

SPRING 2025

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NTCouncilTeam

# OUR North Tyneside



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Tyneside  
Council

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R O M A N

## Newcastle Quays Retail Park Formerly Royal Quays Outlet & Independent Centre



We've got some exciting news – Royal Quays has undergone a major rebrand and is now Newcastle Quays Retail Park, a vibrant shopping hub with a fresh new look, exciting new stores and a bright future ahead.

From big brands at discounted prices like **Clarks Outlet**, **Next Outlet** and **Mountain Warehouse** to independents like **House of Bêbê** nursery store, **Gift Company** and **First Come, First Served**, get your retail therapy fix here.

There are even perfect pit stops to refuel through **Mooranda's**, **Namaste Taste of India** and **Costa**.




For more information about the centre please visit: [www.newcastlequays.com](http://www.newcastlequays.com)

## Contact us

[www.northtyneside.gov.uk](http://www.northtyneside.gov.uk)

[mycare.northtyneside.gov.uk](http://mycare.northtyneside.gov.uk)

[www.livingwellnorthtyneside.co.uk](http://www.livingwellnorthtyneside.co.uk)

   @NTCouncilTeam

### Email

[contact.us@northtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:contact.us@northtyneside.gov.uk)

**Telephone** 0345 2000 101

Mon-Fri, 7.30am – 8pm.

**By post** North Tyneside Council,

Quadrant, The Silverlink North,

Cobalt Business Park,

North Tyneside, NE27 0BY

### Other main numbers

- Emergencies (24 hour)  
0330 333 7475
- Housing and repairs  
0345 2000 102
- Envirolink 0345 2000 103
- Council tax and benefits  
0345 2000 104

We've introduced a portal where you can view information on your council tax and benefits in one place.

Visit [my.northtyneside.gov.uk/](http://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/) **CouncilTaxAccounts** to create an account and stay up to date.

### In person

- Community Hubs and Libraries
- White Swan Centre, Killingworth
  - Northumberland Square, North Shields
  - The Forum, Wallsend
  - York Road, Whitley Bay
  - John Willie Sams Centre, Dudley
  - Oxford Centre, Longbenton

You can book a Customer Service appointment in advance by calling 0345 2000 106.

### About this newsletter

Feedback: (0191) 643 2211  
[commsteam@northtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:commsteam@northtyneside.gov.uk)

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(0191) 265 3207.

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# A message from the Elected Mayor

**I'd like to welcome you to the latest edition of Our North Tyneside magazine, which is full of useful information, the latest news from across our Borough and events to keep you and your family busy over the next few months.**

On **page 5** you can read about how our stunning St Mary's Lighthouse has been refurbished and stands proudly on our coastline, and on **page 12** you can learn about our plans to celebrate North Shields 800, looking back at the history of the town and forward to bright, diverse future.

We have a bumper programme of events over the coming months which are all detailed from **page 16** onwards, including our brilliant Mouth of The Tyne Festival which will take place from 10 – 13 July. Some amazing headliners will take to the stage in Tynemouth Priory this year, tickets are selling fast!

On **page 30** there is information on the Council's work to transform our

highways network, to improve the condition of our roads and encourage active modes of travel like cycling.

Finally, this is the last edition of Our North Tyneside Magazine where I will be your Elected Mayor, after 12 years serving our residents, communities and businesses I will stand down in May, and a new Mayor will be elected.

I wanted to take this moment to thank you all for your support. Thank you for working together, for coming together during the more challenging times and for looking forward together. You, the residents, have changed our Borough for the better and I am incredibly proud of everything we have achieved.

I will look back proudly on the way we supported each other through the Covid pandemic, especially protecting the most vulnerable in our communities and how making North Tyneside a safe, welcoming

and ambitious place to live, work and visit.

Thank you to the residents, the businesses, the voluntary and community groups and the young people, you are our future, and I firmly believe that North Tyneside will provide you with the foundations to live fulfilling and happy lives.

*Norma Redfearn .*

**Dame Norma Redfearn DBE  
Elected Mayor of North Tyneside**



## Sign up to our monthly newsletter

Our North Tyneside Digital includes news, events and opportunities to have your say. Please sign up at [my.northtyneside.gov.uk/newsletter](https://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/newsletter)  
We will continue to deliver the printed magazine to every household three times a year.





# Outstanding Children's Services!



## Children's Services in our borough have been praised for 'an unwavering commitment to improving and enriching the lives of children and their families'

Ofsted inspectors have rated our children's services outstanding for the second consecutive time.

Achieving the highest possible rating of 'outstanding' in all areas for the first time means we are one of only five in the country to receive such an accolade.

Ofsted inspectors visited our teams in November 2024 and spent a week speaking to staff and those who access services and support children in care, including care leavers, foster carers, adopters and more.

And these conversations made it abundantly clear to inspectors that

children and families have access to services that 'improve their lives and wellbeing' in North Tyneside.

From an 'exceptional' early help service when needs are first identified, through to a 'meaningful' support offer for care leavers, inspectors noted that no matter the age, need or vulnerability of a child they receive the best support possible.

The glowing report celebrates the positive culture where social workers and all colleagues are supported to do their best for children, where staff feel supported,

cared for and where their wellbeing is a priority.

**We're proud of everyone involved.**



# Local icon restored to its former glory

**One of North Tyneside's most loved landmarks, St Mary's Lighthouse is open after a major facelift, with full refurbishment and repair.**

Built in 1898, St Mary's Lighthouse was a crucial navigational aid until it was decommissioned in 1984. Since then, it has taken on a new role as a visitor centre, attracting thousands of people every year.

However, after decades of exposure to the wind and rain, the Grade II listed building was in much need of repair.

The project, which began in June and was completed in

October, involved re-painting the lighthouse, keeper's cottage, and the visitor centre. Significant repairs were carried out including fixing the stonework, replacing the glazing in the lantern, and replacing worn out windows and drainage systems.

The team worked with experts to make sure that both the lighthouse's heritage and the local ecology of the island were protected and undisturbed. An ecologist monitored sound levels so the work didn't disrupt the local seals and birds. By carefully timing the works around breeding and storm seasons, the island remained a haven for wildlife and the work was done as quickly and safely as possible.

Working on a historic listed building with lots of restrictions, 46m high in the air, accessible only at low tide, while keeping local wildlife happy, was quite a challenge for the team. Project Manager Ash Laycock said: "It was a once in a lifetime opportunity for us, and one of the most difficult projects I've managed, but the team and ecologists were amazing and we are delighted with how the lighthouse looks".

There are some exciting digital plans for lighthouse this year, which will make it an even better place to visit!



# Our Budget: making sure we can invest and support

**Every year we have to set a balanced budget. The spending decisions we make are based on our priorities for the Borough, which are set out in the Our North Tyneside Plan 2021–25. In this, we promise to support the most vulnerable residents and to invest in North Tyneside.**

This year is the final year of our plan, and we're proud of what we've achieved. Our budget for 2025/26 allows us to continue delivering what's most important and necessary for our residents, supporting them to live healthy, secure and fulfilling lives.

Setting a balanced budget has been challenging this year. High demand for our social services, which support our vulnerable children and adults, is costing us more than ever. This is a problem faced by councils across the country.

We are meeting this challenge by saving and investing across all areas of the Council. We are watching what we spend and making better use of

external funding to support our services and the regeneration of our towns and villages.

The budget has provision for an additional £2m next year to fix roads and pavements in poor condition.

It enables more affordable homes to be built and to make our estates cleaner and safer.

We will continue trying to get the best value for money with our savings and investment programme.

However, to do this and to continue providing the services and amenities people rely on and enjoy, we've had to make some difficult decisions.

It is necessary to increase our Council Tax this year by 4.99%. This will raise a much-needed £7m, and it is what the Government expects us to do.

To help with this, we are continuing with our Local Council Tax Support Scheme and Tenancy Sustainment

Fund to support our council housing tenants.

Details about support available for residents are on the opposite page. The budget supports the Council's ambition to be carbon-net zero by 2030, and supports our priorities to make the Borough an even greater place to live, work and visit.

## What about my Council Tax bill?

Council Tax bills will increase by 4.99% in April.

This is how much the Government expects all local authorities to increase bills by when it provides funding.

This means an extra £64.65 for Band A properties and £96.98 for Band D properties.

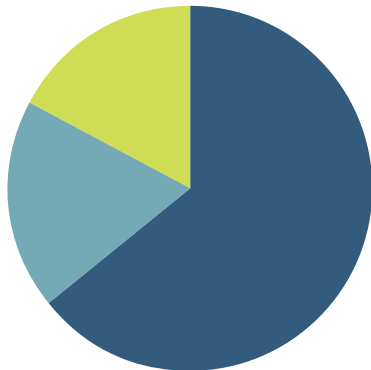
## A listening Council

We are proud to be a Council that listens to and works with our communities.

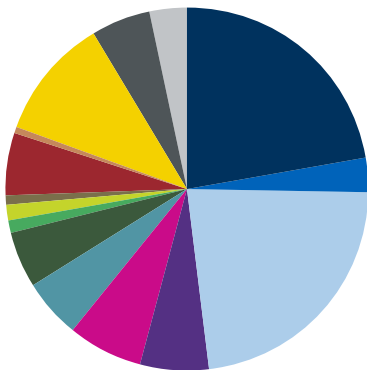
This year's budget was shaped by the views of residents, businesses, community groups and young people in person and online. This year's budget was approved by full Council on 13 February.



## Where each £ comes from (2025/26)



## How each £ is spent



## If you're struggling to pay your bills to the council

If you are having trouble paying your Council Tax or rent, please contact us straight away – it's never too late to get in touch.

### Paying your rent

If you are a Council tenant and you are having difficulty paying your rent, we can provide support and guidance, or direct you to services that could help, see page 32 for more information.

- Call the Housing Neighbourhood Team: 0345 2000 102
- Email: [housing@northtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:housing@northtyneside.gov.uk)
- Visit [www.northtyneside.gov.uk](http://www.northtyneside.gov.uk) and search 'pay your rent'

### Council Tax

If you think you might not be able to pay your bill, we can look at ways of supporting you, check whether you are entitled to a discount or arrange a payment plan.

- Call 0345 2000 104 (weekdays only)

### Council Tax Support

This is a discount you can claim if you are on a low income to reduce the amount you pay (depending on your income and household size).

