**Young Person’s Advisory Group North England**

**Information Sheet for Parents/Carers**

**What is YPAG?**

The Young Person’s Advisory Group (YPAG) is a national initiative that seeks to engage and involve young people aged between 11 and 18 years in the development of research studies about the health and wellbeing of their peers. There are five YPAGs operating throughout the UK in Liverpool, Birmingham, London, Bristol and Nottingham. We are in the process of setting up a group for the North East and North Cumbria and are looking for new members.

**Why is YPAG important?**

We know that involving young people in the development of research studies leads to better research for young people - we value their views and opinions and want to incorporate them into our work.Their views and opinions will help influence research that is carried out within our local hospital and other services both regionally and nationally.

**What will my child be doing as part of YPAG?**

The groups will do lots of different things which will include learning about the research process, for example, understanding the importance of informed consent, helping researchers with their studies and telling other young people what researchers are finding out. We’re keen to involve young people in the development of a website to enable them to communicate with others involved in YPAG both within the network and throughout the UK and support them in presenting their ideas at local and national events. The commitment of young people to YPAG will be recognised through the Young Achievers Awards scheme. The Young Achievers Awards will provide evidence of their involvement in this work.

**When are the meetings and where will they take place?**

Meetings will take place approximately once a month on Thursday evenings at the Great North Children’s Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 4LP.

**Does an adult need to accompany my child?**

No. The young people do not need to be accompanied by an adult at YPAG meetings.

**Does my child have to be or have been a patient to be part of YPAG?**

No. Some YPAG members are or will have been patients but others will not

**Will food and drink be provided?**

Yes, we will provide food and drink – this is free.

**Will my child’s travel costs be paid for?**

Yes, we will pay for your child’s travel and, if you or another adult is accompanying them, we will reimburse you for this as well. It may be possible to arrange for a taxi for your child and you can also claim back mileage or the cost of travel on public transport.

**Where can I find out more information about YPAG?**

If you have any questions about YPAG please contact:

**Tracy Scott (PPI (Patient and Public Involvement) Manager, Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust) 0191 2081143 or email** **Tracy.Scott5@nuth.nhs.uk**

**Monday –Friday 09.00 - 5.00pm**