

South Tyneside NEWS

Updates from South Tyneside Council and Partners • **March 2024**



South Tyneside Council

Cleadon Hills ponies return



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Spread the word!

**THIS IS
SOUTH
TYNESIDE**

A balan

Every year we deliver more than 700 services to almost 150,000 residents across 73,000 households. Services you see or use every day, paid for by the annual council budget.

Setting a balanced budget is one of the most difficult but important responsibilities we have. The way we allocate and spend the budget is guided by the priorities you helped shape in the borough's 20-year vision and strategic plan. Each year, we weigh up pressures like increased demand for services, inflation, reduced central government funding, and competing commitments, priorities, and ambitions.

Government funding has reduced each year since 2010 and will continue to drop. We've made over £200million in savings since 2010 but the budget pressures are huge. The council cannot run a deficit like other organisations so if we did not increase the amount of money coming into the council, we would simply have to stop providing the services which our communities rely on.

This year we have proposed an increase in council tax of 4.95%, that's made up of a combination of the Government's adult social care levy which is ring-fenced for those services and an increase in council tax and is in line with most local authorities across the country.



Councillor Tracey Dixon, Leader of the Council

We've faced a challenging start to the year with service disruption due to industrial action. However, we have lots to look forward to in 2024.

With Summer round the corner, we will see the return of our fabulous South Tyneside Festival. The event has grown to become one of the biggest and best free festivals in the country, with thousands of visitors from near and far enjoying a packed programme of family friendly events, live music and entertainment.

This summer we are also working with our partners on a series of Pride events that will bring communities together to celebrate diversity in the Borough.

Thank you to everyone who took part in Our Hebburn Conversation. Just like we did in South Shields, we will use views to develop a masterplan for improvements. See page 4 for more details.

We are also developing plans for Jarrow, having secured £20million through the Long Term Plan for Towns funding.

We also welcome the feedback received from all those tenants who have taken part in the test of opinion to return the management of council housing to the council.

Find out more on page 13.

Tracey Dixon

Leader of the Council

ced budget



In addition, Northumbria Police and Tyne & Wear Fire and Rescue Service are responsible for setting the police and fire amounts you pay through your council tax.

Your council tax goes towards providing public services right across South Tyneside. Day in, day out, from the minute you step outside your home, you interact with the services we provide.

We've been improving the way we work and finding new ways to deliver services with our communities. We're ensuring that every single penny spent is value for money.

South Tyneside has been incredibly successful in showing the potential for growth in the borough having secured millions from round three of the levelling up fund, the towns fund and being designated a levelling up partnership area. We will continue to bring in external funding wherever we can.



"Our services protect those in need and support older people, people with disabilities and looked after children in care. The cost of adults and children's social care accounts for 70% of the council's discretionary budget, so balancing the budget and delivering essential services is harder than ever before."

Joanne Bell, Lead Member for Governance, Finance and Corporate Services

Find out more about
South Tyneside Council's budget at
www.southtyneside.gov.uk/councilbudget

Our South Tyneside – a place where people live healthy, happy and fulfilled lives.

To help deliver our South Tyneside vision, we have created five ambitions





Our South Tyneside Conversation



"We have gathered information from local people to help inform a vision masterplan for the town. Engaging our communities is essential in understanding the strengths and potential of the town. We are inspired by ideas submitted and look forward to creating the conditions to bring them to fruition."

Cllr Margaret Meling, Lead Member for Economic Growth and Transport

Let's talk about Hebburn

A huge thank you to everyone who took part in the Hebburn conversation.

984 residents responded to the three surveys helping shape their area for the future.

The eight-week consultation asked people how and why they used Hebburn town centre, riverside and surrounding areas as well as seeking ideas and suggestions for its future.

People were asked what they thought was missing, what the priorities are and what would bring them to the area.

Responses included pop-up stalls, covered walkways, art or sculpture trails, better lighting and security, play areas, family activities and wildlife features were highlighted amongst the ideas.

What's next?

We'll keep residents updated with the results and will use responses to develop a new Hebburn vision masterplan.

Our Hebburn conversation followed last year's South Shields Conversation where responses were used to help develop the South Shields vision masterplan.

A further Conversation for Jarrow is in development, and we look forward to announcing more information shortly.





Artists impression of new college campus

College relocation plans

In December last year, the multi-million-pound college campus and student accommodation was given the green light. Planning permission approved the 14,000 sqm main building, student accommodation block and refurbishment of a listed building on Barrington Street.

South Tyneside College and South Shields Marine School will be relocating from its current Westoe site into the heart of the town centre.

What will the college look like?

The exciting new plans will see the main building accessed on King Street, with a fantastic double-height glass atrium behind the reception entrance. A second entrance will be provided along Barrington Street, linking the building to the main campus, and a refurbished Grade-II-listed building will house part of South Shields Marine School.

An application by Avant Homes to demolish the existing outdated facilities on the current college site at Westoe and build up to 260 homes and the associated infrastructure, was also approved.

The relocation to the centre of South Shields will provide an outstanding programme of education in the latest high-tech facilities.

This will provide opportunities for all South Tyneside residents, and those in the wider region, to further their careers, get into employment, progress in education or simply learn something new.



Artists impression of new college campus

We will keep residents updated as the plans progress. For updates on these exciting plans visit www.southtyneside.gov.uk/regeneration

Coastal pledge

We know that our coastal communities are on the frontline of climate change and we pledged to work with partners and the community to protect habitats and wildlife along our beautiful coastline.

Can you help?

In 2022, we declared an urgent need for ocean recovery through our 'Motion for the Ocean'. The campaign helps highlight the importance of coastal education around issues such as single-use plastics and the impact plastic has on marine life and coastal wildlife.

Residents, businesses, and organisations can make their own pledge to support the coast by choosing from a range of options, including volunteering in beach cleans or coastal projects, supporting campaigns that make coastlines safer such as World Drowning Prevention Day or Float to Live, making lifestyle changes like going plastic free or simply promising to respect the natural environment when visiting the coast.