- Visit [www.northtyneside.gov.uk](http://www.northtyneside.gov.uk) and search 'Council Tax support'

### Discretionary Housing Payments

You may qualify if your Housing Benefit or Universal Credit includes housing costs, but doesn't cover your full rent payments, or if you need help finding affordable accommodation.

- Call 0345 2000 104
- Visit [www.northtyneside.gov.uk](http://www.northtyneside.gov.uk) and search 'Discretionary Housing Payment'

### Crisis Support

Our Welfare Assistance team can provide advice and support for those who are experiencing exceptional hardship or crisis. If you need immediate help with food or utilities.

- Call (0191) 643 2777 and press option 2 (weekdays, 9am–2pm)



# Our Ambition for the North West



**Our Ambition for the North West is creating attractive places to live, new opportunities for work and business, and inspiring spaces to play and visit.**



### **Killingworth Lakeside Park**

This is being developed into a destination park for locals and visitors with ecology-friendly landscaping. There will be a new play site, better parking, new entrance features, and improved cycle and pedestrian routes.

Tree maintenance work has been carried out to help with biodiversity. Extensive tree and shrub planting and wildflower seeding is now taking place.



### **Waggonways**

The historic waggonways network that connects the North West villages is getting a refresh. Surfaces and drainage will be upgraded to make the routes more accessible, with better connections from nearby villages. Seating areas, signage and information boards will be added, along with nature and heritage trails.



Keegan Park

### **Village plans**

We have been consulting with residents on village plans for Killingworth, Annitsford, Dudley, Fordley, Camperdown, Burradon, Wideopen and Seaton Burn. Village plan projects include new signage, landscaping, and opportunities for public art at the main entrances of each village.



Fryer's Millennium Green

There will be improvements to Fryer's Millennium Green in Burradon and Keegan Park in Killingworth, and support for the Friends of Annitsford Pond group.

There will be a focus on pride of place, with environmental services working to support housing estates, tackling litter and removing weeds.

Access to services such as adult education will be improved, and we will explore if a community banking initiative can be developed.

### **Transport plans**

The transport strategy for the North West of the Borough will bring together transport operators, the voluntary sector and other partners to improve public transport links, improve active travel routes and explore options for cleaner and shared vehicles.

### **Inner area plans**

Plans for the North West inner area, which covers Forest Hall, West Moor, Benton, Longbenton, Palmersville and Holystone are being drawn up. We will consult residents on these soon.



# Our Ambition for Wallsend



## New roof for Segedunum

**Work is now well underway on essential works at Segedunum Roman Fort and Museum that will transform the visitor experience.**

Following an application we submitted earlier this year, the North East Combined Authority has contributed £499,000 from its UKSPF allocation to help allow us to install a new roof.

This investment, on top of the £499,000 secured from Arts Council England's MEND fund and over £650,000 from the Council, will fund a new roof for the World Heritage Site's museum, replacing the current roof that is reaching the end of its life.

The new roof will accommodate a new ventilation system to provide a more stable indoor temperature and humidity, making the museum more comfortable for staff and visitors, as well as the exciting prospect of being able to borrow and display artefacts from other museums, such as the British Museum, with the assurance that they would be safe in Segedunum.



## Improving connections in Wallsend

**We're continuing to progress with our plans to create a vibrant and connected Wallsend and we are delighted to have completed a key part of our work in improving walking and cycling connections between Segedunum leading to the bus/Metro station and the High Street.**

The project has seen a new active travel route created between the two areas, with improvements to footpaths on Wooley Street, Winifred Gardens and Maude Gardens connecting High Street West to the bus and Metro stations to A187 Buddle Street. And the Winifred Gardens children's playground area now has new equipment as well as a new play surface.

There is a new crossing point for pedestrians and cyclists giving quicker and easier access to Segedunum Roman Fort and Museum, as well as connecting to the National Cycle Route (NCN 72).

Further work is still to be carried out, with some improvements to the appearance and biodiversity of the route and some further landscaping and planting. The new paving also provides a high-quality backdrop to the approach to Segedunum Museum and the Fort.



# Our Ambition for North Shields

## Riverside Embankment Walkway opens to the public

**North Shields Riverside Embankment Walkway has opened to the public.**

The walkway links North Shields town centre with the bustling Fish Quay, providing step-free access with route options to suit different needs.

The project has created an attraction in its own right, with stunning views of the Tyne, attractive landscaping and an exciting public artwork coming soon.

Funding for the scheme was provided by the North East Combined Authority from the region's Transforming Cities Fund. The work was carried out by our contractor Willmott Dixon.

The Riverside Embankment Walkway has been designed with environmental sustainability and safety at its heart, providing benefits for health and wellbeing, and vastly improving the appearance of the local landscape. The planting will flourish to its full potential during the spring and summer months.

An official event will be held later this year to mark the installation of a sculpture depicting escaped enslaved woman Mary Ann Macham, who fled America by stowing away on a ship and settled in North Shields. The sculpture by artist Keith Barrett will show Mary Ann breaking out of chains.



The Riverside Embankment Walkway, image courtesy of Hewitson Ltd, Civil Engineering and Groundworks

## Major improvements for Bedford Street

**Work is underway on a major scheme of improvements for one of the busiest streets in North Shields.**

Bedford Street is getting smart new paving, mature trees and modern seating to create an attractive, high-quality finish.

The pedestrian area will be extended along the length of the street, with access for emergency and maintenance vehicles only. The new layout will improve safety and create extra outside space for café seating, other business use and events.

The project is funded by the North East Combined Authority, Active Travel England and the Government. The work is being done by our construction partner Capita.

Access to all shops is being maintained throughout the works and Bedford Street remains open for business.

The Beacon Centre multi-storey remains the best parking option for shoppers, and there are drop-off areas in Wellington Street and West Percy Street.

We are helping to grow the creative economy of North Shields, supported by the North East Combined Authority.

[nscq.co.uk](http://nscq.co.uk)

**North Shields**

**Cultural Quarter**



North Tyneside Music Education Hub musicians



A Write on the Tyne session at the Exchange 1856



Youthforia Podcast

### **North Tyneside Music Education Hub**

North Tyneside Music Education Hub has moved into the Business Centre on Saville Street, bringing young musicians into the heart of North Shields Cultural Quarter.

It's in a prime position for exciting collaborations, with neighbours including Helix Arts, the Globe Gallery, the Exchange 1856 and King Street Social Club.

Joint projects are being planned including performances, mentoring, behind-the-scenes music technology training and the chance to shadow professional musicians during gigs at local venues.

A Get Into Music careers event was held in January at The Exchange 1856 for students from John Spence, Kings Priory, Norham and Marden high schools.

The hub offers a wide range of free musical activities for young musicians of all ages and standards.

We are the lead partner for a regional Music Hub consortium, delivered by Arts Council England on behalf of the Department for Education.

### **Creative writing sessions**

Free creative writing courses funded by us are heading into a new chapter thanks to Age UK North Tyneside.

Creative writing service Write on the Tyne CIC is run by author Helen Aitchson, who ran sell-out courses at North Shields Library and Exchange 1856 during 2024.

Some of the learners were Age UK North Tyneside customers, and the charity has now offered a free teaching space for future sessions

at its Bradbury Centre in North Shields. The sessions are held once a month on a Friday.

### **Youthforia podcast**

Youthforia is a podcast featuring North Tyneside teenagers discussing topics that are important to them. It's created by Screenboo Productions and supported by us. You can search Youthforia Podcast on YouTube or Instagram to find out more.

### **Artists' Agency**

Artists' Agency from Helix Arts is a long-term programme to help artists build sustainable careers through mentorship, networking opportunities and peer-to-peer support.

It includes CoCafe, Artists' Agency's monthly drop in for artists and small creative businesses.





Celebrating North Shields

past, present and future.

2025 marks the 800th anniversary of North Shields. An exciting year of celebrations is planned, with something for everyone.



The North Shields story

800 years ago, a small village made up of simple huts called shiels was founded on the north bank of the Tyne where the Fish Quay stands today.

Created in around 1225 as a fishing port to serve Tynemouth Priory, it grew into the thriving harbour of North Shields.

Today North Shields and its surrounding neighbourhoods are home to around 35,000 people.



Blessing of the Fleet:

On 20 June, North Shields Fishermen’s Heritage Project will bring a procession of school children with pipers to the Fish Quay. Joined by a parade of boats on the river and a blessing of the fleet with The Fishermen’s Mission, celebrating the fishing heritage of the town.





# Throughout 2025

**1225 Exhibition:** Based at the Old Low Light Heritage Centre, a new permanent exhibition will explore the history of North Shields from 1225 to the present day.

**North Shields Murals Project:** Working with artists to create a series of high-quality public murals that capture the history and spirit of the town.

**I Love North Shields:** Magazine editions dedicated to North Shields' 800th anniversary made by and for the community of North Shields.

**North Shields Voices:** A community archive project by Remembering The Past, capturing a snapshot of life in North Shields in 2025.

**North Shields: 800 Years of Harmony:** A music film documentary celebrating the rich musical heritage of North Shields, with musician Liam Fender and local performers.

**The Flight Home:** An art trail featuring life size herring gulls, each decorated by community groups to reflect the history, heritage and culture of North Shields.

**North Shields Textile Map:** A community arts project involving local people working with artist Gaynor Devaney.

**The Living River:** A short video focussing on the town's history through the lens of the River Tyne, and how it has shaped the town's identity and development.

**North Shields By Rail:** Explore the history of railways around North Shields at Stephenson Steam Railway.

**Deeds, Words and Danger:** A theatre heritage project inspired by suffragette Norah Balls, led by Workie Ticket Theatre.

**North Shields Library events:** Heritage talks, Local History Day, North Shields Reads, Old Photos of North Shields exhibition, and celebrations for the 50th birthday of North Shields Library. See page 19 for further information

**Emerging Music Talent:** Events in local venues celebrating the emerging young music talent in North Shields.

# Events calendar

**Mary Ann Macham:** Installation of a sculpture outside the Registry Office, celebrating the life of this remarkable woman who escaped from slavery in America and made North Shields her home.

**Blue Light Choir in Concert:** On 29 March, at the end of a week of activities connected to the fishing industry and The Fishermen's Mission, be entertained by the Blue Light Choir, made up of emergency services, NHS and key workers.

**A Splash of Colour:** An exhibition in April giving children and young people from North Tyneside Learning Trust partner schools a platform to display their artwork.

