



Gateshead LINK

Carers Working Group
2008/2009

What you told us last year

- Carers Assessments – LINK could monitor how many are actioned by Gateshead Council and monitor the progress of the Carers Assessment Review.
- Advocacy for Carers – LINK to promote the need of this service for Carers. Clarify how advocacy is funded and to monitor the progress of Advocacy Review.
- Carers Register – LINK to examine how register is used by GPs – does it influence appointment and treatment times, or not?

What you told us last year

- Carers Strategy – LINk to monitor that agreed actions from the Carers Strategy are achieved.
- LINk could promote the Carers Assessment.
- Direct payments and individual budgets - not enough service options available in terms of social care.

What we've done

- Looked at the how GP's keep carers registers
- Looked at 'individuals budgets' and 'direct payments' from a user and Gateshead Council's point of view
- We invited Gateshead Council to tell us how money for care packages will be decided (the Resource Allocation System)

What we've done

- Checked out our priorities - many of the original suggestions were being looked at by other groups
- We have begun to focus on advocacy support for carers and gaps in services
- We have worked with Gateshead Advocacy and Information Network (GAIN) to find out where service gaps are

What next?

- Working with GAIN to look at levels of advocacy support available to carers in Gateshead
- Working with the Alzheimer's Society, Carers Association (and other organisations supporting carers) to see what support carers want that they don't have

What next?

- Decide if the group can help in the recruitment process for the carers advocate for people with learning disability (new post)
- Contact Gateshead Advice Partnership to see if they can add to the picture of what support and advice is there for carers