

Gateshead LINK  
Interim Steering Group  
Thursday 12 June 2008  
Durham Rd Baptist Church  
10am – 12 noon

### **Focus**

### ***NHS PCT Consultation on proposals for Blaydon and South area of Gateshead***

#### **Present:**

Harold Stookes  
Dorothy Henley  
Tom Wood  
Vicky Parsons  
Esther Ward  
Kay Parker  
Janice Todd  
Ian Mason  
Annie Murphy

#### **Minutes**

The meeting's focus was the PCT's current consultation on their proposals for a new GP led Health Centre in Blaydon and a new GP practice in the South of Gateshead.

Copies of the PCT'S consultation pack had been sent out in advance of the meeting.

DH and HS informed the meeting that they had attended a PCT Local Engagement Board yesterday that was devoted to this consultation. However they had attended as Gateshead residents as they had only found out about the meeting by default.

At this event the PCT presented the background to their plans for the Health Centre and GP practice. In the midst of this presentation they clearly stated that they were consulting with the LINKs.

This came as a surprise to GVOC and the LINK as nobody present knew about yesterday's event and had certainly not received an invitation.

There are a further 3 events planned for 8, 9 and 23 July.

It was agreed that GVOC, on behalf of the LINK, would draft a letter to Alma Laing expressing concern that

- i) the PCT is stating it is consulting with the LINK when it clearly isn't
- ii) the LINK has not received invitations to any of the other planned events
- ii) simply sending out the consultation packs without the opportunity to gain any more information does not constitute consultation

Members of the Interim Steering Group agreed to attend two of the planned events on behalf of the LINK

Tuesday 8 July Blaydon Rugby Club 10.00am – 2.30pm  
*Tom, Kay, Val, Janice*

Wednesday 9 July Joseph Swan School 5.15pm – 8.00pm  
*Harold*

Wednesday 23 July Dryden Centre Gateshead 10.00am – 2.30pm

It was also agreed that rather than submitting a single response document from the LINK, individual LINK members would complete the consultation form and give them to GVOC to be sent off together to the PCT with an accompanying letter from Gateshead LINK

The PCT Consultation will be put on the agenda for the Interim Steering Group on 26 June and 24 July - members would bring their completed forms to this meeting