**A Stone's Throw Festival 2025:** An independent, multi-genre, multi-venue music festival. Attracting an array of artists from around the world, 23 to 25 May.

**North Shields 800 Community Day:** Free day celebrating the history, heritage and culture of North Shields, including talks, live music, demonstrations and displays. Saturday 28 June, Linskill Centre.

**Picnic in the Park:** Community fun day on 7 June in Northumberland Square hosted by YMCA North Tyneside. With children's activities, a fun run, raffles, live music and refreshments.

**Mouth of the Tyne Festival:** Celebrating 20 years of the festival in 2025, on Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 July. Free street entertainment, a jazz stage and a huge parade on Front Street.

**Family Fun Day:** On 15 August in Northumberland Park, with Active North Tyneside. Giant games, cycling, football, a DJ, inflatables and a bouncy castle.

**North Shields Culture Ambassadors:** Join Helix Arts and the North Tyneside Local Education Partnership in October to celebrate the artworks created by young people to mark North Shields 800.

**Plunge Immersive:** An extraordinary underwater animated experience inspired by the true story of Katie, a North East woman on a healing journey through sea swimming, coming in October.

## Are you a budding entrepreneur with a great idea, or an established trading business looking to grow within North Tyneside?

Find out how the Business Factory can support you. Our sessions are designed to guide startups and trading businesses alike, offering free tailored support to help you navigate the challenges of business growth.

The team host regular sessions throughout North Tyneside, whether it's a WELCOME session for those considering self-employment or a Meet the Team for existing businesses to find out what support is available to help you DEVELOP & GROW, we'd love to meet you. Wherever you are on your business journey, our team are ready to speak to you. Get in touch via [info@businessfactorynt.co.uk](mailto:info@businessfactorynt.co.uk)



Annie joined us at one of our 'Toolkit to Starting a Business' sessions to see if self-employment was for her. By speaking to the team, she discovered a wide range of support and funding opportunities available.

Without the help from The Business Factory, Annie says "the business wouldn't have been able to progress in such a positive way." By attending one of our sessions and having received continued advice, she has been able to launch M.A.S.T Response – first aid and medical training.



Scan for more information

## Employment and Skills brings job successes

**Our Employment and Skills service offer an all-age careers service combined with learning opportunities and skills training to help anyone in the Borough to gain and stay in good quality work?**

Each year, our Adult Learning Service delivers up to 3,500 enrolments and our Connexions team complete approximately 5,500 interventions with young people. Since opening our first Working Well Hub in 2022, we've expanded the service to locations across the Borough and assisted over 15,000 visitors with free, confidential

employment advice at our two core hubs in North Shields and Wallsend.

Supporting young people in North Tyneside, our Connexions team has recorded a NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) rate below the regional and national averages at 2.6%. For adults completing training with our Adult Learning Service over 770 participants secured work in 2023-24 and our Working Well team supported over 1,400 residents to find work with over 350 employers.

To get involved find us on Facebook, keep an eye out for our

Spring Course Guide or join us at a Working Well hub to 'Meet the Employer'. Learn about exciting job openings, meet top companies, and get insider tips on landing your dream job. Find out more by signing up to the newsletter by scanning the QR code.



# Our North Tyneside Voice



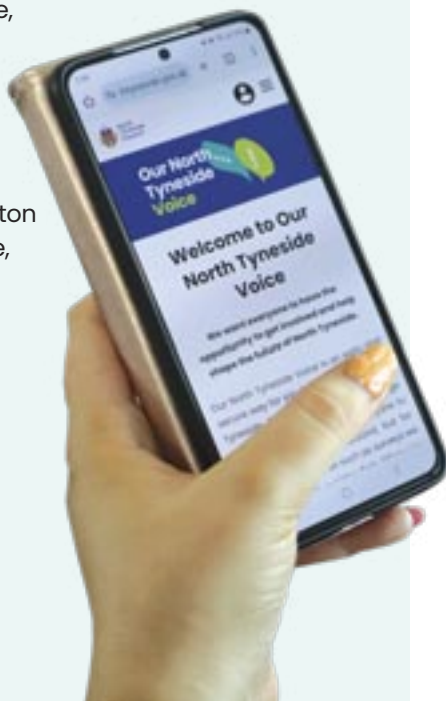
## Get involved and have your say

**Our North Tyneside Voice is an easy way for you to get involved with us, to have your say and share your views.**

Register on the site and the team will get in touch whenever there's an opportunity for you to have your say. If you know someone who isn't online but would like to join in, they can still get involved by calling the team on 0191 643 2828.

Along with online surveys and consultations, we always have paper copies at the 'Have Your Say' displays in our community hubs.

- Northumberland Square, North Shields
- York Road, Whitley Bay
- The Forum, Wallsend
- White Swan Centre, Killingworth
- Oxford Centre, Longbenton
- John Willie Sams Centre, Dudley



For the latest information on housing-related engagement opportunities for council tenants, please go to page 33.

You said

We did

## You Said, We Did: See the impact of your feedback

**We're excited to introduce a new feature on Our North Tyneside Voice – You Said, We Did. This is your go-to place to see how your feedback is driving real change in our community.**

Stay updated on:

- Boroughwide consultations
- Community and regeneration projects
- Council budgets and finances
- Highways and transport updates
- Housing developments
- Planning and environmental initiatives
- Waste management, recycling, and our carbon net-zero efforts

The site is regularly updated with live consultations and progress on ongoing projects, so you can always stay in the loop.

Want to play a part in shaping North Tyneside's future? Sign up now to make sure your voice is heard and get involved in upcoming opportunities.

Stay connected with Our North Tyneside Voice for the latest ways to share your thoughts on Council services.



# What's On

All details are correct at the time of going to print. Please check event information closer to the time and before making your journey.

For more information see [www.visitnorthynteside.com](http://www.visitnorthynteside.com).



## Heritage Train Rides

6, 13, 17, 20, 24, 27 April

### Stephenson Steam Railway

Enjoy a heritage train ride. Booking required.

[www.stephensonsteamrailway.org.uk](http://www.stephensonsteamrailway.org.uk)

## Easter Crafts

12 April, 10am – 12pm

### The Forum Shopping Centre, Wallsend

Free Easter crafts and face painting. Drop in event.

## Tyne Tri Lakeside Aquathlon

13 April

### Lakeside Centre, Killingworth

Bi-annual adult and junior aquathlon event for all ages.

[www.tynetri.org](http://www.tynetri.org)

## Marvellous Mondays

14, 21 April

### Segedunum Roman Fort, Wallsend

Free family friendly craft activities including herb planting and flower garlands.

[www.segedunumromanfort.org.uk](http://www.segedunumromanfort.org.uk)

## Good Friday Procession of Witness

18 April, 10am

### Northumberland Square, North Shields

An act of worship followed by a march around North Shields town centre, before returning to Northumberland Square for the Good Friday story.

## Good Friday Procession of Witness

18 April, 11am

### Bandstand, Wallsend Park

Join Wallsend Churches Working Together for a service and music by the Salvation Army band.

[www.wallsendchurches.org.uk](http://www.wallsendchurches.org.uk)

## Spanish City Fun Fair

18 – 24 April

### Links, Whitley Bay

The annual family fun fair returns to the Links.

## Make & Take Thursdays

24 April, 11am – 3pm

### Stephenson Steam Railway

Free crafts, drop in.

[www.stephensonsteamrailway.org.uk](http://www.stephensonsteamrailway.org.uk)

## Killingworth Market

26 – 27 April, 28 – 29 June

### Arrow Close, Killingworth

Food and craft stalls, street food, live music and children's activities.

Search Killingworth Monthly Street Food Festival on Facebook.

## Tynemouth Station Book Fair

27 April & 22 June, 9.30am – 3.30pm

Browse a wide range of antiquarian, second-hand and children's books from around 40 booksellers.

[www.tynemouthstationbookfair.co.uk](http://www.tynemouthstationbookfair.co.uk)

## Tynemouth Food Festival

10 – 11 May

### Tynemouth Priory and Castle

Street food, local market stalls, live music and entertainment for children including cooking classes, creative play, facepainting and more.

Advance tickets are £4.50 (plus booking fee), under 15s are free with accompanying adult.

Book at [www.seetickets.com](http://www.seetickets.com).

Advance tickets guarantee entry. Follow Tynemouth Food Festival on Facebook and Instagram for updates

## Stone's Throw Festival

23 – 25 May

Live music in various North Shields venues.

[www.astonesthrowfestival.co.uk](http://www.astonesthrowfestival.co.uk)

## Whitley Bay Carnival

24 – 25 May

Expect parade structures, carnival club promenaders, artists and musicians all joining the parade through Whitley Bay.

Join the 12th community celebration.

[www.whitleybaycarnival.co.uk](http://www.whitleybaycarnival.co.uk)

## Picnic in the Park

7 June

### Northumberland Square, North Shields

Featuring live music, food, activities and a children's fun run, supporting the work of YMCA North Tyneside.



## Silent Disco

20 – 21 June

King Edward's Bay, Tynemouth

Watch the tide go out and the sun go down while listening to some tunes from musicians and DJs while dancing the night away.

[www.silentdisconcl.co.uk](http://www.silentdisconcl.co.uk)

## King Eddie's Stairs Challenge

21 June

King Edwards Bay, Tynemouth

A fun but competitive challenge, raising money for charity.

[www.kingeddiesstairschallenge.co.uk](http://www.kingeddiesstairschallenge.co.uk)

## Cullercoats Festival

14 June

Cullercoats

A celebration of creativity and culture; bringing together artists, musicians, dancers, poets and writers. There will be food and drinks, activities and family fun. Search Cullercoats Festival on Facebook and Instagram.

## North Shields 800

Please see pages 12 and 13 for information.

[www.northshields800.com](http://www.northshields800.com)

## Coast Fest

27 – 29 June

Percy Park Rugby Club, North Shields

Music festival celebrating emerging artists. Search Coast Fest on Facebook.

## Feast by the Sea

21 – 22 June

Spanish City Plaza, Whitley Bay

Street food and live music by the coast. Follow Feast by the Sea on Facebook for updates.

## Fake Festival

21 June, 11.45am – 11pm

Percy Park Rugby Club, North Shields

Featuring tributes acts, local bands, entertainment, food and a bar.