A national Pledge for the Coast was recently launched in Parliament, and South Tyneside is supporting. We are asking you to pledge one thing that you will do for our coasts.

To make a pledge today or find out more information visit www.lgacoastalsig.com/pledge-for-the-coast



"At a local level, we are already doing a great deal of work that values the marine life, plant species, birds and animals that are native to our coast and, now is the perfect time to build on this work, celebrate and protect our natural environment, improve ecology and biodiversity and strengthen our commitment to safeguarding our coastal communities for the future."

Cllr Ernest Gibson, Lead Member for Neighbourhoods and Climate Change



COAST South Tyneside is a wildlife project created to increase awareness of our coastal habitats and wildlife, and what we can do to help it thrive. Follow along to find out more about the project, upcoming events, and how you can get involved and help!



COAST
SOUTH TYNESIDE



Follow us on Facebook, search Coast South Tyneside



Shelley the Shields fish, named by local pupil, Florence Cave.

See Shelley This Summer

Shelley the Fish is just one of the ways we are encouraging visitors to our coastline to think about coastal protection

During the busy Easter and summer months, we will increase activity to keep beaches clean and litter free. Extra staff will be drafted in and will work into the evening at key locations to keep the area clean and safe for beach and seaside visitors.

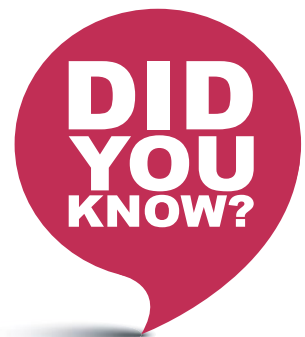
You said: We need more bins at the seafront: **We Did:** We are investing in new litter bins along the seafront. Look out for the new dolphins. We need your support to help keep our beaches safe for visiting families.

Please don't bury disposable BBQs, glass bottles, nappies or any other waste in the sand. BBQs retain their heat for hours afterwards and people could accidentally step on them, causing terrible burns.

Buried glass is not only dangerous for people but it is also harmful to local wildlife. Let's make South Tyneside Seafront a safe and pleasant place to be.



Look out for our 'Don't drop your gum' campaign. Chewing gum can be dangerous for animals and young children. Pop your chewing gum in a litter bin to play your part.



Over the summer period our staff clear beaches of litter and waste every morning and re-visit throughout the day.



South Tyneside Pledge

Since its launch in January 2022, 238 public, private and VCSE organisations have signed up to the South Tyneside Pledge and we know this partnership is making a real difference to South Tyneside.

A survey undertaken by Northumbria University estimates that the Pledge is adding at least £3m a year to our local economy and is helping to boost social infrastructure and collaboration between the public, private and voluntary sector.

By signing the Pledge, organisations are saying that they will do all they can to bring about positive change to help us meet our 20-year vision and ambitions to connect people to jobs, boost health and wellbeing, create strong communities, ensure people are financially secure and target support to make things fairer.

Focusing on nine specific activities, the Pledge asks organisations, or Pledgees, to commit to 'Spend', 'Recruit', and 'Support' South Tyneside.

Impact and Success So Far

Pledgees have and continue to do fantastic work to support local people and places. A recent survey of pledgees in partnership with Northumbria University found the following impacts so far.

- 60% using more local suppliers
- 40% have won more local contracts
- 57% have taken on local people
- 61% have put in place climate change measures
- 55% have volunteered locally
- 45% have provided work experience
- 40% have given school talks/ career advice

The Pledge has also attracted national attention this year, being highlighted as part of the 'Innovation Zone' at the Local Government Association Annual Conference and shortlisted for the national 'Keep it Local' award. Pledgees remain enthusiastic and committed to giving back to their communities.

You can read more about the Pledge, and some of the great work that Pledge organisations are doing across South Tyneside: <https://investsouthtyneside.com/pledge-case-study/>



Staff at Tyneside Home Improvements in Jarrow who have signed the South Tyneside Pledge.



Sign up to The Pledge now:

Organisations, public and private, big, and small, can sign up at any time and become part of the Pledge South Tyneside network at the website below.

DINE LOCAL

Support Local

**We #LoveSouthTyneside.
It's a great place to eat and drink.**

Please keep local businesses in mind and support our wonderful local traders when you are out and about this spring! Don't forget! South Shields Market is held on a Friday and Saturday (9am- 3pm), where you can pick up a good bargain.

Dine local

If you're meeting up with friends or family then stay local and choose South Tyneside as your first choice. From a curry on Ocean Road to afternoon tea in Whitburn, a bistro meal in Cleadon, an Italian in Hebburn or to a cocktail or pint in your nearest town centre bar or pub, there's lots of hidden gems and plenty to choose from.

If you fancy a cosy night in, there are plenty of great local takeaways and hospitality venues who also offer a delivery service.



A recent Government study has shown that for every £10 spent locally, £3.85 is recirculated within the local community, helping recovery across South Tyneside!



Whitburn al fresco drinking



Zeera, South Shields

FREE WIFI



Town Centre

Did you know there is FREE wifi in King Street?

If you're out and about on King Street and Ocean Road, you'll receive a notification that a free Wi-Fi network is available. You'll be greeted with a welcome message and can opt to receive information in one of 34 different languages!

The £50,000 scheme was funded through the Government's Welcome Back Fund, to help high streets to bounce back from the pandemic.



Borrowdale House, South Shields



Supporting People to Live Better Lives

Borrowdale House in South Shields, is for our residents who have been discharged from hospital and need additional support before going back home.

In addition to reablement therapy and assistive technology, residents will also have access to personal care and support to help them recover and regain their independence.

The move is in line with our 'home-first' approach to adult social care following feedback from our residents who said they wanted to live well at home, rather than go into residential care.

We know from similar schemes that when residents are discharged to an enabling environment, they regain the skills needed for independent living far more easily.

