

The Chronicles of Neuro Partners

Yorkshire Community Services

Issue 11.1 Winter 2011/12

MEET OUR YORKSHIRE COMMUNITY SERVICES MANAGER

Gillian Rampassard is our Community Services Manager in Yorkshire and has been working for Neuro Partners since 2009.



Gillian is responsible for the whole Yorkshire region which covers North, South, West and East Yorkshire as well as Humberside. Together with her team of Assistant Psychologists, Gillian works hard to promote and develop high quality bespoke services for people with neurological conditions, and many of you will have already met Gillian at a recent event, presentation or seminar.

Gillian has a BSc (Hons) degree in Psychology and has worked in the care sector for the past 5 years. Throughout her studies she

volunteered with several different charities and also the local council. Gillian has seen all levels of care from being a support worker (both private and with social services), a Care Co-ordinator (in Ireland), a Volunteer, and an Assistant Psychologist (Community & Education Provision), before commencing her role with Neuro Partners as Community Services Manager. Gillian also has personal experience of caring for a close family member with a disability, thus she has a strong passion for ensuring the highest quality service.

WHAT'S ON? Forthcoming events where you can meet Neuro Partners

ADVICE AND INFORMATION DAY

Neuro Partners are attending an Advice & Information Day organised by the Tees Valley, Durham & North Yorkshire Neurological Alliance on Friday 9th December 2011, at the Northallerton Methodist Church, High Street, Northallerton.

The Neurological Alliance is a partnership of representatives from national and local charities, working together to provide advice and support for neurological conditions.

The Advice and Information Day is being organised to encourage individuals with neurological conditions, their family and their carers to come and visit the information fair, have an informal chat and enjoy a cuppa. It's open from 10.30am until 2.00pm, and we look forward to seeing you there. For more information contact the Neurological Alliance on 01642 641825 or email info@na-na.org.uk.



COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

Cels HealthConnect, in partnership with Neuro Partners, is hosting an inaugural event for the new Community Healthcare & Assistive Technology (CHAT) Special Interest Group. The event will take place at Weetwood Hall in Leeds on Thursday 26 January 2012.

Cels say the group has been formed following requests from members, and will focus on sharing best practice and information relating to changes in legislation and procurement. It's the ideal forum to discuss changes in legislation and share both market information and best practise in treatment, reducing the need to spend hours reading white papers to find this information!

Those who would benefit from attending include lead academics, senior clinicians, nurse managers and senior staff from community healthcare, rehabilitation, and assistive technology companies.

For full information on the conference and to register your place, go to the HealthConnect website: www.celsgroup.com



HIGHLY COMMENDED BY DURHAM COUNCIL!

Neuro Partners were honoured to be highly commended in Durham County Council's Annual Personalisation Awards, which celebrate excellence across the care and support sector and promote best practice, paying tribute to service providers who have demonstrated outstanding excellence within their field of work.

Neuro Partners were highly commended in two of the three award categories at a ceremony held at Durham's Gala Theatre on Thursday, 10 November;

- The best example of personalised services in a community setting
- The best example of a service that promotes dignity.



SUPPORTING LOCAL CHARITIES

Neuro Partners recognise the need to offer assistance to charities in this tough economic climate, where many charitable trusts are facing drastic cuts. Many of them need hands on assistance to fill gaps in provision, but they also require assistance to raise awareness of the many conditions and what charities are available to assist. Thus, our Community Services Manager, Gillian, has been involved with several organisations, including:

York & North Yorkshire Neurological Alliance; Gillian became involved in April and has been acting Secretary since July. See adjacent article

Headway, the charity set up to give help and support to people affected by brain injury; Hats for Headway awareness event, Personalisation Presentations and developing Therapy Based Groups. Visit www.headway.org.uk

The Nerve Centre (Huddersfield); a non-medical support centre for people with neurological conditions and their carers, family and friends. Members can drop in for advice, information, art and craft workshops, therapeutic activities and a friendly, liberating space to share their experiences. Visit www.thenervecentrekirklees.org.uk

For more information about working with Neuro Partners in the Yorkshire region contact Gillian on 0114 213 0455 or email grampassard@neuropartners.co.uk



NORTH YORKSHIRE AND YORK NEUROLOGICAL ALLIANCE

The North Yorkshire and York Neurological Alliance is a group which aims to enable the voices of individuals affected by neurological conditions to be heard, inform and influence policy makers of the needs of people with neurological conditions, and raise awareness of neurological conditions and their impact on individuals, families, carers and society. They also want to campaign for improved health and social care services in the North Yorkshire and York area for people with neurological conditions, in line with the NICE guidelines and the Quality Requirements of the National Service Framework for Long-term Neurological Conditions.

The North Yorkshire and York Neurological Alliance (NY&YNA) want to start making a difference to local services, working in partnership with key stakeholders. The start-up committee has identified a few key areas to work on over the next 12 months, the first of which is to run an Assistive Technology event aiming to raise awareness of assistive technology by inviting manufacturers and suppliers demonstrate their products. It will be an opportunity for people with Long Term Neurological Conditions to see firsthand how the technology could support them to live more independently.

The small start-up committee has slowly evolved from a group of interested people who met in July 2010 to float the idea of setting up a Neurological Alliance for North Yorkshire and York.

Marilyn Ekers, acting chair of the North Yorkshire and York Neurological Alliance, said "Learning from other Neurological Alliances across the country shows that it's a slow process establishing an organisation of this kind, and it needs many volunteers to make things happen, so the committee is grateful that Neuro Partners, through Gillian, are helping to do this. And, in fact, not only is Gillian a committee member but she has taken on one of the three key committee roles, that of secretary!"

For further information about the North Yorkshire and York Neurological Alliance please contact Gillian (Acting Secretary) at grampassard@neuropartners.co.uk.

GROWING NEED TO SUPPORT STUDENTS WITH MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS

With a growing need for academic support to students with mental health conditions, Neuro Partners have seen a massive rise in referrals.

Lindsey Rayner, Head of Education Services, commented "At the start of this academic year we have already seen the number of students we support more than double since last year.

"We are increasingly asked to provide support to students on the Autistic spectrum and with mental health conditions. Being a specialist provider enables us to respond quickly and put

together a tailored support package to specifically meet each individual student's needs."

Neuro Partners provide a wide range of educational support to students with brain injury, neurological conditions, mental health conditions, learning disabilities, physical disabilities and behavioural issues. Neuro Partners will deliver support to individuals with various other conditions where they believe they have the relevant expertise and can guarantee the highest quality of service.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

The management and staff of Neuro Partners would like to extend their warmest wishes for the festive season, and wish you all the very best for 2012!

Our offices will be closed from Friday 23 December 2011 and will re-open on Tuesday 3 January 2012.

Support will continue as arranged, and our "On-call" numbers will remain contactable 24 hours per day throughout the entire holiday season.



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