[www.fakefestivals.co.uk](http://www.fakefestivals.co.uk)

# St. Mary's Lighthouse and Visitor Centre events

0191 643 4777, [stmaryslighthouse@northtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:stmaryslighthouse@northtyneside.gov.uk)

Search St Marys Lighthouse on Facebook. To purchase tickets for bookable events visit: <https://bookwhen.com/ntc-lighthouse>

## Drop in Creative Crafts

18 April (10.30am – 4pm), 19 April (10.30am – 4pm), and 21 April (11am – 4pm)

## Under Fives Event

16 April, (10am – 12pm)

## Fossil Frolics

17 April, (10am – 12pm), 25 April, (10am – 12pm) and 27 May, (10am – 12pm)

## Rockpool Ramble

15 April, (10am – 12pm), 23 April, (4pm – 6pm) and 29 May, (10am – 12pm)



MOUTH OF THE TYNE Festival | 10-13 JULY 2025

THURSDAY 10 JULY

UB  
40

FRIDAY 11 JULY



PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS

Karen Harding  
K-KLASS

SATURDAY 12 JULY

elbow

PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS

HECTOR GANNET

SUNDAY 13 JULY

KENNY THOMAS  
SONIQUE  
AND MORE!

STREET ENTERTAINMENT | COMMUNITY PARADE | JAZZ STAGE

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[WWW.MOUTHOFTHETYNEFESTIVAL.COM](http://WWW.MOUTHOFTHETYNEFESTIVAL.COM)

[WWW.TICKETMASTER.CO.UK](http://WWW.TICKETMASTER.CO.UK)

# What's on at the PLAYHOUSE

## WHITLEY BAY

### **An Evening with Sir Les Ferdinand**

**Friday 28 March**

**7.30pm**

This evening will give you a full insight into his time at Newcastle FC and putting on the famous home jersey. The event includes limited opportunities for Meet and Greet pre-show for photos and signatures.

### **Gareth Gates Sings Love Songs from The Movies**

**Wednesday 2 April**

**7.30pm**

Embark on a captivating musical voyage as pop sensation Gareth Gates takes centre stage.

This spellbinding show seamlessly blends the heartwarming melodies of classic films with the electrifying energy of up-tempo hits, all brought to life by Gareth's soulful voice and magnetic stage presence.

### **The Lindisfarne Story**

**Saturday 12 April**

**7.30pm**

Ray Laidlaw and Billy Mitchell present a joyful, funny and emotional celebration of Tyneside's favourite band, featuring acoustic performances of Lady Eleanor, Meet Me on The Corner, Fog on the Tyne, Run For Home and many more!



### **Foster & Allen**

**Wednesday 16 April**

**7.30pm**

Foster & Allen aren't showing any signs of slowing down and their recording and touring commitments prove how popular they remain for their fans who like to hear them at home and see them in a live experience.

### **The Amazing Bubble Man**

**Monday 21 April**

**2pm**

From square bubbles to rocket bubbles, Louis Pearl, also known as the award winning 'Amazing Bubble Man' conjures shrieks of laughter and gasps of amazement from all ages.

### **Easter Panto 2025: Pinocchio**

**Tuesday 22 and Wednesday 23 April**

**Various times**

Starring TV legend Bobby Davro! Prepare yourselves for another all-singing, all-dancing, laugh-a-minute ride through the fun and frolics of panto land - arriving Easter 2025.

### **ADHD Unmasked**

**Saturday 24 May**

**7.30pm**

Join ADHD speaker, coach, former TV and radio presenter and late diagnosed ADHDer Hester Grainger, live on the road, for an evening of conversation, laughter and a refreshingly honest look at life with her show, ADHD UNMASKED.

### **Craig Revel Horwood**

**Wednesday 18 June**

**7.30pm**

The longest-serving judge on BBC One's Strictly Come Dancing is the master of the Glitter Ball. After starting as a dancer, he worked on the nation's biggest musicals and became a choreographer, director, and best-selling author. Craig's also a remarkable singer, and to celebrate the release of his debut solo album, Revelations, he'll reveal his own, hidden talent during a Fab-U-Lous night of big songs, tall tales, and glamour.

For full listings, further information and to purchase tickets:

- Visit [www.playhousewhitleybay.co.uk](http://www.playhousewhitleybay.co.uk)
- Visit the PLAYHOUSE Box Office: Open Monday – Friday 10am to 4pm, Saturday 10.30am to 2.30pm, plus event days.

# What's on at our libraries

## Winston Tails with Barry Stone

Thursday 10 April, 2pm  
Whitley Bay Community Hub and Library

Author and dog lover Barry Stone will share stories from his book series, 'Winston Tails'.

## Easter Egg hunt and crafts

Monday 14 April, 2pm  
John Willie Sams Centre  
Easter crafts and egg hunt - perfect for the whole family!  
£2 per child

## History Wardrobe – Unravelling – The Story of Four Red Sweaters

Tuesday 15 April, 7pm  
Whitley Bay Community Hub and Library

Historian Lucy Adlington recounts powerful true stories of the Holocaust, centering on knitting skills. £5

## Local History Day 2025

Saturday 10 May, 10am–3pm  
North Shields Community Hub and Library

Talks from Michael Dale – guide with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, and John Sturmeay – artist and ex tugman.

## Local History Talks

North Shields Community Hub and Library

- **Hunting for mines – the North Shields fishing fleet in World War with Alan Fidler.** Monday 28 April, 2.30pm

- **Commonwealth War Graves Commission with Michael Dale.** Saturday 10 May, 11am
- **Maritime Shields with John Sturmeay.** Saturday 10 May, 1pm
- **The Powburn with Mike Coates.** Thursday 19 June, 2.30pm

## 'CALLED' with Sheila Hamil

Tuesday 20 May, 2.30pm  
Howdon Library  
CALLED documents Sheila's life in the North East, with threads of family, friendship, and faith in God woven in.

**Book via**  
[bookwhen.com/ntclibraries](http://bookwhen.com/ntclibraries)

# Bring on the spring in our award-winning parks

## World Labyrinth Day

Northumberland Park,  
Saturday 3 May, 12.30pm  
Gather beside the Labyrinth to walk together at 1pm.  
In partnership with the parks team and the New Friends of Northumberland Park.

## Wind in the Park

Northumberland Park,  
Sunday 8 June 2025, 2pm – 4pm  
Come and listen to the sound of woodwind on the bandstand. Wayward Wind and Sax on the Tyne join forces with other guests to bring you a summer afternoon

of melodies and exciting arrangements for saxophones and clarinets.

## Self-led activity trails in Northumberland Park

- Easter holiday trail 2025, Friday 11 April – Monday 28 April
- Spring half-term trail 2025, Friday 23 May – Monday 2 June



For up-to-date information on our park events follow us on social media or visit our website.  
[@North Tyneside Parks](https://www.instagram.com/NorthTynesideParks)  
[@nlandpark](https://www.instagram.com/nlandpark) / [@wallsendparks](https://www.instagram.com/wallsendparks)  
[www.northtyneside.gov.uk](http://www.northtyneside.gov.uk)

## Become a Walking Group Leader!



**Do you enjoy walking? Do you have spare time to walk with others? Do you like being part of a group and are a natural-born leader?**

If you answered 'yes' to any of the above questions, you might be interested in joining our team of walking group leaders. As a leader, you'll embark on a range of fantastic 'Wellbeing Walks' around the Borough.

It's an opportunity to meet and socialise with new people, all while staying active and enjoying the beautiful scenery that North Tyneside has to offer.

One of our current leaders said: "Being a walking leader is a great way to see and speak to so many people. The social side of the walks are great. There's always someone to speak to, whether that's someone who may be having similar experiences in life, or the total opposite!"

If you're interested in finding out more, please call 0191 643 7171 or contact [james.hedley@northtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:james.hedley@northtyneside.gov.uk) to register your interest.



## Training the next generation of lifeguards



**It's Royal Life Saving Society (RLSS) UK's Drowning Prevention Week from 14 – 21 June. Our Sport and Leisure team will be supporting the campaign, helping to spread the word about water safety in our swimming lessons and onsite in our leisure centres.**

We want everyone to enjoy water safely, that's why many of our team members choose to upskill as RLSS Trainer Assessors to deliver lifesaving training sessions. RLSS Trainer Assessors allow us to deliver ongoing training in-house to our lifeguard team, as well as provide First Aid and lifeguard courses for the community. In the past year, we have delivered over 50 first aid courses and trained over 35 new lifeguards, with 20 of them now employed with us as Leisure Assistants!

Andrew Wright is a Gym Instructor based at Waves and one of our Trainer Assessors. He said: "I love the variety of my role; being a Trainer Assessor has allowed me to make a difference to people's lives."

Andrew leads our ongoing lifeguarding sessions on Thursday evenings at Waves. These sessions create a career pathway for young people to progress from our Learn to Swim programme through to becoming fully qualified lifeguards. 16-year-old Kara is one of our first 'graduates'.

Kara's love of water started in our Duckling sessions, delivered by our swimming teaching team. She went on to achieve all nine learn-to-swim stages and guided by Andrew, progressed through our lifeguard academy and is now a casual Leisure Assistant at Waves!

Andrew said: "Kara is one of our first success stories and I am proud to see her hard work paying off."

If you're interested in learning more about our training offer, visit our website or contact us via: [training@northtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:training@northtyneside.gov.uk).





# Get active outdoors this spring

**Spring is the perfect time to embrace the great outdoors and get moving. Active North Tyneside offer a variety of activities to help you stay fit and have fun. Whether you're a seasoned athlete or just looking to try something new, we've got something for everyone.**

**Tennis:** Grab a racket and head to our tennis courts at Souter Park, Richardson Dees, and Crawford Park. Courts can be booked for just £3.

**Adapted Cycling:** Our free adapted cycling sessions are

designed for all abilities. During the spring and summer, sessions take place indoors at The Parks Sports Centre.

**Athletics:** Use our athletics track for only £3 per person. It's a great way to improve your fitness, whether you're training for a race or just looking to stay active.

**Bowls:** Our bowls clubs need new members this season! Bowls is a fantastic way to stay active and meet new people. Visit our website to find your nearest club or email us for more information.

**Run Groups:** Join one of our beginners' run groups and enjoy the camaraderie of running with others. It's a great way to stay motivated and explore new routes.

For more information and to book activities, visit [activenorthtyneside.gov.uk](http://activenorthtyneside.gov.uk). Let's get active and make the most of the season!



