

*Introducing....*  
Northumberland's Volunteer Peer Support Initiative

Our county is fortunate to have a rich and vast volunteer network – people volunteering in our schools and hospitals, people volunteering their time with community support agencies, and people volunteering in our community to make it a better place for everyone.

A small group of community members, including representatives from health and social service organizations, has recently been formed to build upon our community's vast volunteer resources by developing a volunteer peer support initiative.

This initiative will match key volunteers, as informal support, with people in our community to broaden their social network and to support them to access the services they need. It's a big initiative that can deliver great benefits to our community. I'll be speaking with people and groups to learn about what's really working well, what's missing, and what we can do better.

We're just getting started. And we'd like your help.

The community group has hired me, Sherry Parsley, as the Project Lead to help with the implementation of this initiative. I will be speaking with people and groups to learn about what's really working well, what's missing, and what we can do better. This month we're launching a broad community consultation to make sure we hear from the people who know our community, our volunteers, our services and our systems best.

If you have any questions, ideas or would simply like to have a conversation, please be in touch with me. Also, if you would, kindly share this communiqué with your friends, family and networks.

Sherry Parsley, Project Lead  
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Volunteer Peer Support		
<i>Benefits for people</i>	<i>Benefits for organizations</i>	<i>Benefits for systems</i>
improved quality of life due to stronger community connections and a network of support	informed and involved teams of support to assist in education and delivering information	supported, engaged and informed communities

**Do you have questions, suggestions or feedback? Please let us know!**

**Trish Baird, Project Sponsor**  
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Current community group members: Trish Baird, Kaye Jackson, Mark VanderVennen, Jennifer Cox, Jeanne Thomas, and Scott Macpherson