

South Tyneside NEWS

Updates from South Tyneside Council and Partners • **March 2023**



South Tyneside Council

Year of the Coast!



INSIDE



5

Our Conversation Update
The masterplan update



28-31

What's On Find out what's
happening in South Tyneside



30-31

Libraries
Groups and activities



Spread the word!

**THIS IS
SOUTH
TYNESIDE**



Councillor Tracey Dixon, Leader of the Council

Day in, day out, you interact with the services we provide

The roads you travel on, the paths you walk on, the lamps that light up our streets, the parks, beaches, or open spaces you might visit, and many more. From the minute you step outside your home council services and the people who provide them are doing all they can to help you live a happy, healthy, and fulfilled life.

Your council provides a wide range of services for around 150,000 people in South Tyneside whilst tackling some of the biggest and most fundamental issues in society and providing a safety net for those who need it most. We are here to support through hardship and crisis whilst still providing the vital services that you rely on like bin collections, customer services, leisure services, children's and adult social care and much more.

The North East devolution deal provides us with a unique opportunity to bring billions of pounds of investment into the region. And we are engaging with people to move to the next stage.

Tracey Dixon

North East Devolution Consultation Launched

People across the north east are being asked for their views following the announcement of a £4.2 billion devolution deal.



What is devolution?

Devolution is about taking decisions as near as possible to where they will have an impact. As an example, it makes most sense for the Government in London to take decisions about defence but your local council will decide when your bins will be emptied. At the moment, a large proportion of decisions about what happens in the North East is taken by the Government and its departments. Through a process known as 'devolution deals' the Government is giving areas more powers to make their own decisions on issues such as transport, skills and support for business.

What is a devolution deal?

A devolution deal is a way groups of councils agree with Government to take greater control over funding for their area and take more major decisions, currently taken in London, locally.

How will it work?

The seven local authorities already work closely with each other, with two combined authorities currently existing in the area, namely the North East Combined Authority (NECA) and North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA). This devolution deal represents the next step forward in that partnership working. The biggest change will be the creation of a directly-elected Mayor for the entire region, who will take decisions with the local authorities within the new combined authority for the North East.



Consultation Information

A public consultation is now underway to give residents across the region a chance to understand how the proposed devolution deal from government could be implemented and have their say.

The consultation considers the proposed scheme – the document that sets out how devolution would be implemented – and will run until Thursday 23 March.

The deal would see significant powers transferred to the north east from central government.

Residents, businesses and other stakeholders can give their feedback online or by attending a number of face-to-face and virtual events taking place across the north east.

Following extensive negotiations, the Government announced in December a devolution deal for the local authority areas of County Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside and Sunderland.

The cabinets of the seven local authorities have now agreed the terms and process for the devolution deal and have approved the next stage of the plans, which include a public consultation.

A mayoral election is expected to take place in May 2024 and a new combined authority would be created, while the existing North of Tyne Combined Authority and North East Combined Authority would cease to operate.

The deal offers a potential £4.2bn of investment into the region, made up of elements including:

- 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



It is expected to create 24,000 extra jobs, deliver 70,000 courses per year to give people the skills to get good jobs, and leverage £5.0 billion of private sector investment.

Once established, the new authority, covering an area which is home to around 2 million people, will have the power to make decisions on areas such as transport, skills, housing, finance and economic development. The deal does not involve any changes to existing councils.

The North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA), which was set up in 2019 covering Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland, and the separate North East Combined Authority (NECA) covering Sunderland, South Tyneside, Gateshead and Durham would no longer exist.

At the end of the consultation period a report will be brought back to each Cabinet. A summary of the consultation responses and any proposed submissions on behalf of the seven Councils will be sent to the Secretary of State to consider before laying an order in parliament.

For more information, visit www.southtyneside.gov.uk/devolution or email devo@southtyneside.gov.uk



A balanced budget

South Tyneside Council is proposing a balanced budget with money targeted at making South Tyneside a place where people live happy, healthy, and fulfilled lives.

The Council needs to save £3.7m in 23/24 with greater savings expected in future years.

The Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) includes proposed investment in key areas to help tackle some of the most fundamental challenges in society, supporting residents through the cost-of-living crisis and opening access to a range of support schemes, especially in disadvantaged areas.