## Mini Golf and FootGolf back in swing for 2025



**The scenic Whitley Bay Mini Golf and FootGolf course, situated on the Links (NE26 4NQ), will reopen for the 2025 season on Tuesday 8 April, until Sunday 31 August.**

The course, which overlooks Whitley Bay seafront, offers nine and 18-hole pitch and putt Mini Golf and FootGolf.

Clubs, golf balls, footballs, scorecards and tees are provided free of charge.

At Active North Tyneside, we are committed to providing health and wellbeing support. If you fancy a cuppa and a chat, need a golfing partner, or just require some signposting advice, our friendly staff will be on hand to help.

For opening hours, price lists and more information, search 'Mini Golf and FootGolf' on our website or search 'Whitley Bay Mini Golf & FootGolf' on Facebook.

**YOUR VOTE MATTERS**

**DON'T LOSE IT**



On **Thursday 1 May 2025** residents of North Tyneside who are registered to vote will elect a new Mayor for North Tyneside.

Information about this election can be found on these pages and further information is available on our website at [my.northtyneside.gov.uk](http://my.northtyneside.gov.uk)

**Your vote is important.**

**Polling stations will be open on 1 May from 7am to 10pm.**

**Remember:** If you want to vote you must be on the Electoral Register. If you are not registered you can make an application to register online at [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote)

You will need your National Insurance number and date of birth. If you are unsure whether you are registered, please contact us.

### Support for disabled voters

We are committed to supporting disabled people to vote in elections and can support disabled voters in a number of ways:

- In addition to being able to vote by post, disabled voters can register to vote by proxy.
- Every polling station will have an accessible entrance and a wheelchair-accessible polling booth.
- Large print sample ballot papers and tactile voting devices are available to assist voters with visual impairments.
- Someone can help you vote if you need them to. This can be the Presiding Officer at your polling station, a family member, friend or support worker, as long as they are 18 years old or over.
- Polling station staff can give you a tour of the station before you vote so you can familiarise yourself with the station.

More information is available on our website.



If you want to vote by post, you can apply for a postal vote at [www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote](http://www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote)

If you want to appoint a proxy to vote on your behalf, you can apply at [www.gov.uk/apply-proxy-vote](http://www.gov.uk/apply-proxy-vote)



For more information on which forms of photo ID will be accepted, visit [www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID). If you don't have an accepted form of photo ID, you can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate at [www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate](http://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate)

## Important dates

- **Wednesday 2 April, 4pm:** Last day for delivery of nomination papers
- **Friday 11 April:** Last day to submit an application to **register to vote** in the election on **1 May**
- **Monday 14 April, 5pm:** Deadline to submit a **new** application for a postal vote
- **Monday 14 April, 5pm:** Deadline to submit any changes to **existing** postal OR proxy votes
- **Wednesday 23 April, 5pm:** Deadline to submit a **new** application for a proxy vote
- **Wednesday 23 April, 5pm:** Deadline to submit an application for a Voter Authority Certificate

In certain circumstances, where you have an emergency that means you cannot go to the polling station in person, you can apply for an emergency proxy up to 5pm on the day of the poll. For more information, please contact Electoral Services.

## Poll cards

We will deliver poll cards to all registered electors from the end of March. Where you vote in person, your poll card will tell you where your polling station is. You do not need your poll card to vote but it is helpful to take it along to the station with you.

**Check the location of your polling station on your card as it may have changed since the last time you voted.**

**If you cannot go to the polling station on Thursday 1 May or would prefer not to, you can do one of the following:**

- Apply to vote by post online at [www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote](http://www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote)
- Apply to vote by proxy (this means someone else can vote on your behalf) - [www.gov.uk/apply-proxy-vote](http://www.gov.uk/apply-proxy-vote)

If you can't apply online, you can request an absent vote application form by contacting Electoral Services on 0191 643 2270 or by email at [elections@northtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:elections@northtyneside.gov.uk)

## When will you get your postal voting papers?

Postal votes will be delivered in two stages:

- From **Thursday 17 April** postal vote packs will be sent to current postal voters and those who apply for a postal vote before 23 March
- From **Tuesday 22 April** postal vote packs will be sent to anyone who applies for a postal vote between 24 March and the deadline on 14 April

If they do not arrive you can get a replacement ballot paper, from Electoral Services up until 5pm on polling day. Please contact us to arrange this.

Please remember to send back your completed postal vote as early as possible. If you haven't received your postal ballot pack by **25 April**, contact us. We can then check you are registered to receive a postal vote and issue a replacement if necessary.

## I've spoilt / lost my ballot papers / postal voting statement. What should I do?

If you have spoilt your ballot papers, please contact us so that we can advise on any action required.

**Remember, if you have applied to vote by post, you cannot vote in person at a polling station.**

The rules around handing in postal votes have changed. If you are handing your postal vote into any Council building or polling station, you will be required to complete a short form. You can also only hand in a maximum of five postal votes plus your own.

## How to contact us

Tel: (0191) 643 2270

Email: [elections@northtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:elections@northtyneside.gov.uk)

**[my.northtyneside.gov.uk](http://my.northtyneside.gov.uk)**

### Write:

Electoral Services, North Tyneside Council,  
Quadrant, The Silverlink North,  
Cobalt Business Park, North Tyneside  
NE27 0BY

## North Tyneside's outstanding early years and primary teacher training programme is looking for the next generation of inspiring trainee teachers.

North Tyneside SCITT was established in 2004 and is judged as an outstanding provider by Ofsted. We are proud to be the only outstanding initial teacher training provider in the region.

The SCITT is led by a partnership of over 20 North Tyneside primary and first schools, supported by Education North Tyneside and alongside experts from schools and beyond. It is a collaborative and collegiate partnership where nurturing and training our next generation of teachers stands at the core of our work.

Our highly successful programme combines both high quality extensive classroom experience and up-to-date pedagogical theory from experts in the educational field. Our trainees benefit from one-on-one mentorship with experienced school mentors and educators, providing invaluable guidance and support throughout their training journey. This personalised approach ensures that every aspiring trainee receives the attention and resources needed to excel during their training and beyond into successful employment.

With North Tyneside SCITT, you can gain Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) and a Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE), accredited by Northumbria University.

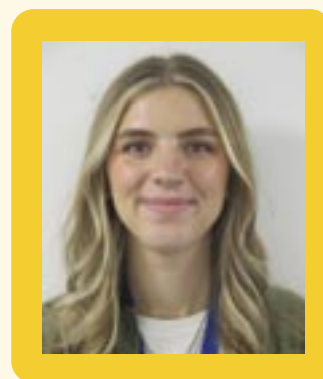


Jenn a current trainee on the course has said that 'NT SCITT has been undeniably supportive. From course leaders to lecturers to partnership schools. There is a wealth of wisdom to be had. NT SCITT has a relatively small cohort of students, allowing you to quickly feel part of a team and form meaningful friendships. I am so pleased to be gaining my PGCE through NT SCITT and feel confident that I have made the right choice!'


Applicants for the course must have an honours degree of 2:2 or above and must have gained grade C/4 or above in English, mathematics, and science GCSE or equivalent qualification.


If you're interested in joining the training programme, or would like to find out more about what we offer, visit North Tyneside SCITT's website:


<https://ntscitt.org.uk/>



### Follow us on:

 @NTSCITT.

 northtynesidescitt.

 North Tyneside SCITT



# Neat Streets clears 766 tons of waste in 18 months



**In just 18 months, our Neat Streets team has removed 766 tons of waste from streets across North Tyneside, including fly-tipped items, litter, leaves, and green waste.**

This is part of our ongoing effort to keep the borough clean and safe for everyone who lives here. Since launching in August 2023, the initiative has focused on finding the best, most efficient ways to serve the community. With three vans and four team members in each, we're able to respond more quickly and make a bigger impact on street cleanliness.

But it's not just about waste removal. Neat Streets works closely

with other Council teams to lend a helping hand to vulnerable and elderly residents, ensuring no one is left behind.

By staying proactive and engaged with local communities, we're proud to help improve the quality of life for everyone in North Tyneside. We have more sessions planned, look out for the team in your area.

## Welcome to Northumberland Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

**Introducing the Northumberland Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (NIFCA), your local guardian of the marine environment.**

Established in 2011, NIFCA is one of 10 Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCAs) in England. Our mission is to ensure the sustainability of sea fisheries resources while balancing social, economic, and environmental interests.

Our district covers the centre of the River Tyne to the Scottish border and extends six nautical miles out to sea. We work tirelessly

to protect marine life and promote sustainable fishing practices and aim to keep the seas healthy and fisheries viable for future generations.

We are funded by North Tyneside and Northumberland Councils, with additional support from Government. Our members include councillors, statutory members from key environmental organisations, and dedicated local volunteer stakeholders with expertise in fisheries and marine conservation.

You can find out more and join us in working to ensure a sustainable future for North Tyneside's rich maritime heritage, by visiting our

website at [www.nifca.gov.uk](http://www.nifca.gov.uk) or following Northumberland IFCA on Facebook, @N\_IFCA on X or why not attend one of our quarterly public meetings and get to know us better in person.



NIFCA Enforcement Team onboard St Aidan patrol and research vessel.

# A GREEN NORTH TYNESIDE

Find useful tips and advice at [my.northtyneside.gov.uk/actiononclimatechange](https://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/actiononclimatechange)

## E-waste scheme is a big success – thanks to you!

Thanks to the support of our residents, the Recycle Your Electricals project has collected over 9.5 tonnes of small electricals in just one year – 43% more than the year before. This includes the equivalent of 4,731 toasters, which were recycled instead of going to general waste, and we collected and recycled over 12,000 vapes.

With £14,000 secured from Material Focus, we've introduced 65 electrical recycling points and 29 vape recycling tubes across the borough, including Council buildings, schools, and community centres.