To find out more about new schemes visit www.southtyneside.gov.uk/livingbetterlives



Personal Assistant South Tyneside

Want to make a change in career and make a difference to someone's life?

A range of Personal Assistant (PA) job roles are available through our Direct Payments service users.

A Personal Assistant (PA) is someone who can support an older or disabled person to give them more independence and live their life more fully.

The job can be very flexible, offering part or full-time work on different days and at different times so may suit students or retired people wanting to work a few hours a week.

Find out more at www.southtyneside.gov.uk/jobs



"This is about giving people the right support in the right place at the right time which will result in faster hospital discharges and better outcomes all round."

Cllr Ruth Berkley, Lead member for Adults, Health and Independence

Early signs of progress for Children services

Clear progress has been made to raise standards for children in South Tyneside as we continue our improvement journey following the first monitoring visit by Ofsted. In their letter inspectors note “early progress” has been made to strengthen the infrastructure necessary to support service improvement for the children of South Tyneside.

Although there is still some way to go, inspectors noted the implementation of “a strengthened and more robust” approach to understanding the quality of services for children. Although developments are in the early stages, they are starting to be embedded. Inspectors noted the drive and determination within South Tyneside to improve services for children and their families. This includes additional investment to increase both the social work workforce and management capacity.

In the latest DfE review (October 2023) it was noted that: “Feedback from front line social workers and managers was overwhelmingly positive. Of particular note was their commitment and loyalty to South Tyneside and determination to see services improve. Staff feel supported and invested in. There is a clear culture of learning and support which is evidently valued by staff.”

Work has been carried out to increase the number of places for looked-after children. Construction is underway on new children’s homes which will almost triple the number of places for children in care. Fees for foster carers have been increased to encourage more people to consider taking on this rewarding role.

We will keep you updated on our improvement journey.



“While it will take time to realise all the improvements required in Children’s Services, it is clear that we are moving in the right direction.

The latest monitoring visit by Ofsted highlighted positive progress.”

Councillor Adam Ellison, Lead Member for Children's and Families Social Care



JOIN OUR TEAM!

Are you a qualified or graduate social worker? Join our team and make a difference.

In South Tyneside our children and families are at the forefront of everything we do. We take pride in our social work teams, where staff are valued and supported and where we work together to drive our vision forward.

South Tyneside offers great benefits, tailored training and a great work/life balance.

Find out more www.southtyneside.gov.uk/jobs

Spread the word!

THIS IS SOUTH TYNESIDE



Foster *with* NORTH EAST

FOSTER IN
SOUTH
TYNESIDE

Emma Robinson

Fostering with us

Foster carer Emma Robinson followed in her parents' footsteps 19 years ago when she first decided to foster.

"The fact that my parents fostered definitely inspired me to go into fostering," she said.

"A lot of children don't see the help they can give to other kids. The rewards of fostering far outweigh the troubled times and I know I have enriched my own children's lives by fostering."

Emma's sister Claire and their cousin, Paul and his wife Paula, are also foster carers with South Tyneside therefore, Emma comes from a fostering family herself. Emma is able to recall the benefits to her growing up in a fostering household and was keen for her own children to experience this.

Emma and her husband Greg were part of the first Mockingbird model of foster care in South Tyneside which uses the concept of the extended family to provide additional structure and support for both carers and children.

Since the launch of Mockingbird in 2021, South Tyneside has steadily and successfully grown its number of constellations to four, with a fifth due to launch in April 2024.

"The Mockingbird model is just fantastic in that it provides a wall of support, it's just phenomenal."

"The support from the fostering team has always been outstanding but Mockingbird means that there are always people around who understand the issues you are facing and can offer advice."

"For anyone thinking about fostering, I would say now is the time to find out more because the level of support is just so fantastic."

Emma Robinson

Find out more about fostering with us

Call 0800 917 7771

Enquire online at www.fosterwithnortheast.org.uk

Keep in touch with us!

Did you know South Tyneside Homes are on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter? Follow us on social to stay up to date with service changes and latest news!

 /stynesidehomes

 @stynesidehomes

 @southtynesidehomes



“The social housing sector is operating in a new landscape, with increased scrutiny, significant regulatory change and the implementation of a new inspection regime.

The review has given us the opportunity to evaluate our council housing services and identify improvements that will make a difference to tenants.”

Councillor Jim Foreman
Housing and Community Safety



Management of Council Houses

**NEW
UPDATE**

We’d like to thank everyone who is taking part in the consultation about the future of council housing in South Tyneside. Ballot papers were sent to tenants in February with information on how to have your say.

Tenants and leaseholders were invited to give their views after Cabinet took a ‘minded to’ decision in December to bring the delivery of housing services back in-house, following an independent review of council housing.

We believe bringing services back under council control will help improve communication, value for money and enable us to invest more in the quality of your homes.

This is a really exciting time for council housing in South Tyneside and we are looking forward to working with tenants to shape services going forward.

How we let and manage our homes is open to greater scrutiny than before, so it is important that we listen and make changes when needed.

The Regulator of Social Housing is changing the rules about the homes and services tenants can expect from landlords. They are introducing four new consumer standards: The Safety and Quality Standard; The Transparency, Influence and Accountability Standard; The Neighbourhood and Community Standard and The Tenancy Standard.

Our homes must meet the standards required so we need to make sure that we use every penny collected in rent effectively.

Housing is about so much more than bricks and mortar and we want to deliver a ‘whole housing system’ approach which focuses on early intervention and prevention and ensures residents get any necessary support from other parts of the council.

Armed Forces Gold Support



DID YOU KNOW?

Five years ago we were named by the Ministry of Defence as a Gold Award holder in Its Employer Recognition Scheme. This was for our working practices as well as our work as an advocate for the Armed Forces. In January 2024 we were revalidated as a Gold Award Holder.

What's happening in South Tyneside?

Much work has taken place in the last five years to enhance the support offered to past and present military personnel. This includes social prescribing with health partners as part of the 'Forces for Change' programme, the development of an Armed Forces Action Plan and a new employee network to discuss work-related issues facing those in the Armed Forces community.



