

Free online information event



An introduction to ME and CFS

Friday 13 June 1pm – 2pm

At this online session we'll hear from Russell Fleming from The ME Association. Learn more about Chronic Fatigue Syndrome/ME (Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Encephalopathy), plus what support is available for people in Northumberland.

There will be a chance to ask questions too. To register for a free place please get in touch.

Thank you to all of our volunteers this Volunteers' Week!



It's Volunteers' Week, which celebrates the amazing contributions volunteers make to communities across the UK.

A big thank you to all of our Healthwatch Northumberland volunteers who give their time to help support our work as local health and social care champion!

If you are interested in finding out about the volunteering roles we have on offer, please contact Lorna, at one of the ways listed overleaf.

Northumberland Bereavement Support Service



Tyneside and Northumberland Mind can offer support if you've been affected by the recent death of a family member, friend or colleague by suicide, murder or tragic accident.

Its Bereavement Support Service is available to any adult living in Northumberland.

To make a self-referral, call 0330 174 3174 or email admin@tynesidemind.org.uk

Visit our bereavement page for more bereavement services and support.

We're Here to Hear in June!

We'd love to see you at one of our free drop-ins at a venue near you. Call in to leave feedback or ask a question in confidence.

Allendale Village Hall:

Wednesday 4 June, 11.30am-1pm

Seaton Sluice Community Centre:

Wednesday 4 June, 10am-12pm

Weavers' Court Alwick: Thursday 12 June, 10.30am-12pm

Hexham Mart: Friday 13 June, 9am-1pm

Blyth Community Hospital: Wednesday 18 June, 10am-12pm

Hexham General Hospital: Thursday 19 June, 10.30am-12.30pm

Morpeth Leisure Centre: Wednesday 25 June, 10.30am-12.30pm



What you told us in April

In April 2025 you said it was difficult to get an appointment with both GP services and NHS dentists.

We did however hear a lot of positive feedback about the quality of care patients received from GP services, dentists and hospitals outpatients departments.

Thank you for sharing your experiences with us. If you would like a postal copy of the April 2025 feedback please ask.



Breast screening in Blyth

To mark the arrival of the breast screening unit in Blyth this summer, Marine Medical Group's Social Prescribers will be hosting afternoon tea at the CVA Hub on Wednesday 25 June, 1.30pm-3.30pm.

This is a free event for anyone living or working in the Blyth community and an opportunity to chat to one of the RVI breast nurses to ask questions about screenings and appointments.

Contact the surgery if you would like more details.

Your feedback, our findings and recommendations

Hearing what matters: experiences of audiology services

We asked you to tell us your experiences using NHS audiology services in the region, including what's working well and what needs to improve. We also wanted to understand any barriers to using the service and how this impacted people.

Many praised the kind and helpful staff, and said that getting hearing aids or repairs to hearing aids had made a big difference to their quality of life and wellbeing. People also appreciated the convenience of the postal service for batteries and parts.

However, some said they were unhappy with recent changes to the service, especially the lack of local provision and the need to travel, in some cases very long distances, to access help and support. Some people said age, inability to travel and health concerns were additional barriers.

Many mentioned long waiting times to receive support and care and some people told us about the negative impact that had on their wellbeing.



ADHD diagnosis

Healthwatch England has found that people with ADHD find a diagnosis life-changing, but long waits on the NHS need urgent action.

The research was conducted following concerns about access to ADHD services raised by local Healthwatch and the public.

Our Annual Survey 2025

Every year we ask what you think of the NHS and social care services you have used over the last 12 months, in our Annual Survey.

As part of this, we asked which health and social care services we should focus on in the coming year. The top three were GP services, dentists and adult social care services.

Read our recommendations and the responses from those providing services on our website, or get in touch to ask for a postal copy of the findings of the pieces of work above.

Get in touch

To unsubscribe from this newsletter or to contact us with feedback or a question, please get in touch.

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