Introduction

Welcome to June’s edition of the North East and Cumbria Learning Disability Network. We have lots of articles for you this month from Learning Disability Awareness Week to the Access to Acute Networks Celebrating our Regions success event for people with learning disabilities in an acute care setting.

CQC ‘3 lives’ report

This month the CQC and the Challenging Behaviour Foundation published the ‘3 lives report’ it looks at the stories of Connor, Lisa and Kayleigh whose care was not based on their individual needs or that their families were at the heart of their care.

- Connor - who tragically died at an assessment and treatment centre after he was found unconscious after a seizure whilst unsupervised in a bath.
- Kayleigh - who spent 10 years in assessment and treatment centres, including Winterbourne View.
- Lisa - who was kept for the majority of the time in a locked area at an assessment and treatment centre with staff interacting with her through a small letterbox style hatch.

Read the full report here: http://www.cqc.org.uk/content/3-lives-report
Access to Acute Network Event

A celebration of our success

On the 20th May 2014 the Access to Acute Network held an event which celebrated our regions success for people with learning disabilities in an acute care setting.

We were absolutely delighted with the amount of people that joined us at the Langdale Centre in Wallsend to help us celebrate all of our achievements in relation to the healthcare of people with learning disabilities within each acute foundation trust in the North east.

The acute liaison nurses from across the region hosted an event that shared best practice and demonstrated the improvements that are been made.

Each Director of Nursing or their equivalent gave a five minute presentation to showcase work within their trust highlighting the initiatives they are ‘most proud of’.

The main highlights were:

- Patient Forums, using real patient experience to affect change, people with learning disabilities integral to training sessions.
- Identification and Flagging of patients with learning disabilities.
- Statutory and mandatory training on learning disability issues for some areas.
- Lead consultant coordinating the care of a patient with complex needs within an acute setting e.g. where several health issues/specialities are diagnosed.
- Hospital Passports
- Open access to visiting
- Easy Read information
- Ward and Department Tours.
- Pictorial menus
- Alerts to liaison nurses
- Outreach on discharge
- And Many more!
A celebration of our success continued...

We delivered a presentation about the work going forward in relation to the recommendations of the CIPOLD inquiry and also facilitated an interactive workshop that involved all delegates, encouraging them to plan out the perfect patient journey for a patient accessing primary and secondary care.

We invited delegates to give us feedback, here are some of the comments:

- “I Found the whole event very positive. It showed that across all NHS services are making improvements in supporting and treating people with learning disabilities.”

- “It was a good networking opportunity. I found that hearing about individual areas experiences and the scenario useful.”

- “It was all very positive and enabled people to put their views and network with other disciplines from different areas of work and regions.”

Are there any improvements or future presentations you would like to see?

- “It would be helpful to have more people at consultant level from the acute medical teams invited who at times may have made decisions on behalf of people with a learning disability”

- “I would like to see a presentation or talk from parent or carer and their experiences in the acute setting.”

- “I really enjoyed Beverley’s interview, maybe more speakers who have had a direct experience of services? but it was a very well put together event“

We would like to thank Dominic Slowie for his continued support to the A2A network and in particular this celebration event, and to say we would like the North-east the best place to live if you have a learning disability!
Learning Disability Awareness Week
16th—22nd June

This month included the annual Learning Disability Awareness Week. As a region we have been busy with lots of activities and fundraisers to raise awareness!

Here at the network we wanted to engage with all the teams and visitors that sit within our offices. Therefore we created an informative slide showing on the TV screens around Waterfront 4, we created banners and flyers and hosted an afternoon tea within our Clinical Networks and Senate department. We also invited people with learning disabilities to come and support us over lunchtime to help raise awareness with the staff and let them know the network is here and we have a lot going on if you want to be involved!

As a region we have lots going on… too much to fit in the newsletter! Instead we have decided to a collage of what we’ve all been up to during awareness week.
New guidance for Health and Wellbeing Boards

A new guidance has been published today for Health and Wellbeing Boards - “Health and Wellbeing Boards: leading local response to Winterbourne View”.

The guide was developed by a working group including NHS Confederation, the Local Government Association, NHS England, Regional Voices and the Winterbourne View Joint Improvement Programme. Please see the link below to access the guidance:

http://www.local.gov.uk/place-i-call-home/-/journal_content/56/10180/6327204/ARTICLE

Launch of the Quality of Life Standards

This month Care Minister Norman Lamb launched a national set of Quality of Life Standards which have been written by over 650 people with learning disabilities and autism. The standards aim to cover all areas of a person’s life with three fundamental underlying principles, these are:

- Equal citizenship and integration - the standards are based on a model of equal citizenship where people with learning disabilities are seen and respected as equal citizens in society, being integrated into the community as active participants.

- Personalization – the standards are not a set of service standards; they are based on the assumption that people decide what support they need to be independent, who will provide that support, and where and when that support will be provided so it is timely and wrapped around the individual.

- Quality – the standards are about quality as defined by people themselves. These standards set the benchmark for commissioners and providers alike, as well as giving people with learning disabilities a set of “ordinary aspirations” against which they can measure the quality of the support they are receiving.

Please see the link for more information and copies of the standards:

Newcastle ‘My Hospitals’ film

Newcastle Hospitals and ‘Them Wifies’ have released a series of videos on YouTube called My Hospitals.

The films which have been specially produced for people with learning disabilities help people to understand and what to expect when they go to the radiology department. The films include people with learning disabilities and their carers showing what happens when they have a CT scan, an X-Ray and a MRI scan. Please see the link for more information and how to access the videos in YouTube:


Thank you to all those who have contributed this month .

If you would like to contribute to next months edition please could you send me the information by the 8th August 2014.