"I am absolutely thrilled that the Ministry of Defence has recognised us as an organisation which not only continues to demonstrate its willingness to go above and beyond for our Armed Forces community, but one that also inspires other organisations to do likewise."

Cllr Paul Dean, Lead Member for the Voluntary Sector, Partnerships and Equalities

Apply for an Armed Forces Veteran Card

An Armed Forces Veteran Card is a way to prove that you served in the UK armed forces. The card can make it quicker and easier to apply for support as a veteran.

It's free to apply if you served in the regulars or reserves for the Royal Navy, Army, Royal Air Force (RAF), Royal Marines.

If you served in another group in the UK armed forces, you may still be able to get a card. You can check when you apply online or when you call to request a postal form.

Find out more at www.gov.uk/veteran-card
Call: 0808 1914 218 Mon- Fri, 8am to 4pm



What support does South Tyneside offer?

www.southtyneside.gov.uk/armedforces

Our website contains information about where and how to access advice and practical support as well as information on services relating to employment, housing, money and welfare, mental health, drugs and alcohol.

We also have a dedicated support officer, Lee Moore who provides help to those who served in the forces, from adapting to an independent way of life to a wide range of ongoing support.

If you are ex forces, contact Lee on:

Email: lee.moore@southtynesidehomes.org.uk

Call: 0191 426 8332



Lee Moore, Armed Forces Support Officer

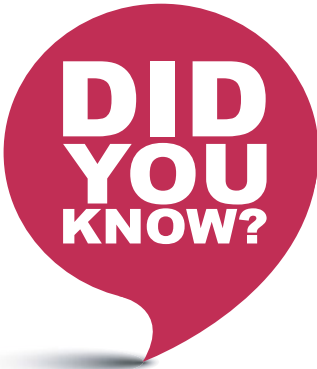




Can our Welfare Support team help you?

Our Welfare Support team is the first point of contact for money advice in South Tyneside. They can provide debt, benefit and money advice on the phone, in your local area or if necessary, in your home.


No matter what your age, our team can help support you with benefit applications, appeals and tribunals and debt advice, including bankruptcy and debt relief orders.



Welfare support helped residents achieve millions in “financial gains” including debts being written-off, new benefits being claimed that were not being claimed previously and funds being reclaimed after the Department for Work and Pensions stopped benefits.

Case study:

Client B aged 76 and her husband aged 78, were referred to Welfare Support by South Tyneside Homes Income Team in May 2023. After having a quick chat, the team made Attendance Allowance applications for both client and husband.



Both applications were successful, leading to two claims for Carer’s Allowance, along with new claims for Pension Credit. The couple’s housing benefit and council tax support was also increased as a result of their Attendance Allowance claims. These additional benefits meant the client’s rent account was refunded by over £700.



How can I contact the team?
The service is free, impartial and confidential.
Phone: 0191 424 6040
Email: welfaresupport@southtynesidehomes.org.uk
www.southtyneside.gov.uk/welfaresupport



WASTE AND RECYCLING

We apologise for the inconvenience caused by disruption to waste collections and would like to thank residents for their patience and understanding.

Visit www.southtyneside.gov.uk/waste or check out our social media channels for bin collection updates.



RECYCLING VILLAGE

Extra slots added

Did you know the Recycling Village is open every day (except Christmas Day). To book your slot visit www.southtyneside.gov.uk/recyclingvillage or call 0191 427 7000.

GARDEN WASTE 2024

Subscribe now for 2024!



For more information and to subscribe visit:

www.southtyneside.gov.uk/greenwaste

Be the change you want to see

This campaign is funded by UK Government

Make a difference

Work for your local council

Search South Tyneside Council vacancies at:

northeastjobs.org.uk



FOR *every* FAMILY

SOUTH TYNESIDE FAMILY HUBS



Family support in South Tyneside

South Tyneside Family Hubs offer welcoming and friendly places where all children, young people, parents/carers can access support, information and help.

We work in partnership to bring together a wide range of services including:

- free activities for children and young people
- parenting support
- relationship programmes
- infant feeding support
- weekly groups
- mental health support
- early language support

Family Hubs also offer online and virtual services and sessions, so that support can be as accessible as possible for everyone. Services start from pregnancy through to your child(ren) reaches 19 years and up to 25 years for young people with additional needs.

Where is my nearest Family Hub?

Twelve Family Hubs are located across South Tyneside:

- Jarrow
- Marine Park
- Horsley Hill
- All Saints
- Ridgeway
- Whitburn & Marsden
- Biddick Hall & Whiteleas
- Boldon
- Bede
- Primrose
- Hebburn
- Riverside

What's On?

- Learning to Play
- Williby's Roc's
- Kalma Yoga
- Science Buddies
- Baby Explorers
- Learning with Play SEND
- First Words Together
- Baby Massage
- Breastfeeding support & much more!

Find out What's On in South Tyneside at www.southtyneside.gov.uk/whatson
Follow us on Facebook  www.facebook.com/southtynesidefamilyhubs

South Tyneside Works

Unlock your potential

A new service has been launched by our South Tyneside Works team. The service supports residents with health conditions and disabilities to access education, employment and training.

Our specialist staff and training providers are ready to talk to you to help you get on track, no matter what your needs and goals are. Whether you're taking the first steps on your career path or getting back to work after a break of learning.

Paula Oliver, Job Coach said:

“Support available from South Tyneside Works is tailored to the needs of the individual and includes activities that will develop essential skills needed to succeed in the workplace. Some of that support includes CV development and cover letters, interview preparation, travel training, signposting for specialist support, wellbeing, confidence and emotional resilience, work placements, vocational qualifications and supported job search.

Our aim is to support with the smoothest transition into employment, with our supporting continuing once you're in work to ensure you're best supported to succeed and sustain work.”