Money has been redirected to addressing residents' concerns on the ground including improved action on weeds and a team of Community Engagement Officers who will work with residents on issues ranging from waste and recycling to crime prevention.

The Council will also continue to invest in the Borough's capital programme including roads, footpaths, accessible playground equipment, housing stock, environmental and renewable energy schemes, adult and children's social care accommodation and the regeneration of all three towns.



We have increased dependency upon external funding so will be doing everything we can to bring money to South Tyneside, following on from our successes securing millions from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, Arts Council priority funding and support for our renewable energy schemes.

Like most other local authorities this year's budget includes an increase in Council Tax of 4.95 per cent. 2 per cent of this increase relates to the Government's adult social care levy, which is ringfenced for those services supporting communities who need it most. The adult social care levy contributes towards the funding gap within Adult Social Care services.

Adult and children's social care continue to be our biggest areas of spend and account for over 70 per cent of our discretionary budget.

We know that the current cost of living crisis is creating intense pressures, and we will continue to support residents wherever we can. We have enhanced our welfare support provision and currently support 18,400 households through our council tax support scheme. In addition, we have proposed an additional £100 Council Tax rebate for households on low income.

The Council's core Central Government funding has reduced by 52% since 2010. The council cannot run a deficit like other organisations. If it does not increase the amount of money coming into the Council, it would simply have to stop providing services which communities across the borough depend on.

The council tax increase equates to around £1.11 per week for Band A households, into which the majority of households fall.

The bill issued by the Council also includes separate amounts levied by other statutory bodies such as police and fire.



"This year our budget has been prepared using evidence, insights, and feedback from thousands of people right across the Borough. Its content aligns with the Borough 20-year Vision and its five ambitions. As a Council, setting a balanced budget is one of the most difficult but important responsibilities we have."

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

Our South Tyneside Conversation

Next Steps

We'd like to thank the residents and local businesses who took part in the consultation towards the South Shields masterplan.

We were delighted with the number of detailed responses received, demonstrating just how passionately people feel about the future of the town, and the feedback will be incorporated into the next steps for the masterplan. The town centre was sectioned into zones, so everyone had the chance to provide feedback on the various possibilities.

'Our Conversation' was the start of an ongoing conversation. While changes won't happen overnight, we feel it is important for the local community to have their say at an early concept stage in order to ensure the proposed projects, deliver what residents want.

The outcome of the online and face-to-face consultations were communicated in February, and the masterplan will be shaped with those insights collected in South Tyneside.



Our future

Over the last decade, the Council has invested significantly and created the infrastructure and environment to generate confidence in the private sector to invest. We will continue to do that, unlocking land for development and focusing on our public realm, while acting as enable and influencer.

Find out more about the consultation, findings and plans at www.ourconversation.co.uk

Jarrow and Hebburn

Conversations with Jarrow and Hebburn residents on proposals will be taking place. Look out for further information.



"This is all part of our new approach, we want to work collectively with local people, listening to, prioritising their views, and having an evidence base on which to inform decisions. We want residents and businesses to be at the heart of discussions about the future of their town."

Cllr Margaret Meling, Lead Member for Economic Growth, Skills and Climate Change



Stronger Shores

Stronger Shores, led by South Tyneside Council, is making British coastlines and communities stronger in the face of flooding, erosion and climate change.

The project uses the power of nature to restore ocean health, benefit communities and help the UK become a world-leader in climate solutions. Through Stronger Shores, experts are learning how hidden underwater habitats – seagrass meadows, kelp forests and oyster reefs – improve water quality, erosion, wave impacts, wildlife and more.

This project is funded by Defra as part of the £150 million Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme (FCRIP) which is managed by the Environment Agency to develop new approaches to help communities become more resilient to the effects of flooding and climate change. Focusing on the Northeast coastline, the Stronger Shores study area extends from Skinningrove in North Yorkshire to Lindisfarne in

Northumberland. If successful, the six-year project could transform government policy and unlock future funding.

South Tyneside Council has secured £6.9m in funding for the region's Stronger Shores initiative, which will take a new approach to making British coastlines and communities stronger in the face of flooding, erosion and the impacts of climate change.

