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# The Chronicles of Neuro Partners

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North East Community Services

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## RECOVERY PATHWAY LEADS MICHAEL INTO CATERING, AND CYCLING FOR CHARITY

Neuro Partners are delighted with the progress which service user Michael Gray has made since they commenced support in February 2009. Michael, 34, has been through an incredible journey since being injured in an assault 10 years ago, and he now wants to help others through fundraising in a Charity Bike Ride.

Neuro Partners originally supported Michael with community access and taking part in activities he'd enjoyed

prior to his brain injury, such as playing badminton, table tennis and cycling.

Rachel Davidson, North East Community Services Manager commented; "We've helped Michael with his finances and computer skills in order to increase his independence and confidence and build on his independent living skills."

In September 2010 Michael enrolled in college, and with the help of his support worker, he has now

completed his first year of a 2-year NVQ Level 2 in Hospitality and Catering. He feels this has strengthened his prospects for the future and is keen to use the skills learned in college to develop a career in catering which will help him to eventually live independently in his own home.



### WHAT'S ON? Forthcoming events which Neuro Partners are attending

#### 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](mailto: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](http://www.celsgroup.com)



Michael and his support workers, Liam and Mark, will be taking part in a charity bike ride planned for Spring 2012. The 12.7 mile route through Kielder Forest will help Michael to raise funds for Macmillan, a charity he has chosen because of family links with cancer.

Michael's support workers are helping him to set up a Just Giving page where donations can be made online; for more information on how to donate contact Jackie Moore at Neuro Partners, tel 0191 4911735 or email [jmoore@neuropartners.co.uk](mailto:jmoore@neuropartners.co.uk)

Michael is very happy with his support and commented; "Neuro Partners have given me great support in the community, at home and in furthering my education, which has really helped me to move forward with my life and given me a huge increase in confidence."

## 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.

## GOVERNANCE PANEL

The first Accountability and Governance Panel meeting for North East Community Services took place in Gateshead on 30 November. Each region will eventually have their own panel which is made up of service users and family members and will grow to oversee the services which Neuro Partners deliver in their area.

The overall aim is to bring the views of our service users into the heart of the company where they belong, and to build a bridge of communication to those we serve.

All our service users and their family members can input to the committee and minutes of each meeting will be available on our website.



## WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Rachel and James who were married on 9 October 2011.

The ceremony took place at the beautiful Langley Castle in Northumberland, and the couple subsequently enjoyed a romantic honeymoon in Italy.

Rachel is NE Community Services Manager based at Gateshead's head office; her surname changes from Falkous to Davidson.

## 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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