Paula Oliver, Jobs Coach

Find out more by contacting:
SouthTynesideWorks@southtyneside.gov.uk



Find Your Future

South Tyneside Works delivers a range of courses to help you get into work, change career path and improve your skills.

We offer over 250 courses to help you to help you get into work, change career path and improve your skills, offering you the best chance of finding employment. Courses range from engineering and manufacturing to health and social care as well as business administration, retail and customer services - our courses will also help you gain essential English and maths skills needed for work.

The service provides support whatever your situation.

www.southtynesideworks.com



“We want all our residents to be connected to jobs, skills and learning.”

Jane Carter, Lead Member for Education and Skills



NORTH EAST DEVOLUTION

There are big changes for the North East this year after a historic devolution deal was signed with government.

The deal – which could be worth up to £4.2bn over 30 years – means decisions normally taken in London will be made here in the North East. This includes important decisions on things like transport, skills, housing and regeneration.

The deal covers the seven council areas of **County Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside and Sunderland.**

But there's no change to the way your local council operates - this is about extra funding and powers across the whole area.

THE DEAL INCLUDES:

- **An investment fund of £1.4bn, or £48m a year**, to support inclusive economic growth and support our regeneration priorities
- **An indicative budget of around £1.8bn, or £60m a year**, for adult education and skills – to meet local skills priorities and improve opportunities for residents
- **A £900m package of investment to transform our transport system**, with £563m from the City Regional Sustainable Transport Fund, on top of funding already announced for our buses and metro system
- **£69m of investment in housing and regeneration**, unlocking sites to bring forward new housing and commercial development

USE YOUR VOTE

A statutory order has been laid before Parliament.

Once the order is approved, there will be an election for a North East Mayor on **May 2**.

The Mayor will lead a new combined authority and work with the councils for the next four years to champion the North East to the UK and the world.

That's why your vote is important. You'll be seeing and hearing more about the forthcoming mayoral election between now and May as well as getting information through your door.

Find out more at www.devolutionnortheast.com

Community Health Outreach Programme

Would you like a free health check without having to wait for a GP appointment?

There is a new community health service available in South Tyneside that is free and easy for you to access. The service is there to provide you with some helpful advice about staying healthy. The health check can tell whether you're at higher risk of getting certain health problems, such as diabetes, heart disease or a stroke. The team will also be able to help you with anything that may be affecting your wellbeing, and they direct you to specialist services.

Most importantly, you can access this service in your local community whether that be at your local church, community centre or library. Search for **South Tyneside Health Collaboration** on Facebook and Instagram for the latest updates. You can also contact the team on **0191 283 2504** or by emailing nencicb-styn.healthandwellbeing@nhs.net



Become an a better u Champion

Would you like to help your friends, family, colleagues and local community to become a better u?

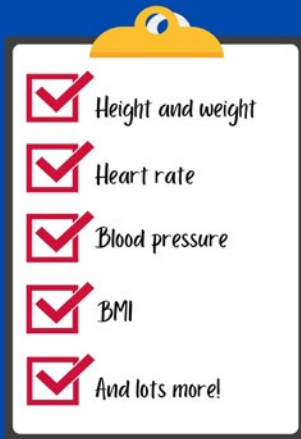
Can you share key advice and information to help people to improve their health, wellbeing and happiness? Could you help us reach people who may not be able to find the right advice themselves? We'd love you to join our champions team and help to improve the health and wellbeing of South Tyneside.

The a better u Health and Wellbeing Community Champions are a group of volunteers who live or work in South Tyneside. They help others stay up-to-date with the latest health and wellbeing advice. They talk to people about the help and support that is available to them in South Tyneside and how to find it. They do this by sharing information with family, friends and colleagues. They also attend events to help share information to community groups and members of the public.

Find out more about a better u and how to become a better u champion at www.southtyneside.gov.uk/abetteru



Invest in *your* health.
Get a free mini health check.

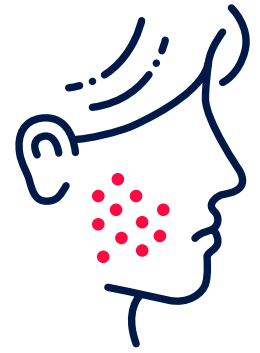


Find out how to reduce your risk of illnesses such as cancer and diabetes with our community based service. No appointment needed!

For more information please email: nencicb-styn.healthandwellbeing@nhs.net



Measles cases are rising in England



It is very important that all children get their routine vaccinations at the right time to give them the best start in life.

Cases of Measles are rising in England and across Europe. Most of these are in London but all regions in England have measles cases.

Measles can infect **9 out of 10** unvaccinated children exposed to it. Measles can make children seriously unwell, with one in five needing a hospital visit. Measles usually starts with cold-like symptoms, followed by a rash a few days later. Some people may also get small spots in their mouth.

FIRST SYMPTOMS, BEFORE THE RASH APPEARS INCLUDE:

- ✓ a high temperature
- ✓ a cough
- ✓ a runny or blocked nose
- ✓ red, sore, watery eyes
- ✓ sneezing

There is no medical treatment for measles – vaccination is the best protection against becoming seriously unwell.

The MMR vaccine is the safest and most effective way to protect children against measles, mumps and rubella. One in 10 children under the age of 5 in England haven't had one or both of their MMR vaccines which means that cases could lead to outbreaks.

Parents and guardians are being encouraged to check if their children are up to date with their vaccines by checking their Red Book (personal child health record). If they're not – it's never too late to catch up, just call your GP Practice to make an appointment.

The same applies for adults, it's never too late to get the MMR vaccination. Contact your GP practice to make an appointment. **Find out more at [nhs.uk/MMR](https://www.nhs.uk/MMR)**



Don't let Measles, Mumps and Rubella into your child's world

Protect your child with both doses of the MMR vaccine. Book with your GP or find out more at [nhs.uk/MMR](https://www.nhs.uk/MMR)



Celebrating Civic Pride in South Tyneside

The Mayor of South Tyneside, Councillor John McCabe and his wife Julie, the Mayoress, continue to enjoy a busy year of key events and engagements while promoting civic pride and raising money for the Mayor's Charity.



