



Getting it right

Learning disabilities clinical innovation team update - **Issue 1**

Keeping you informed

This is the first issue of our learning disabilities clinical innovation team update, but we plan to make it a regular feature so you can stay up to date with progress and get involved.

Please let us know what you would like to hear more about by getting in touch and don't forget to check out our website:

www.ourvisionourfuture.nhs.uk

You can contact us by emailing:

Dominic Slowie
Chair of the LD CIT
dominic.slowie@northeast.nhs.uk

Judith Thompson
Programme manager - LD
judith.thompson@northeast.nhs.uk

Accelerated solutions event

Over the 13 and 14 July 2010, 125 leaders and users of healthcare in the north east built a plan to get services right for people with learning disabilities (see page two).

The event made a series of recommendations that form the backbone of a forward looking programme of work that will be led by the learning disability clinical innovation team. Passion, a desire to get the service right and a feeling that it was time to make lasting changes that would improve health outcomes for people with learning disabilities in the north east were key themes that emerged from the event. The recommendations focus on improving:

- the experience of people with learning disabilities and carers
- continuity of care
- integration of services
- culture and behaviour within services
- accountability and measurement within the system
- transition into adulthood
- reasonable adjustments
- the use of data and information
- communication to people with learning disabilities
- training and skills for staff.

Stephen Singleton, medical director at NHS North East said "If we can get it right for people with learning disabilities, we can get it right for everyone!"

Sir Leonard Fenwick, chief executive of Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust described the challenges we face reminding participants that people with learning disabilities are 55 times more likely to die by 50 than everyone else, but he added "this is about hearts and minds, not money. It's about getting our principles right, it's a long haul but we can make it happen".

