

# Newcastle Gateshead Link Up

LinkAge Plus

## Safety Works Older Persons Events

Safety Works is a site based safety centre in the West End of Newcastle serving the community of Tyne and Wear. It takes a multi agency approach to promoting safer communities and encourages experiential learning for all members of the community.

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# Safety Works Older Persons Events

## Objective

- To reduce accidents and improve safety in the over 50s age group living in the Gateshead area of Tyne and Wear.
- Improve the quality of life and community safety for those in the over 50 age group who are statistically more at risk of accidents in the home.
- To break down barriers and initiate a greater understanding of the role of emergency service personnel, voluntary and community partners in the community via a multi agency approach.

Safety Works mission statement:

*‘Educate Children and Adults to Change Their Behaviour to Safeguard Themselves and Others in Their Community’*

Safety Works vision:

*Promoting safety and citizenship through interactive learning*

The Link Up Older Persons Co-ordinators objective:

*To provide 70 Older Persons days over a two year period.*

## Activity

The centre was established as a multi-agency partnership approach to community safety in 2001.

The Centre consists of a number of different ‘scenarios’ within a large warehouse space: including, a house with a living room and kitchen, a garden, a road and fully working pedestrian crossing, a beach area, a police and prison cell, a metro station, a building site a burnt room, a park and electrical sub-station and large main hall. All scenarios offer the opportunity for various safety issues to be explored in an interactive environment; these can be adapted to suit the needs and particular issues affecting the visiting group.

The Older Persons Events supported by Link Up Gateshead allow participants to enjoy free, educational and enjoyable visits to the centre; the multi-agency approach to teaching safety takes place in a realistic setting via the various scenarios, and includes a healthy lunch and free transport.

A selection of sessions are covered, which include:

- community health - looking at slips, trips and falls with appropriate safety messages; advice given on leading a safe and healthy lifestyle - medication advice also;

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- trading standards- how to avoid being a victim of crime and scams and what to do if you are a victim;
  - fire safety- providing fire risk assessment information and service. Fire DVD and how to avoid hazards and be safe;
  - road safety- roads and pedestrian safety messages are reinforced by the road safety session which gives practical advice and solutions to the everyday situations pedestrians may encounter. Free 'See Me' bags and trading standard packs with helpful information is given out;
  - crime prevention – highlighting awareness of bogus callers and providing practical advice and guidance on protecting yourself and your home;
  - healthy eating – demonstrations on menus to promote a balanced diet and discuss weight management/portion sizing, physical activity and stress busting;
  - TeleCare/Care Call - demonstrate the services offered the Gateshead area by Call Care – helps older, disabled and vulnerable people live safely and independently in their own home. Providing 24/7 monitoring service to those wearing Call care detectors and in the event of a fall or sudden illness help can be called as necessary.

## Achievements against objectives

- Accessed 5500 people in the 50+ age group in the Gateshead Area.
- Focal point for community safety and crime prevention education in Tyne & Wear.
- Provide realistic and interactive scenarios which enable practical learning in a safe, controlled environment.

## Wider achievements

- Bringing groups together:
  - Supporting Gateshead Corporate Plan – building stronger communities and empowering older people and ensuring healthier communities;
  - Supporting Gateshead Local Area Agreement – Safer and Stronger communities;
  - Supporting Vision for Adult Social Care: improved health and emotional well being, increased choice and control, positive contribution.

## Resources

£144,000 has funded a development worker to co-ordinate the older peoples' days at Safety Works and contributed towards the premises costs etc.

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## Key lesson learned

By improving individuals personal risk awareness many common accidents can be avoided. It is widely recognised that a multi-agency approach to improving community and personally safety is the most successful way to reduce accidents. The multi agency approach combined with experiential learning has proved to be an effective way of ensuring improved personal safety and knowledge retention

TWFRS considers the involvement of delivery partners as a key to the ongoing success of Safety Works. By working as a partnership Safety Works can provide a quality community service. This allows the visiting older persons to have fun whilst learning and interacting in scenarios which equip them to identify dangers in their homes, increase their awareness of potential hazards, inform them of potential safety issues and how to take action should something go wrong.

## Further information

Contact: Safety Works West  
15, Whickham View,  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE15 6UN.

Telephone: 0191 274 3532/275 3783

Email: [safetyworks@twfire.gov.uk](mailto:safetyworks@twfire.gov.uk)

Ref to website : [www.twfire.gov.uk](http://www.twfire.gov.uk)

Link Up Gateshead  
Older Persons Services  
Gateshead Council  
Tel: 0191 433 78218  
[www.gateshead.gov.uk/linkup](http://www.gateshead.gov.uk/linkup)

## Related documents

[Link Up Information Packs](#)