“ *As the Mayoress and I reflect on our time in office to date, we've had an incredible experience and continue to meet so many amazing people.*

“We are extremely proud to represent our wonderful Borough and look forward to many more occasions where we get to see firsthand some of the fantastic work going on in communities across South Tyneside, while giving our chosen charities a welcome boost.

We thank everyone for their ongoing support. ”

Key

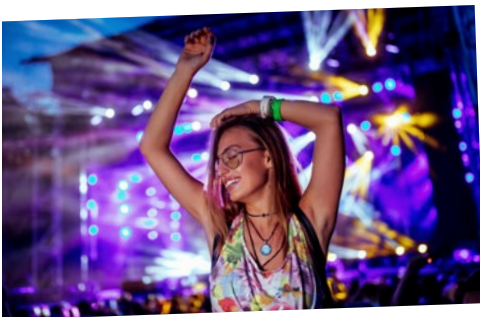
- 1 Meeting volunteers at Grace Place Café, Denmark Centre.
- 2 Unveiling a Blue Plaque to Sir John Jarvis.
- 3 Helping to launch the South Shields Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.
- 4 Pictured with the winners of the Festive Market stall competition.
- 5 Marking Remembrance.
- 6 South Shields Christmas lights switch on.
- 7 Mayor presents South Tyneside Council employees with Long Service awards.
- 8 Reopening of Boldon Village Hall with England Lioness Jill Scott.



**THIS IS
SOUTH
TYNESIDE**

SUMMER 24

**Our fantastic three-month summer programme is returning.
Live music, parade, proms in the park and guaranteed fun.**



**SAVE
THE
DATE**



“Every year we are delighted to announce fantastic performers and a packed programme of events. The programme offers something for everyone in South Tyneside and this year could be our best one yet.”

Cllr Audrey Huntley, Lead Member for Culture, Leisure and Visitor Economy

LIVE MUSIC AT THE AMPHITHEATRE

every Thursday and Saturday during June

PARADE TO THE BENTS PARK 6th July

PROMS IN THE PARK 7th July

SUNDAY CONCERTS in July

PARKS PROGRAMME during August

KIDS FEST AT THE AMPHITHEATRE

every Tuesday and Thursday throughout August

BRASS BANDS every Sunday in June, July and August

**We'll be announcing shortly all of our acts!
Keep checking our website and social media channels.**

www.visitsouthtyneside.co.uk

**Details correct at time of going to print.*



EXPLORE

SOUTH TYNESIDE

Have you discovered South Tyneside? Our borough is full of fantastic attractions.



Souter Lighthouse and The Leas

Souter Lighthouse, with its dramatic red and white hoops, is an iconic landmark on the North East coast and the first in the world to be purpose built for electricity.

You can experience what life was like for the Lighthouse Keeper, with a reconstructed Victorian Keepers cottage and many hands on activities. There's a fun activity trail, along with some fantastic regular events such as craft activities and rockpool rambles. Visitors can still see the machinery, which remains in working order, and of course climb the 76 steps to the top of the tower

Marsden Bay and Whitburn Village are only 5 minutes away and definitely worth a visit.

Find out what's on this Easter and summer at www.nationaltrust.org.uk

Arbeia Roman Fort

Reopens on Monday 25 March 2024!

Just a five minute walk from South Shields Seafront is Arbeia Roman Fort, the most extensively excavated Roman military supply base in the Empire.

It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site with the finest full-scale Roman reconstructions in the country and showcases some of the most significant finds from that time. In fact, it is one of only a few places in the country where you can see brought-to-life Roman buildings.

Climb the reconstructed West Gate, find out how the soldiers lived in their barracks and explore the much more luxurious home of the Commander.

Some of the impressive finds that have been found along Hadrian's Wall can be viewed in Arbeia's museum and with regular excavations taking place who knows what you may witness yourself!

Find out what's happening at www.arbeiaromanfort.org.uk



Jarrow Hall

Anglo-Saxon inspired farm and village

Home to curly-coated pigs, Dexter bullocks, sheep, goats, ducks, chickens and more, this 11-acre site houses rare breeds which are the closest possible representatives of the animals that would have been present 1300 years ago. As well as the animals you can see replica buildings based on structures excavated within Anglo-Saxon Northumbria.



Jarrow Hall House

It is home to a lovely cafe on the ground floor, the Hive Coffee Company. Endeavouring to use as much local and healthy produce as possible, visitors can look forward to a range of wholesome foods with dishes prepared fresh on site daily. To the south of Jarrow Hall is Drewetts Park, with a fun outdoor play area and a grassy field for the kids to run around in.



Bede Museum

The museum tells the story of the Venerable Bede and his time, from the beginnings of the Anglo-Saxon period through Bede's life, death and extraordinary legacy.

Widely regarded as the 'father of English history', Bede was an author, scholar, skilled linguist and translator who also composed works on astronomical timekeeping and the motions of the sun, Earth and Moon.

Find out what's on at www.jarrowhall.com

The Customs House

Plays, panto and popcorn!

The Customs House is at the heart of South Tyneside. It's known for its Christmas panto but did you know it offers a year round programme of live theatre events covering everything from drama to comedy, music and dance to pantomimes and plays - there's always an exciting range of entertainment on offer!

Great value cinema

Movie lovers can benefit from great value offers whether they want to see the latest blockbuster or classic films from the archive.

Find out more at www.customshouse.co.uk



Ocean Beach Pleasure Park

Open Monday – Sunday with over 40 rides and attractions, arcades, game stalls and more! There is something for everyone to enjoy. If you haven't found your favourite ride – pop down and make some memories this Easter and summer

Find out more at www.oceanbeach.co.uk



NEW EXHIBITIONS AT THE WORD



Some of the world's ancient, modern and natural wonders have been recreated with half a million LEGO® bricks as part of an exhibition at The Word.