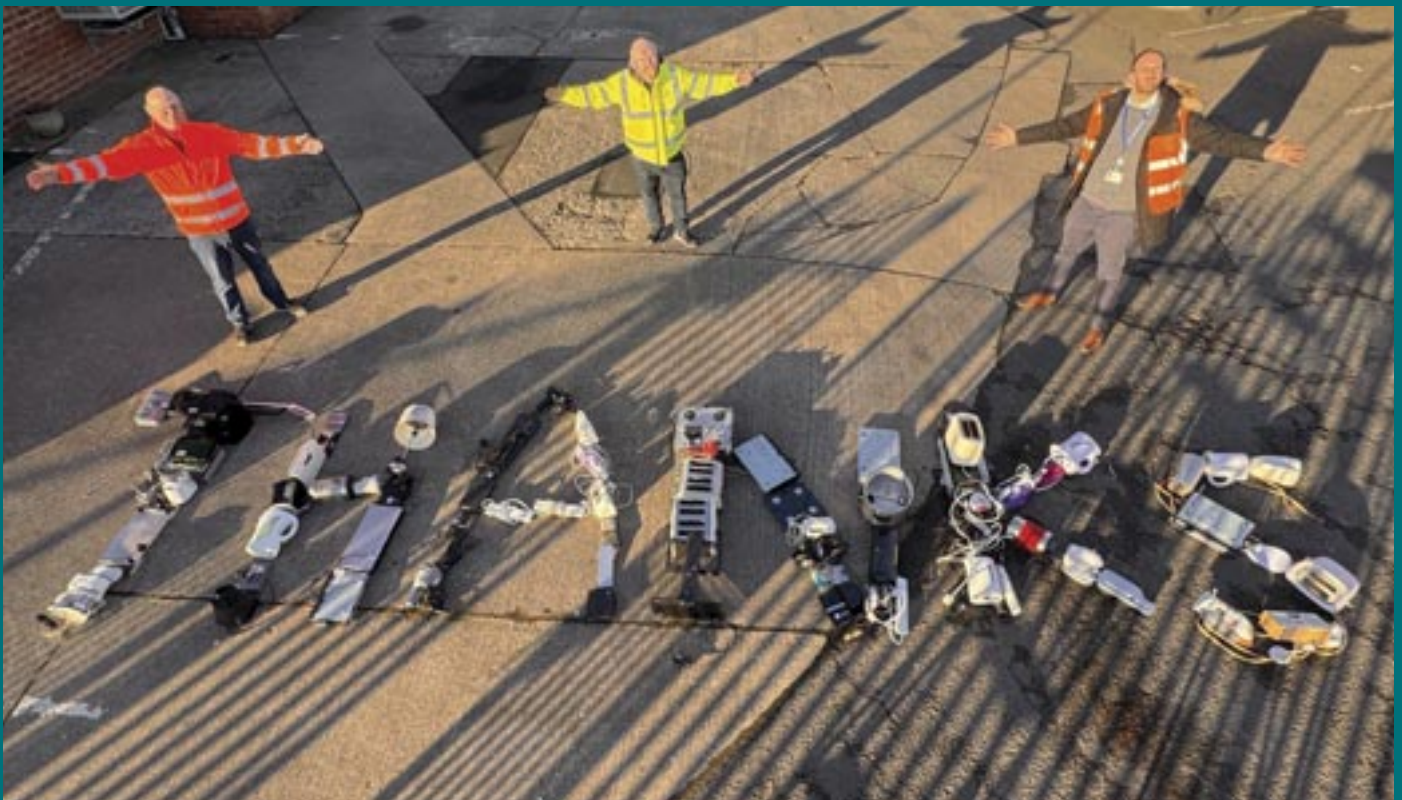
Given its success, we're pleased to make the scheme a permanent part of our operations.

Our project is one of over 40 UK initiatives funded by Material Focus, part of the Recycle Your Electricals campaign. We're proud to join councils across the country in making it easier for 10 million UK residents to recycle electricals.

Anything with a plug, battery, or cable can be recycled and turned into something new. Items like toasters, kettles, hairdryers, and irons can be dropped off at locations across the

Borough. Just remember to remove and recycle batteries separately, as they shouldn't be thrown in the bin. Batteries can ignite during collection or sorting, so please dispose of them safely.

Find your nearest recycling point using the map on our website.





# New recycling trial aims to curb electrical waste



**Starting in Spring 2025, we will be trialling a new service to collect broken or unwanted small electricals from residents' homes.**

Residents can request a collection for up to five electricals, which will be collected from their doorsteps and given a new lease of life through a community initiative known as a repairs club.

Recharge, hosted by Whitley Bay Big Local, is an inclusive repairs club where everyone is welcome to come along, make new friends, and learn new skills.

A qualified electrical engineer will supervise each session, teaching attendees valuable practical skills while ensuring all electrical items are safe for redistribution.

The best part? Once repaired, the electrical items will be redistributed back into the community, ready for reuse.

This trial is one of over 40 UK projects funded by Material Focus, the not for profit leading the Recycle Your Electricals campaign. North Tyneside is joining other projects around the country in making it easier for 10 million

UK residents to recycle their electricals.

It follows the successful introduction of small electricals recycling boxes and vape tube collection points across the Borough, in which more than 9.5 tonnes of small electricals were collected over 12 months. The scheme has now been made a permanent part of the Council's operations.

We will announce further details about the new collection service in the coming months.

# A GREEN NORTH TYNESIDE

Find useful tips and advice at [my.northtyneside.gov.uk/actiononclimatechange](https://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/actiononclimatechange)

## Think before you bin your batteries

**Batteries thrown into household waste and recycling bins can cause fires in bin lorries and at waste sites, putting workers and firefighters at risk.**

A recent fire at a local waste facility was caused by an incorrectly disposed battery – thankfully, no one was hurt. But the problem is escalating across the UK.

In May 2024, Recycle Your Electricals and the Fire Chiefs Council revealed that battery fires in the waste system had reached record levels, with lithium-ion batteries discarded

in household rubbish bins responsible for over 1,200 fires in 12 months—up from 700 in 2022.

A survey of local authorities across the UK found that 94% had seen an increase in fires caused by batteries in the waste stream, highlighting a growing challenge.

The message is simple: never put batteries in your bins. Instead, take them to a dedicated collection point

at supermarkets, shops, public buildings, or the Household Waste Recycling Centre.

For more guidance, check out our A-Z of Rubbish or use our interactive recycling map to find your nearest drop-off point.





# Carbon Gold Award



**Another two North Tyneside organisations have been rewarded for reducing their carbon footprint, helping to make the Borough cleaner and greener for us all.**

The NBT Group in Camperdown, which uses technology to help businesses with their supply chains, and the Earsdon and Wellfield Community Association have both been given 'Gold' Carbon Reduction Awards.

Launched in 2023, the awards recognise organisations who are committed to reducing their carbon footprint, in line with our own aims to be carbon net zero by 2030.

## **The NBT Group has reduced their carbon footprint by 31.5% by:**

- Streamlining deliveries and reducing long distance runs
- Amending lighting and heating plans
- Reducing paper usage
- No longer using plastic liners in office bins
- Making staff aware of carbon emissions

The NBT Group isn't stopping there though... they've plans to become carbon neutral and even carbon positive.



Joanna Green and Norman Hogg from  
The NBT Group

## **The Earsdon and Wellfield Community Association has reduced their carbon footprint by 28% by:**

- Installing heat recovery ventilation systems
- Programming individual rooms to be warm only when in use
- Lowering the temperature of rooms if physical activity is taking place
- Rearranging schedules so multiple rooms aren't being used at different times of the day for short periods



Bronze, Silver and now Gold for the Earsdon and  
Wellfield Community Association!

We've reduced our own carbon footprint by 59% so far and can help other organisations reduce theirs. Search 'Action on climate change' on [my.northynteside.gov.uk](https://www.northynteside.gov.uk)

# Seafront Sustainable Route

**Work on the second phase of the Seafront Sustainable Route is progressing well and while there's still more to do, we are getting closer to completion.**

The project is on track to be completed this summer, and the result will be a seafront that is safer, more accessible and more attractive for everyone.

Our teams are working hard to continue this great progress and keep disruption to residents and businesses in the area to a minimum. As we approach the end of the scheme, some temporary traffic management will be needed to complete each section safely.

Multi-directional traffic lights will be temporarily in place at key locations from Marden Avenue to Eskdale Terrace. A temporary one-way system will be in place for northbound traffic only.

Southbound vehicles will need to divert on to Park Avenue, just after Spanish City, with signage at York Road guiding motorists towards Cullercoats or the Coast Road.

All temporary traffic management measures will be removed as soon

as practically possible and before completion of the project.

Funded by the Department for Transport's Active Travel Fund and Sustrans and with Capita handling the construction, the project is a key part of our commitment to reach carbon net-zero by 2030. It promotes sustainable travel options that benefit everyone while protecting the environment.



# Patching works

**Our annual patching and resurfacing works are currently taking place across North Tyneside.**

Based on feedback from residents and inspectors, as well as our own condition data and checks, we recently completed our annual programme of patching works. Patching involves repairing damaged areas on the surface of a road and will help to keep our roads safe and minimise damage.

The resurfacing programme is currently underway and a number of streets have already been fully resurfaced.

Work will take place on more streets this spring, and you may have received a letter about works coming up or seen resurfacing taking place in your local area.

This part of a wider programme of work aimed at making roads safer for residents and businesses.

We appreciate the support and cooperation of residents and businesses affected while we carry out this work.

In an effort to keep disruption to a minimum, the majority of these works will be carried out off-peak where possible, with local diversions in place

where necessary. Residents or businesses in nearby areas will receive letters with information from the contractor carrying out the work on our behalf.



# Encouraging sustainable travel in North Tyneside

**We're always looking for ways to ensure people feel safe travelling in the Borough when out on bikes or walking.**

This is part of our wider plan to grow sustainable transport in North Tyneside and make the Borough safer and greener.

Our Sustainable Transport Team do a lot of work in schools and residential areas around encouraging behaviour change in every day travel.

This includes providing and promoting realistic sustainable

travel opportunities, or looking at physical changes to streets near schools that would make it easier and safer for young people and their families to get to where they need to be.

For more information or to discuss what is possible in your area, you can email [gosmarker@northtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:gosmarker@northtyneside.gov.uk).

As well as this, our 'Bikeability' cycle safety training and is designed to improve children's cycling skills; from learning the basics of balance and control to planning and making short journeys on the roads.

Sessions are currently delivered in schools and during school holidays.

Contact your school for information on any upcoming class based courses.

School holiday sessions are promoted on the Active North Tyneside website. [www.activenorthtyneside.org.uk/bikeability](http://www.activenorthtyneside.org.uk/bikeability)

# Condensation, damp and mould in your home

**We are committed to ensuring that our tenants live in safe and healthy homes, and that includes ensuring you know how to prevent, treat or report condensation, damp and mould in your own home.**

Colder weather can lead to an increase in condensation, damp and mould in homes.

