and can ensure that the finances of Gateshead Voluntary Organisations Council and The John Haswell Memorial Trust (The Charities) are managed efficiently and properly, in accordance with high standards of good practice as relating to Company and Charity Law. Duties include the provision of the day-to-day management of the finances of the Charities, the provision of financial advice and reports for the Senior Management & Directors and to act as the Company Secretary of GVOC. Closing date for applications: 4.45pm Friday, 27th January 2012. Interviews scheduled for: Monday, 6th February 2012. For further information and application pack contact: GVOC, John Haswell House, 8/9 Gladstone Terrace, Gateshead, NE8 4DY  
Tel: 0191 478 4103; enquiries@gvoc.org.uk or look on our website www.gvoc.org.uk

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### **Job Opportunity – Female Admin & Finance Officer - NIWE**

Salary: NJC Scale 4 £17,161 - £19,126 pro rata. Permanent Contract: Part time 25 hours per week. (Equality Act 2010 Sch.9 (para.1) applies). Based in Central Newcastle serving the North East Registered Charity no: 1041902. NIWE Eating Distress Service assists people whose lives are affected by eating distress / eating disorders with support, information, therapeutic and development work. NIWE has been working with the community for 23 years supporting primarily women.

The Admin and Finance officer will provide extensive financial and administrative support to the Project Manager and staff. Duties will include production of monthly budgets and financial reports as well as daily management of the project finances. The role will involve all aspects of office administration and IT functions as well as reception of clients.

The successful candidate will have excellent verbal and written communication skills and the ability to deal with a wide variety of people in a confidential setting. The reception and administration duties will require ability to provide a sensitive response by telephone, in writing and in person to our predominantly female clients. A financial qualification or extensive book keeping experience is essential along with the ability to use Word, Excel and Access.

The successful applicant will be required to provide an enhanced CRB disclosure. Disclosure expenses will be met by NIWE.

For an application pack please email [recruitment@niwe.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@niwe.org.uk) or telephone Judith Brown on 0191 2210 233. Please note that application packs will be sent out by email. Applications must be returned by post. CVs will not be accepted.

Closing date: 25 January 2012 at 5pm

Interview dates: 6 February 2012 and 7 February 2012 - interviews will include a short practical test.

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### **Equality Delivery System Event - Promoting equality for people in the South of Tyne and Wear**

Thursday, January 26, 2012 - 13:30 - 16:30

Either 9.30am - 12.30pm OR 1.30 - 4.30 pm

MPH Training and Conference Centre,

Unit 2A, Stonehills Complex, Shields Row, Gateshead. NE10 0HW

This Free event is for individuals, groups and communities who are interested in helping us to promote personal, fair and diverse health services, and working environments.

Can you help us to deliver better outcomes for patients and communities?

Can you give us feedback about our equality performance?

Can you help us to identify future priorities and actions?

To book a place, discuss any requirements, or travel arrangements, please contact:

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### **Understanding & Supporting People who Self-Harm - Tuesday 21st February**

Disability North, the Dene Centre, Castle Farm Road, Gosforth

This workshop aims to give you an understanding of loss and bereavement in the young and how best to support them through their grief. It will be a very interactive workshop giving you opportunities to explore any experiences of bereavement and any difficult issues that have arisen in your work in supporting children and young people.

Tel: 01768 870824

email: [info@jilleastham.co.uk](mailto:info@jilleastham.co.uk)

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### **Aid for the Aged in Distress**

Aid for the Aged in Distress (AFTAID) welcomes applications from individuals, or their family and neighbours, of state pensionable age (60 years old for women and 65 for men), that are UK citizen and resident, on lower income and have minimal savings. AFTAID aims to help older persons that are financially stretched beyond their means to the point of genuine distress.

For more see [http://www.vonne.org.uk/funding/funding\\_article.php?offset=0&id=1677#f01](http://www.vonne.org.uk/funding/funding_article.php?offset=0&id=1677#f01)

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### **Disability North Abseil**

Win four tickets for Newcastle Racecourse's prestige event of the year the "Beeswing Ladies Day" by taking on the challenge of abseiling the Vermont Hotel, Newcastle, on Sunday 25th March all in aid of Disability North. Take on the highest abseil point in the North East by making the 200ft drop, all in aid of a fantastic cause. The abseiler that raises the most amount of sponsorship for the event will receive four complimentary tickets for this year's Ladies Day event, which takes place on Saturday 28th July at Newcastle Racecourse. This amazing prize is worth over £200. Please note that the minimum age for this event is 16 years old. Please book early to avoid disappointment. Registration cost is £10 per person and we ask you raise a minimum of £100 sponsorship. To register for the event, please contact Clare Savory on 0191 284 0480 or email [events@disabilitynorth.org.uk](mailto:events@disabilitynorth.org.uk) Disability North aims to promote inclusion, independence and choice for disabled people in the North, and provides free and impartial advice, support and information to anyone with an interest in disability.

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### **Ruth Dodds**

Information Officer (p/t 14 hrs per wk)

Gateshead LINK

GVOC, 8/9 Gladstone Tce,

Gateshead, NE8 4DY

(0191 4784103)

[ruthdodds@gvoc.org.uk](mailto:ruthdodds@gvoc.org.uk)

Registered charity number 1137389.

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