Brick Wonders, created by Warren Elmore, features recreations of breath-taking sights and structures from the ancient, historic, natural and modern world from across all seven continents.

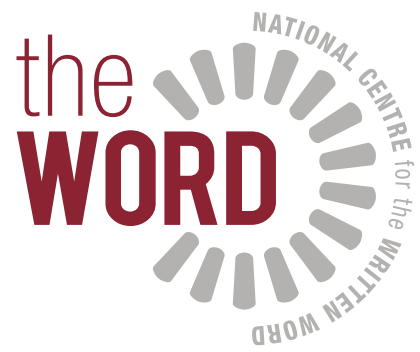
Highlights of the exhibition include LEGO® brick recreations of The Great Barrier Reef and The International Space Station, with fantastic photo opportunities.

Visitors can also step into the Brick Workshop area outside the exhibition space where they can get creative building their own LEGO® brick models.

LITTLE LANDMARKS

Little Landmarks, in the smaller exhibition space, features a selection of South Shields buildings recreated in LEGO®.

Created by Bricks McGee, this installation was originally on display in South Shields Museum in 2017.



Both exhibitions are free to enjoy
Open until Sunday 14 April



WHAT'S ON AT THE WORD

www.theworduk.org



/worduk



@theword_uk

SPRING
WRITE
FESTIVAL
Be inspired by words

SATURDAY 20 – 27 APRIL

**EVENTS AT THE WORD AND
ACROSS SOUTH TYNESIDE LIBRARIES**

Spring into writing, poetry, murder mystery and much more at this week-long festival. The Spring WRITE Festival will give you a flavour of what's to come at WRITE Festival 2024 which takes place throughout September.





SELF-NEGLECT DON'T WALK AWAY, WALK ALONGSIDE.

If you think someone who has care and support needs is being abused or you think their safety is at risk, then it is important to report your concerns to us.

Please don't assume that somebody else will recognise and report what you have seen or heard.



What is self-neglect?

Have you noticed a relative, friend, neighbour, or community members who may be experiencing any of the following:

- Deteriorating presentation or unkempt appearance
- Not caring for their personal hygiene
- Not buying gas or electric tokens
- Malnourishment / excessive weight gain and obesity
- Self harm
- Using substances or alcohol excessively to cope
- Not collecting prescriptions
- Lack of support, lives alone with no family or friends

Things you can do to help:

- Start a conversation
- How are you coping at the moment?
- Find out who visits them and how often
- Do they need any help when things get difficult?
- Are they going out much?
- Listen and show you care



Contact

If you are worried about an adult, please call us on **0191 424 6000** (during normal office hours Mon – Thurs 8.30am – 5pm, or Friday 8.30 - 4.30pm) Or **0191 456 2093** (Evenings, Weekends and Bank Holidays.)

If the person is in immediate danger call the Police on **999**.

#LoveSouthTyneside



Be inspired by Plinth

Inspire South Tyneside, the umbrella body for the voluntary sector, is excited to launch 'plinth'. Plinth is a community engagement platform for the voluntary sector.

Inspire
South Tyneside
Working together to improve communities

Our voluntary organisations in South Tyneside do amazing work and connect with thousands of residents. Plinth puts all their work in one – free to access – place.

Voluntary sector organisations can promote their services and activities and residents can not only search what's on near them, but they can also book directly onto an activity.

There are huge benefits for the voluntary sector and residents using plinth. Voluntary sector organisations can reach more people living across South Tyneside and residents can connect into local groups – trying out new activities, joining new clubs

Plinth also acts as central hub for volunteering – residents can browse through volunteering opportunities and apply directly through the platform.

If you're a VCSE organisation and want to hear more about plinth, please contact **Sadie.harrison@inspiresouthtyneside.co.uk** or call **0191 456 9551**.

If you aren't sure about creating your own Plinth account, Sadie at Inspire can support you to connect to a 'South Tyneside community page', as well as offering a host of other support. **If you're resident – take a look at www.plinth.org.uk**

DO YOU STRUGGLE WITH FITNESS AND CHILDCARE?

'Fitness and Play' Where childcare's no issue!

Babies from 6 weeks to toddlers and beyond. Venues across South Tyneside and funding available for free spaces, there's nothing stopping you from starting your fitness journey.

Contact Shirley at Family Fitness and Food CIC, **07825 338715**.





Celebrating five years of Boldon and Cleadon Community Library

The volunteer run library celebrated five years in November 2023!

Not only does the community library offer library services to Boldon and Cleadon – they also offer weekly drop in's, a monthly Memory Café, quiz night, singing group, bingo, line dancing, children's activities, seasonal Fayres and a full programme of monthly quizzes and even evening lectures!

Pop across to the website or drop-in and find out what's happening. The community library offers something for everyone – no matter your age or interest.

A huge thank you to all of the fantastic volunteers and supporters. Find out more at www.thelibrary.uk.com

Local success on the world stage

A special congratulations to Brett Arkley, Tony Humphries, Alex Brydon and Alan Theobald winning Gold in the Mens Senior 4s and Bronze in the Mixed 4s.

Bowls Cyprus organised the very first Atlantic Senior Fours 2023 Championships. Countries involved Cyprus, Czech Republic, England, Guernsey, Jersey, Norfolk Island, Scotland, South Africa, Switzerland, USA, Wales and Zimbabwe.

Two teams were invited to represent Bowls England. Brett Arkley, Tony Humphries, Alex Brydon and Alan Theobald who play from Jarrow West Park. They are all members of the Jarrow Borough Bowling Club. The team became the first of the Atlantic Senior Fours 2023 to win the Gold Medal.

This is a great accolade to the talent that abounds amongst the local outdoor bowling clubs at Jarrow West Park and the surrounding area.