Make sure you check:

- your heating and radiators
- blocked or broken gutters
- ventilation, such as kitchen and bathroom fans.

We also have guidance on the different types of condensation, damp and mould and self-help videos on how to clean them available on our website.

If you're a Council tenant and your property needs a repair, you can call us on 0345 2000 102.



If you are living in a private rented property then your landlord has a legal duty to ensure your home is free of hazards, and this includes damp and mould. Your landlord should regularly inspect your property and remedy any deficiencies promptly. You should also report any disrepair to your landlord to allow them to carry out repairs.

If you are experiencing damp and mould in your private rented property and your landlord is not carrying out the repairs, then please get in touch with Environmental Health on 0191 643 6100 or email: [environmental.health@northtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:environmental.health@northtyneside.gov.uk).

## Tenancy and Financial Support

**Our Tenancy and Financial Support Service is always available for Council tenants who may be struggling and need a bit of a helping hand.**

Whether that's help with benefits, or if you're struggling to pay your energy bills, our team will do everything they can to help or signpost you to appropriate support.

Since its introduction, the service has helped over 280 tenants access a combined total of over £500,000 in benefits, to an average of £1,900 per tenant.

To see what support you could be eligible for, you can contact the team directly on [tenancyandfinancialsupport@northtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:tenancyandfinancialsupport@northtyneside.gov.uk), or you can scan the QR code to complete our online referral form.



## Bulky waste collections

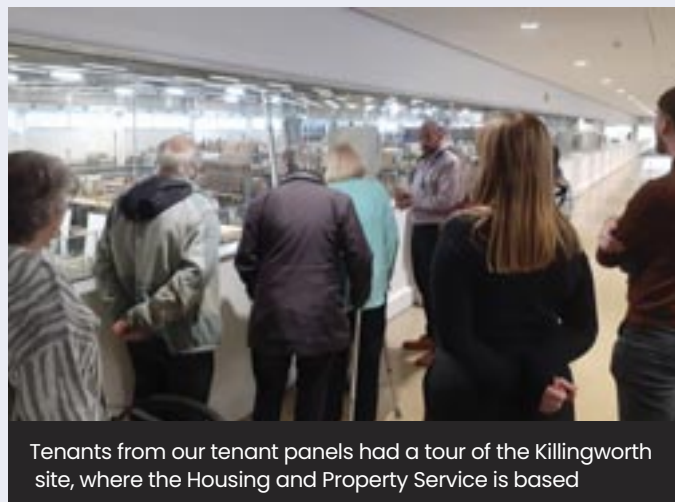
**Council tenants can get help with bulky waste collections, call 0345 2000 103 for details.**



# Council tenants have their say



A drop-in for council tenants was held at The Oxford Centre in January



Tenants from our tenant panels had a tour of the Killingworth site, where the Housing and Property Service is based

## Our tenants have been involved with a range of things recently, with plenty of opportunities to share their views and have their say.

- In January we were out and about with drop-in sessions for tenants to pop in for a chat and get advice on housing matters, visiting The Meadows in North Shields, The Oxford Centre in Longbenton and Howdon Family Hub.
  - Consultation on a Chargeable Policy took place earlier this year, seeking views on our approach to situations when a tenant or leaseholder may be liable for a charge that is outside the remit and responsibility of the Council as a landlord.
  - Our Repairs and Investment Panel of tenants provided feedback on an updated Repairs Handbook.
- Their comments were valuable and are being considered for the new edition.
- Our tenant panels meet around every three months, the latest round of meetings taking place in February. You can read notes from the meetings on the Our North Tyneside Voice website.
  - Our Estates and Communities Panel of tenants gave views on updated fire safety information, for use in communal blocks.
  - Some of our tenant panel members enjoyed a visit to our Killingworth site, where they had a look around where our service is based and met some of our managers.

The Our North Tyneside Voice website (see page 15) has a dedicated tenant hub, with notes of tenant panel meetings, upcoming events to join in with and feedback on previous consultations. If you're interested in any of our engagement work, please register on the website and we can contact you direct to keep you up to date [haveyoursay.northtyneside.gov.uk](https://haveyoursay.northtyneside.gov.uk)

If you aren't online you can still get involved, please call (0191) 643 2828.

**Coming soon:** Look out for details of 'Unified', our new online system that will make it simpler for tenants to manage their tenancy. It will be easy to use, reduce duplication and speed up response times. Tenants will be able to get involved in the final design stages during spring.

# Can you give a child a loving forever home?



**Adopt North East, your local adoption agency, is looking for forever homes for more than 25 children right now.**

Adoption changes lives. Bella's\* first few years were tough, and she missed out on lots of things a loving family would give. Thanks to Adopt North East, she is now settled with a wonderful family with lots of love and laughter every day.

The regional adoption agency knows that financial concerns can put people off adopting children like Bella and that's why they will explore whether you are entitled to financial support to adopt.

So, you can worry less about the cost of living, and concentrate on the loving.

Get in touch at any time to find out more about adoption or join one of the informal, warm, and honest information events:

**Thursday 13 March:** Linskill Centre, North Shields, 6.30pm

**Thursday 17 April:** Online event, 6.30pm

**Wednesday 14 May:** Linskill Centre, North Shields, 6.30pm

**Wednesday 11 June:** Online event, 6.30pm

**[www.adoptnortheast.org.uk](http://www.adoptnortheast.org.uk)**

Email: [adoptnortheast@adoptne.org.uk](mailto:adoptnortheast@adoptne.org.uk)  
Tel: (0191) 643 5000



\* Children's names have been changed.

# 'This is the place that makes me feel safe'

**As a foster carer you could offer security, safety and stability when a child needs it the most.**

Right now, we need more foster carers who can provide the right environment at the right time for children unable to live at home, temporarily or long term.

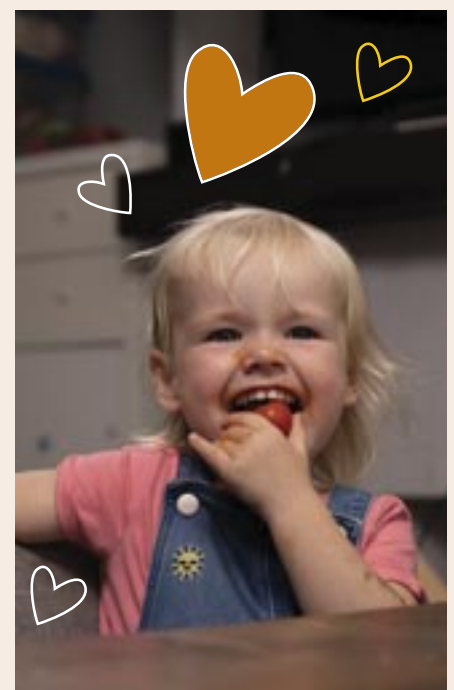
If you could open your home and your heart to a child and give them the stability they need to flourish and experience family life, we would love to hear from you.

Our team are always on hand to offer you advice and support.

Our upcoming information evenings are the perfect opportunity to take the first steps of exploring whether fostering is right for you.

- 7 April, 5.30pm to 6.30pm at our office at Cobalt Business Park
- 22 April, 6pm to 7pm on Teams
- 13 May, 6pm to 7pm on Teams

Please email **[fostering@northtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:fostering@northtyneside.gov.uk)** to receive the link for the online meetings.



# Proud to be recognised for our work to end violence against women and girls



**We've been recredited by White Ribbon UK for our commitment to continue working to end gender-based violence in North Tyneside.**

We will listen to and learn from victims, survivors and their children. Be proactive in our communities and seek to change culture through a zero-tolerance approach to inappropriate language and behaviour.

## We will believe you.

That's our message to reassure people that help and support is available for anyone who is experiencing, or at risk of, domestic abuse.

Further information on the support available in North Tyneside can be found at [my.northtyneside.gov.uk/domesticabuse](http://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/domesticabuse).

**If you or someone else is in immediate danger, please dial 999.**

**If you're worried about your safety** contact Harbour [my.harbour.org.uk](http://my.harbour.org.uk) or 0191 251 3305.

**If you're worried about someone else's relationship** such as a family member, friend or colleague, contact Findaway for advice and support [www.wefindaway.org.uk](http://www.wefindaway.org.uk) or 0300 140 0061.

**If you're worried about your behaviour** contact the Respect phoneline [respectphoneline.org.uk](http://respectphoneline.org.uk) or 0808 802 4040.

## New respite flat now open in Wallsend

Carers can plan for social occasions or trips away thanks to the opening of a bespoke respite flat in Wallsend.

The spacious one-bedroom flat can be booked in advance for a weekend or longer stays, providing an alternative to respite in a care home for those over 55 who don't require constant support and supervision.

The flat addresses previous difficulties in booking respite care in advance while offering a balance between privacy and independence and access to care on site.

The newly refurbished apartment has equipment for sensory and mobility needs and includes a self-contained bedroom and an accessible bathroom.

Located within Crossgates Extra Care scheme, those staying in the flat will have the privacy of their own space while benefiting from the care and support on offer.

If you have Adult Social Care support, please contact the team who oversees your care. If you arrange your own care, please contact Age UK North Tyneside.



Scan the QR code to find out more about charges, eligibility and support.



# Free NHS courses for North Tyneside parents

**Becoming a parent is life changing and as the saying goes, fail to prepare, prepare to fail. That's why we provide free access to a wide range of online courses for parents and parents-to-be.**

Evidence-based courses written by the Solihull Approach (NHS) can be done at your leisure and will show you how your child develops through to early adulthood. Some examples include:

## Understanding pregnancy, labour, birth and your baby

For parents, grandparents and carers expecting to welcome a new baby. The course has been designed to include practical information and advice you might expect from a traditional antenatal class plus much more.

## Understanding your child's mental health and wellbeing

Help shape children's mental health and wellbeing. This course will help you connect with them and provide the best support to nurture confidence, resilience and empathy.

