

## County Durham LINK Meeting/Event

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| <b>Date:</b> 26 <sup>th</sup> November 2009  |
| <b>Event:</b> Report on LINK enter and view representatives to Clozapine clinic, County Hospital Durham  |
| <b>Number/range of attendees:</b> 3 – Michael Dalton, Agnes Armstrong & David Kellett  |
| <b>Purpose of meeting/event:</b> Enter and View Training Visit   |
| <b>Record completed by:</b> Michael Dalton   |
| <p>Three members of the LINK enter and view group made a visit to the clinic for training and information gathering purposes. We were met by Fiona Turnbull the PPI Officer from Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Trust, who then introduced us to a member of the clinic's staff.</p> <p>We were shown around the clinic which consisted of a large waiting/reception area, a consulting room and a room where the staff tested blood samples from patients. We were told that patients come in to the clinic usually once a month either by pre arranged taxi or under their own steam for a blood test. Depending upon the result of the blood test, which is done on site, the patient was given their Clozapine medication for the month.</p> <p>After looking round the clinic we had a discussion with Fiona and the clinic staff member followed by brief discussions with 2 patients. We found these discussions very useful as we found out that the Hospital was due to close in the near future and the clinic transferred to the Earls House site on the outskirts of Durham. Given the nature of the clinic and its patients we are somewhat concerned that this may cause some patients some level of distress due to the change of surroundings and the changes to transport arrangements.</p> <p>Overall the visit was very useful to the enter and view representatives as we gained quite a lot of previously unknown information about this vital service.</p> |