



**North East and
North Cumbria**

**North East and North
Cumbria ICB
and
South Tyneside and
Sunderland NHS
Foundation Trust**

Involvement activity to review respite provision for people with learning disabilities in South Tyneside

Background

Respite care or short-term care helps a family take a break from the daily routine and is essential for people with complex needs and their families.

In South Tyneside, one of the local services for respite care, the Elmville Unit, was temporarily closed in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The objective of the listening exercise

To understand the needs of the people with learning disabilities and their families and carers, what is important to them, and their thoughts on Elmville and other respite care short break services

Our approach

The ICB commissioned Stand to develop and manage the listening exercise using best practice approaches.

Stand teamed up with the learning disability charity Twisting Ducks to develop creative approaches to involving people with learning disabilities and autism.

The listening exercise - September 2022 to March 2023

All 17 families who had previously used Elmville were involved in a variety of activities:

- About Me phone interviews
- One-to-one interviews with families and individuals
- A survey – paper and online
- A workshop with families and individuals led by Twisting Ducks
- A system workshop with key partners
- A sense checking and feedback session.

Video



Results and learning

The [variety of engagement tools](#) employed gave us a range of in-depth data to analyse which helped to establish the views of those for whom standard engagement approaches were not appropriate.

The [multi-organisational approach](#) to stakeholder engagement ensured that the Trust, ICB, and wider system stakeholders all understood the unique impact of this project and the benefits that learning from it could bring to everyone.

The [quality of the feedback](#) gathered from all of the families and those with learning disabilities helped us really understand what they wanted from short break provision and what good looks like to them.

The unique [successful collaboration](#) between Stand and Twisting Ducks, with their respective skills and experiences, worked effectively and generated rich feedback that could be turned into recommendations for decision makers.