## Understanding your child with additional needs

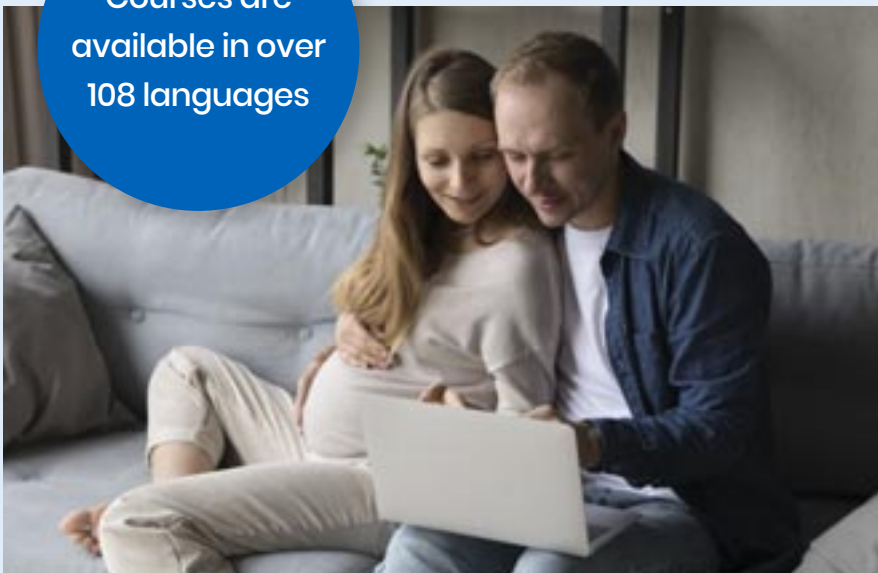
A specialist course for parents, relatives or friends of children with additional needs. It will support you to better understand their world by helping you to read and manage behaviour, develop your communication and support their development.

For more information or to find the full range of courses available, visit [www.inourplace.co.uk](http://www.inourplace.co.uk) and use the access code 'QUADRANT'.

If you're a parent and you need more support, you can find more information on our website by searching '0-19' or 'Family Hubs'.



Courses are available in over 108 languages



# Do you worry about someone else's alcohol or drug use?

**PROPS North East is a specialist family drug and alcohol service providing confidential support for families and friends impacted by someone else's substance misuse.**

PROPS deliver a varied programme of support for adults and young people over the age of 18 in North Tyneside, on a one-to-one basis and in small groups. The service helps children and young people aged five to 18 through its Young Person's project, which offers practical and emotional support to help them cope with difficult situations and behaviours.

The PROPS helpline operates seven days a week from 9am to 9pm and there are drop-in sessions held regularly across the Borough, including in John Willie Sams Centre, the White Swan Centre, The Meadows and Cedarwood Trust in North Shields and Wallsend Community Hub and Library.

For information and support, please contact the PROPS team on 0191 226 3440 or visit [www.props.org.uk](http://www.props.org.uk)





# Free fitness sessions for new parents and mams-to-be!



**Active Mams** provides new parents and carers with the opportunity to exercise with their babies (up to 18 months). The sessions are circuit-based, led by qualified instructors, and are aimed at parents who prefer a more challenging exercise class.

**New class!** Wednesdays, 10.45-11.45am  
West Moor Community Centre, Benton Lane,  
West Moor, NE12 7NP  
Free (with a valid easecard)

**Aqua Mams** is specifically designed for mams-to-be. The free sessions, led by qualified instructors, allow women to be physically active throughout their pregnancy.

Wednesdays, 9.30-10.15am (term time only)  
The Lakeside Centre  
Free (with a valid easecard)

View the full Bump, Birth, Baby timetable at [activenorthtyneside.org.uk/bump-birth-baby](http://activenorthtyneside.org.uk/bump-birth-baby)

**Whatever you're feeling, Kooth is here to help; get free, safe and anonymous support.**



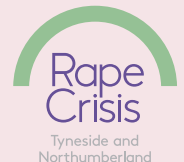
**Young people aged 11 to 25 in North Tyneside can access Kooth for online mental health and wellbeing support, via any internet accessible device.**

Kooth is an **anonymous and confidential** service, that offers counselling, support and advice through drop-in, out-of-hours and structured sessions.

Young people can access **judgement-free** forums to get advice, help others and share their own stories.

All Kooth counsellors are trained, qualified and experienced working with young people. Kooth is available 365 days a year, with interactive counselling available until 10pm every night.

Sign up for free at [www.kooth.com](http://www.kooth.com)



## We will listen and support you

**For women and girls (13 plus) who have experienced sexual violence**

We offer counselling, helpline and email support, group work and practical emotional support in Tyneside and Northumberland

Helpline and email support:  
**0800 035 2794**  
[emailsupport@rctn.org.uk](mailto:emailsupport@rctn.org.uk)

Monday – Thursday  
6pm – 8.30pm

Information or referrals  
**0191 222 0272**  
[rctn.org.uk](http://rctn.org.uk)  
(Online referral form available)



# Promote your group here!

This is space for voluntary or community groups to promote themselves, independent of the Council.

Are you part of a voluntary or community organisation? Would you like to tell North Tyneside residents about your work in this magazine? If so, we'd love to hear from you. Please email [marketing@northtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:marketing@northtyneside.gov.uk) for details.



## Whitley Bay Rotary

Rotary is an international, non-political, humanitarian organisation open to everyone. We meet regularly to enjoy friendship, networking, planning events and projects to benefit the lives of others locally and elsewhere. We have been supporting our community for over 100 years including Woodlawn School, Tea Dance Club, Disability Forum, Bay Foodbank and ShelterBox. Check out the Rotary Wheels installed at the entrances to our town. Interested? Contact us through our website or Facebook.

## Whitley Women Community Choir

Whitley Women Community Choir is for all women who enjoy singing. The choir meets at St Andrew's Church on Wednesday evenings 7 – 9pm or Thursday mornings 10:30am – 12:30pm. We sing and perform a wide range of unaccompanied materials including popular favourites and seasonal pieces. For further information visit [www.whitleywomenchoir.org.uk](http://www.whitleywomenchoir.org.uk), email [whitleywomen@googlemail.com](mailto:whitleywomen@googlemail.com), phone 07542 524345 or just come along to one of the choir sessions.



## Wayward Wind

A peer-led group for saxophone and clarinet players, playing tunes that we like from printed music. All levels welcome. No skill too little or too great!

Linskill Centre, North Shields on Tuesday evenings, 7 – 8:30pm. For further information contact [deb.dovinson@gmail.com](mailto:deb.dovinson@gmail.com).



## St Edwards Fell Walkers

Our walking club is seeking new members and guests. Walks are alternate Saturdays in Northumberland, Durham, Cumbria, Scotland and Yorkshire. There's a choice of five walks to cater for different abilities, between six and 16 miles. You'll need walking boots, waterproofs, rucksack and a packed lunch. The weather can be variable but a warm welcome awaits. We're a friendly club with a lively social life. Coach pick-up points are on our website. For further information contact Membership Secretary Ray Salkeld on 07766 925108.

[www.stedwardsfellwalkers.co.uk](http://www.stedwardsfellwalkers.co.uk)

## Drumbistas

Come and join us and learn some fabulous Brazilian Samba Rhythms. No previous experience needed. We are a lovely friendly, adults-only group and there's tea and biscuits.

It's £3.50 per session and we meet every Tuesday 4pm to 5.30pm at Walkerville Community Centre, 6 Pinewood Close, NE6 4SZ. Please contact Lesley by email: [boothlesleyj@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:boothlesleyj@yahoo.co.uk)





### Spanish City Rollers

Spanish City Rollers is an enthusiastic and vibrant community band based in Whitley Bay. We perform at a wide range of local events throughout North Tyneside and beyond. We're always looking for new members and welcome brass, percussion and woodwind players of all ages and abilities. Interested in joining or booking us? Find us on our Facebook page "Spanish City Rollers" or email [secretary@spanishcityrollersgmcom.com](mailto:secretary@spanishcityrollersgmcom.com).

### Newcastle Welsh Society

Newcastle Welsh Society is a group that unites Welsh people in the North East. We aim to further the spirit of friendship and mutual co-operation among members and to preserve and celebrate the culture, language and traditions of Wales. Almost 120 years old, we have planned events from quiz nights, St David's Day Meal and music nights, as well as social meetings for Welsh sporting events for all to join and enjoy. For more information visit [www.newcastlewelshsociety.co.uk](http://www.newcastlewelshsociety.co.uk), or follow us on Facebook.



### Greenfields Community Hub

Our community hub is a warm and inviting space where everyone is welcome to participate in free group sessions while enjoying a social atmosphere over a cup of tea. We pride ourselves on being friendly and approachable, and in addition to our engaging activities, we offer a well-stocked food bank and a clothes swap shop to support those in need. Join us to connect, share, and make new friends! Contact us for more information by email [community.hub@greenfieldsprimary.org.uk](mailto:community.hub@greenfieldsprimary.org.uk) or phone (0191) 625 0100 / 07802 419043.



### The Shiremoor and District Children's Treat

Many of us from North Tyneside have fond memories of the Shiremoor Treat. As was the mining traditions, thousands, over 100 years later, march behind banners and bands to the Treat field. Everyone still enjoys ice cream, the tea tent, art displays, sports and singing. To keep our heritage alive, and bring joy to young and old, the Treat committee needs help. If you are interested in helping in any small way, please get in touch to find out more by phoning (0191) 251 5577 or 07740 628 321.

### Creative Space North East

Creative Space North East offers a diverse range of creative workshops designed for both adults and children. Whether you're looking to explore creative journaling or creative writing, discover the therapeutic benefits of art, or engage in fun, hands-on crafts, our events provide a welcoming space for all skill levels. Our mission is to create an inclusive environment where participants can explore their artistic side, build confidence, and enjoy the therapeutic effects of creativity. Interested? You can view our social media profiles on Facebook and Instagram or email [creativespacene@gmail.com](mailto:creativespacene@gmail.com) to be added to our event mailing list.



### The Veterans Allotment and Sporting Club

The Veterans Allotment and Sporting Club, in Wallsend, provides a safe and supportive space for veterans and their families. With access to quality fruit and vegetables to provide cost-effective meals, the plot has given these veterans a platform to socialise and move onto the next positive step in their post-service life – combatting the important issue of social isolation and helping to meet their needs. And following the success of the allotment, they have been able to set up a veterans' fishing club with support from Wansbeck Angling Association. With access to green space, the veterans have been able to get some exercise to benefit them both mentally and physically. For more information, please contact [veteransoutdoorclub@gmail.com](mailto:veteransoutdoorclub@gmail.com).





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