The project explores how to use the power of nature to restore our ocean's health while cementing a more sustainable, healthy and prosperous future for coastal communities. Through Stronger Shores' game-changing potential, the North-East is trailblazing a path for the UK to be a world-leader in establishing proven, affordable and long-term solutions to the climate crisis.

Through Stronger Shores, a network of experts will test new restoration approaches to better understand how these habitats can benefit communities in the North-East and beyond through:

improving water quality, reducing erosion and structural damage, helping to stabilise shorelines, reducing wave impacts, creating rich wildlife, protecting against pollution, improving fisheries, protecting against climate change, providing community recreation areas, and extending the lifespan of man-made coastal defences.

The project is supported by: Newcastle University, University of Plymouth, Tees Rivers Trust, The North Sea Wildlife Trusts, Zoological Society of London and Groundwork Northeast & Cumbria.

Stronger Shores is expected to launch in Spring 2023 and there will be lots of opportunities for members of the public to get involved through volunteering, citizen science and more.

In the meantime, South Tyneside Council is keen to hear people's views on the project. For more information or to share views, email strongershores@southtyneside.gov.uk



"Our coastline is one of our greatest treasures but, over the years, important natural habitats have been lost. Many areas are threatened by flooding, erosion and storms and climate change will only make this worse. If we do nothing, habitats, man-made coastal defences and communities could all suffer. That's why we're proud to have secured this funding for Stronger Shores, which will allow us to turn to the hidden habitats below the waves for an affordable, long-term solution."

Councillor Ernest Gibson, Lead Member for Transport and Neighbourhoods at South Tyneside Council and Chair of the Local Government Association (LGA) Coastal Special Interest Group (SIG)

Our commitment to ocean recovery

We were the first Council in the North of England to declare an Ocean Recovery Declaration and support a global Protect our Ocean campaign.

We have committed to doing all we can to recover the health of our ocean.

This is to:

- protect our beautiful coast and precious wildlife
- improve residents' health and wellbeing and reduce pressure on the NHS
- boost the local economy and create new jobs for local people
- reduce the inequality in who can access the ocean and support the most disadvantaged in our community
- provide the best future we can for our children and grandchildren



We need YOU!

South Tyneside residents really make a difference to our environment and our towns and neighbourhoods.

Please try to:

- put all your litter in a bin or take it home with you
- recycle your waste
- join an organised beach clean or litter pick
- don't release balloons or sky lanterns, they can harm or kill birds and marine wildlife. Instead, consider a memorial or celebration event that includes an activity such as bubble blowing
- reduce single-use plastic items at home or when you are out and about
- make sure that only the correct items go down the toilet or drain - no cooking fat, wet wipes or other items.
- walk or cycle to reduce your carbon footprint
- bag your dog waste and put it in the bin (any litter bin will do) - never hang a bag on a tree or leave it on the ground
- don't light fires on beaches or in the parks - only have BBQs where signs say it is allowed.



DID YOU KNOW?

Litter dropped elsewhere in the Borough (even as small as a cigarette end) can eventually end up in the sea.

PROMOTING

Over 150 businesses have signed up to the South Tyneside Pledge since it launched 12 months ago.

Pledges range from large organisations such as the Council, NHS Foundation Trust, Tyne Coast College, Port of Tyne, and Hitachi and Equinor through to key local firms and voluntary organisations like Dicksons, Shower Pass UK, Wealth of Advice, HTG, HLA Services, and Hebburn and South Shields Football Clubs.

Launched in January 2022 the Pledge sets out nine commitments around spend, recruitment and support. It encourages South Tyneside organisations to focus on local activities and practical steps such as local procurement and recruitment, which can help the Borough to thrive.

It aims to boost local economic activity, reduce health inequalities, cut carbon emissions, and enhance civic pride for the benefit of the whole Borough.

Cllr Tracey Dixon, Leader of South Tyneside Council and Chair of South Tyneside Partnership said: "We have had a fantastic response to the South Tyneside Pledge since we launched it last New Year and over 150 organisations are signed up now.

"South Tyneside is known for its sense of community and civic pride and its business community is no different. The Pledge has encouraged organisations to look at their own practices and see what more they can do to support the Borough. As individual organisations we can only do so much, but collectively, with a

common set of objectives, we can make a real difference.

