

Health and Care Alliance Leadership Team talk to South Tyneside residents about what matters to them

The Alliance Leadership Team was established to enable South Tyneside Health and Wellbeing Board to develop integrated commissioning and to align health and care services to improve the health and wellbeing of local people across the whole life-course.

The Alliance Leadership Team is made up of representatives from South Tyneside Hospital (STFT); South Tyneside Council; South Tyneside Clinical Commissioning Group (STCCG); Local Pharmacy Committee (LPC); Council for Voluntary Services (CVS); local care homes; Northumberland, Tyne and Wear Mental Health Trust (NTW); and Sight Service.

The team meet monthly and at the April meeting it was agreed that members of the team should find out what is really important to the people of South Tyneside, asking them the question “What matters to you?”

Matt Brown, Director of Operations STCCG, visited Monkton Village Association; Dr Jon Tose, Clinical Director STCCG, talked to frailty patients in their own homes; and Dr Dave Julien, Clinical Director STCCG, spoke to people at a local history group. Sarah Rushbrooke, Locality Director NTW, visited dementia patients at Palmer Day Hospital and Peter Sutton, Director of Planning and Business Development STFT, visited Haven Court and also visited patients in their own homes along with local district nurses. Sarah Golightly, Joint Commissioning Manager South Tyneside Council and STCCG, talked to local residents in The Word café; Vicki Pattinson, Head of Adults and Integrated Care South Tyneside Council, visited a peer support group for patients with long term conditions; and Tom Hall, Director of Public Health South Tyneside Council, spoke to residents in extra care housing.

At the May meeting of the Alliance Leadership Team the team reflected on the learning and what they had heard from local people. There was an overwhelming sense of local community and people were keen to know how the health and care system can support them to support their community.

The Alliance Leadership Team is now building this thinking into the way services are designed. For example the Tackling Frailty in South Tyneside – A Can Do Approach event in June 2018 has been designed using this feedback and with the intention of gaining further feedback from service users and staff. This is an ongoing programme and the team will continue to engage with local people on what matters to them.