

North East & Cumbria Learning Disability Dysphagia Network Bulletin

Edition 2: January 2021

Welcome

The North East and Cumbria Learning Disability Network has a vision the North East and Cumbria will be the best place in England to live if you have a learning disability. Through the work we are doing with the North East & Cumbria Learning Disability Mortality Review (LeDeR) steering group and an analysis from reviews undertaken in the region, a recurring theme is identified around deaths relating to aspiration pneumonia and dysphagia. A wider piece of work took place to understand this in more detail and it was agreed a region wide dysphagia network (supported by the Learning Disability Network) would be established to move forward with the work programme.

In September 2019 a North East and Cumbria Dysphagia Network was launched, and a scoping event took place to map out issues, challenges and solutions. The network is still in its early stages (& delayed further due to pandemic) but is now quickly gaining momentum and part of its role is to share advice, support and information to families and health and social care services to reduce variation, improve quality and ultimately save lives.

Work Programme Update & Next Steps

The North East and Cumbria Learning Disability Dysphagia Network met in December 2020 and have agreed their work plan for 2021. We will develop a set of 'Learning Disability Diamond Standard Dysphagia Pathways'. These will be similar to the Learning Disability Diamond Standard Acute Care Pathways and E-Learning we launched in September 2020. A set of the Learning Disability Diamond Standard Dysphagia Pathways will be created for a range of stakeholders these include:

- Primary Care
- Acute Care
- Specialist Care
- Social Care
- Families and non paid carers
- Education

The pathways will be all age and underpinned by a set of core values and principles and will be supported with a range of resources, guidance or workforce education. The pathways will be developed regionally and then shared within localities for them to adapt as needed to reflect local difference.

What we need from you: As interested stakeholders from across the region we need you to help us create them. If you are interested in being part of any of the groups identified above then please contact amy.hocking1@nhs.net with which set of pathways you would be interested in being part of. Amy will be looking to arrange these development workshops through 2021.