

Our Voice

Hello everyone!

Our front page story is about "My Health Record".

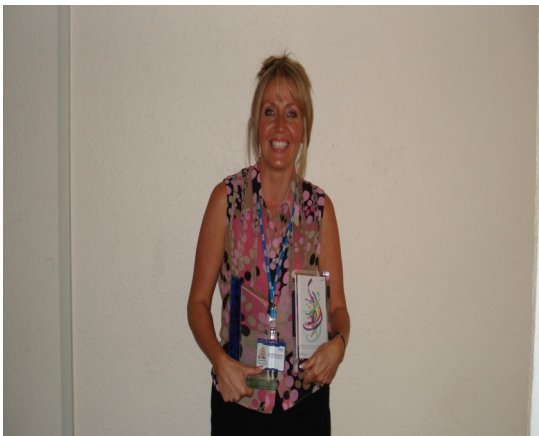
We have some good news to share with you!

Equal People Help

South Tyneside Win Award!

Equal People members meet every month at the Health Focus Group. We have been working on a design for "My Health Record". This tells hospital staff and GPs all about our medical needs. We want people with learning disabilities to feel more relaxed.

"My Health Record" was entered for the NHS Innovations Award. Maria Sonner, Tracey Peters and Tracy Dawson went to Redworth Hall on the 21st May to hear the results. **It won first prize!** It also won the Health and Social Care Awards. "My Health Record" will also be used in the Gateshead area.



Well done to everyone who helped us with the design!

April - June 2009



Issue 8



a right to be heard

What is in this news-letter?

- All about Eric
- National News
- Equal People update
- What's happening in South Tyneside?

Equal People Join LINKs!

Health is an important issue for everyone. We want people with learning disabilities to have the best care possible.

Equal People are working with Talk 2 Us to make this happen. They met with Steve Young on 14th April 2009. Steve is the LINKs (Local Engagement Network) manager. He is based at Blissability in South Shields.



The group talked about their experiences of hospitals. Steve asked what they would like to change. Carole made notes.

Steve then asked Carole to write a letter on behalf of the group. He said he would send it to health managers. They must reply to him within 20 days. The group will meet up with Steve every month.

We will tell you more about this new group next time!

Filming Update



Equal People have been working hard on making a DVD.

Steve finished filming on June 5th. **Now we have to put it all together!** Equal People members will have an Open Day later in the year. We will show the film to family, friends and staff.

More news next time!

Equal People News



The new Community Group will be starting on the 30th June 2009. Stuart Hall and Malcolm Barron will be the Equal People representatives. The group will look at how people can all work together to make a better community for everyone. We hope to involve the Fire Service, Police and Community Wardens.



Stuart and Malcolm made **LOTS** of contacts at the Action for Justice event on the 7th May! This was held at Stonehills. We hope some of these will become members of our Community Group.



The Community Group will also be getting involved with schools and transport companies. **More news on this next time!**

Speak Out Meetings

Stewart Chappell has been working with Carole and Joanne at Perth Green Base. We want people with high support needs to know all about self advocacy. There is a suggestion box at Perth Green now. Stewart Chappell will pass on all messages to the Partnership Board every month.



Equal People Newsletter on DVD!

We want everyone with a learning disability to know about Equal People. That is why we want you to hear and see our newsletter on DVD! Malcolm read our last newsletter to Dave Woolley. He recorded it and is busy turning it into a DVD. We hope to have a different reader for every newsletter.



Carole will have copies of the DVDs in her office soon.

You can ring Carole for more information. Her number is; -
0191 427 45 83.



Regional Forum

Equal People like to go to the Regional Forum. It gives us the chance to talk to people from all over the North East.

At the last Regional Forum on **8th April**, we talked about setting up a Programme Board for the North East area. We will be electing members from local partnerships. This will be an important job. South Tyneside Partnership Board hope to be involved.

The next meeting is Wednesday 8th July at Skills for People in Jesmond.



All About Eric

This is Eric Smith. Eric has been a member of Equal People since 2008. He is the secretary at our monthly meetings. This means he makes notes and reads presentations, which he enjoys very much.



Eric is a very keen painter. He attends the Art Studio at Derby Terrace where he has lots of friends. He also enjoys travelling and has just got back from a trip to Whitby. He went to the "Dracula Experience" and bought a T Shirt and postcards to help him remember it.



Later in the year, he hopes to go to Amsterdam and Los Angeles to spend time with family.

Anything Else?

If you want to find out more about Equal People - telephone Carole Watson on **0191 427 45 83**.



Why don't people give me something for the newsletter???

In September, we will have more news to tell you.

Please contact us if you have anything to add.



Mr Stewart Chappell
and Mr Malcolm Barron



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Next Newsletter out September 2009