Find out more about the club and bowling at <https://jwebc.co.uk>

**FREE WALKING
CRICKET SESSIONS**
TEMPLE PARK, SOUTH SHIELDS
MONDAYS 10AM - 11AM
WEDNESDAYS 7PM - 8PM

Sign up by emailing
barry.mcgeachy@durhamcricket.co.uk



GET INVOLVED

If you want to find out how you can #lovesouthtyneside, get involved in volunteer opportunities or promote and improve your local area, visit www.lovesouthtyneside.co.uk or follow us on:



@LoveSTyneside



@LoveSTyneside

Lighter Night Activities

As the lighter nights approach, the Council and our partners have a range of schemes to tackle anti-social behaviour.



As the lighter nights approach, alongside our partners are offering a range of voluntary youth clubs to engage with young people.

Our service gives young people a chance to get involved in exciting youth projects across South Tyneside.

These activities allow young people to:

- Access creative and sporting activities
- Engage with informal education
- Take part in social action/community projects
- Go on trips (including residential trips)
- Develop personal, social and emotional skills
- Relax and have fun

As the lighter nights approach our Youth Service team will be delivering a range of diversionary activities for young people. This includes football tournaments, climbing sessions and other fun and engaging activities. Our teams offer youth club activities to home schooled and after school clubs.

contact

📞 | 0191 424 0118 | ✉ | youthservice@southtyneside.gov.uk

📷 | [stc_youthservice](#) | 📘 | South Tyneside Youth Service



Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour

Anti-social behaviour is behaviour by a person which causes or is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more people.

Anti-social behaviour can include a wide range of issues such as noise nuisance, drunkenness, dealing or taking drugs, graffiti, damage to property and the environment, flytipping and harassment.

We work closely with other services including Northumbria Police, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service as well as South Tyneside Homes. Our aim is to reduce crime and the fear of crime, sharing information and taking co-ordinated action against anti-social behaviour.



To report anti-social behaviour:

📞 | 0300 123 6633

✉ | asb@southtynesidehomes.org.uk

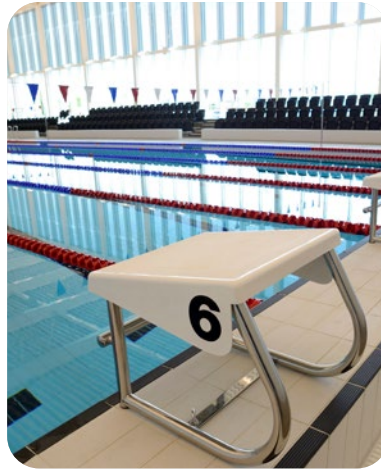
🔍 | www.southtyneside.gov.uk/reportit

If the anti-social behaviour you are experiencing is of a criminal nature it needs to be reported to Northumbria Police directly.

This can be done by calling their 101 number or by using their online reporting tool. In case of an emergency call 999.



get active...



Apply for a leisure membership today

Become a member of South Tyneside Council's Leisure Facilities to get fit and active in time for summer.

Our membership gives you unlimited access to premier facilities including six pools, five gyms, three saunas, two steam rooms and over 230 classes per week.



Becoming a member couldn't be easier. With no joining fee and prices from £20.50 per month, there is no better time to get active and feel great. If you don't want to commit to a monthly payment, you can purchase a Get Active discount card and enjoy access to reduced rates on activities every time you visit. www.southtyneside.gov.uk/leisure

Download the mobile app

Download the 'STC Leisure' mobile app, where you are able to:

- Book fitness classes, gym inductions and sports facilities
- Amend your bookings
- Access your digital membership card
- Update personal information
- Keep up to date with the latest leisure news

The app is available to download from the Google Play Store and the Apple App Store – simply search for 'STC Leisure' and download the app with the blue 'Get Active' icon. You can also download the app by scanning the QR code



If you need help downloading the phone app or registering for online services, please speak to a member of staff at one of the leisure centres who will be happy to help.

COMBINED ELECTIONS

YOUR FUTURE
YOUR VOTE
YOUR CHOICE

Thursday 2 May 2024

Are you registered?

You can register to vote if you are a resident in the UK and aged 16 or over (but you will not be able to vote until you are 18). The last day to apply to register to vote is **Tuesday 16 April 2024**.

You can register to vote online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote or call our Customer Contact Centre on **0191 427 7000** (Mon-Fri 8am to 6.30pm).

Voting in a polling station

Polling stations are open between **7am and 10pm on Thursday 2 May**.

You will need to take photo ID with you to vote at a polling station. A wide range of photo ID will be accepted, including passports, driving licences and cards with a PASS Mark. Expired ID can still be accepted, as long as the photo still looks like you.

For more information and to check if your ID will be accepted go to www.electoralcommission.org.uk

If you don't have an accepted form of photo ID, or your photo ID no longer looks like you, you can apply for a free voter ID document, known as a Voter Authority Certificate.

You can apply for this online at www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate.

The deadline for applications is 5pm on **Wednesday 24 April 2024**.

Voting by Post

Anyone who does not want to show photo ID, or can't get to the polling station, may prefer to vote by post.

You can apply online at www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote before the deadline of 5pm on **Wednesday 17 April 2024**.

For more information

Visit www.southtyneside.gov.uk/elections or call our Customer Contact Centre on **0191 427 7000** (Mon-Fri 8am to 6.30pm).

#DigitalSwitchover

Our old telephone lines are being replaced with a digital network. This means a more reliable, future proof service that will support the UK and its residents for years to come.

Search **UK Digital Switch**, visit www.gov.uk, or contact your telecoms provider for more information.

Local
Government
Association

Are you ready for the
#DigitalSwitchover?

Find out what you
and your family
need to do so
you're not affected.

If you know someone who lives in South Tyneside who has not received the newsletter by **11 March 2024**, or if you would like to provide feedback or comments, call **0191 427 7000** or email communciations@southtyneside.gov.uk
If you would like the newsletter in a different format or language we can arrange this for you.

If you would like to receive newsletters from South Tyneside Council visit www.southtyneside.gov.uk/email

This issue includes information from South Tyneside Homes, if you have any queries please call **0300 123 6633** or visit www.southtynesidehomes.org.uk