"Be it Cell Pack engaging with local schools, Northern Rights taking on young people, Tyne Coast College working with local employers, Turtons fundraising for Hospitality & Hope, Far North banging the drum for micro businesses across the Borough, Goldfinch encouraging staff and others to make use of our fabulous beaches and green spaces, Torgensens working with local suppliers or Glendale buying local trees – the list goes on and on.

"By signing the Pledge, organisations, big or small are saying that they will do all they can to spend, recruit and support our local area and bring about positive change to help us meet our 20-year vision ambitions."



We've been in South Tyneside for 31 years, we are part of the community so signing the pledge was an easy one for us as an organisation. We set out with a principle of growing our own and investing in the people of South Tyneside and with that we've gone from zero apprentices to six in a year, so we are really committed with every vacancy that comes up we explore to see if we can 'grow our own', we are really committed to supporting our young people."

Andrew Watts, Chief Executive at Groundwork South, and North Tyneside

PROSPERITY

"It's a great initiative by the Council and for me going back a number of years it resonated with me that we weren't buying as much as we should be from the Borough. I think with the pledge it has focused the minds of myself and some of the employees that work for Zenith, and we now buy 95% of all of our goods and services from within the Borough.

Additionally, our business can also help support those businesses in the Borough by moving young people into the right careers for them."

Alan Metcalfe, Commercial Director at Zenith People



We signed at a very early stage, we've been asked to be part of similar programmes that never got off the ground, but the Pledge is different. "There's no excuse not to have every business in South Tyneside signed up. Just do it! Don't sign it as a box ticking exercise though, sign it on the basis that you are going to do something about it no matter how big or how small. It's a numbers game - the more businesses we get do their bit will make it snowball."

Carl Buckley, Managing Director at Urban River Creative



Businesses can sign up now:

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

Q | www.southtyneside.gov.uk/southtynesidepledge



living better lives

A career in Health and Social Care

With over 350 careers to choose from across the health and social care sector its likely you haven't heard of most of them.

In some jobs you will work directly with people, while other jobs require you to work behind the scenes. What they all have in common is that they all make a huge difference in people's lives EVERY SINGLE DAY.

Career paths include radiographers, data analysts, social workers, doctors, financial assessors, care workers, nurses, performance officers, pharmacists, call handlers, therapists, housing officers, activity support workers, mental health professionals, workforce officers, paramedics and many more!

A career in health and social care is extremely rewarding and can be flexible. It is a career where you will be appreciated and valued for the work you



provide. You can shape your own career path through training and development. No matter your age you can gain qualifications to enhance your skills or move up the ladder. Every single day is different and is the only career guaranteed to be a job for life.

If you are a compassionate, responsible and patient person with a desire to make a difference, then a career in health and social care could be for you. Likewise, if you are motivated and want to progress your career – there are so many options. If you left the profession, or thinking of making a change - you are never to old!

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

South Tyneside Care Academy



South Tyneside will be launching a dedicated Care Academy in the spring.

The Care Academy will be offering support, training and guidance to those who are interested in a career in social care.

The Care Academy launch is linked to one of the Council's five ambitions:

Healthy and well - Residents will enjoy good mental wellbeing and physical health throughout their lives. They will have the best start in life and be able to live and age well.

Nationally, recruitment and retention to meet adult social care demands is increasing, which is why South Tyneside Council is committed to ensure that our providers and residents are supported effectively.



Become a Personal Assistant in South Tyneside

Could you help someone to continue to live independently in their own home?

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. PAs need to be good listeners, with a willingness to learn and respond.

The job can be very flexible, offering part or full-time work on different days and at different times. Some PAs work part-time, alongside another job. The role is also suitable for a student or retired person wanting a few hours a week.

The duties of a Personal Assistant vary widely and depend on the needs of the individual. What kinds of support they need and when. We currently have vacancies working with children and young people and adults offering a range of social time only posts or mixed care packages including personal care and social time.

Enhanced DBS clearance is required for all posts with children and young people.

Find out if a Personal Assistant caring role is for you
www.southtyneside.gov.uk/jobs

These vacancies are not employed through South Tyneside Council but through the Individual Service user.



AskSARA

AskSARA is an online self-help guide providing expert advice and information on products and equipment for older and disabled people in South Tyneside.

Visit www.southtyneside.livingmadeeasy.org.uk to answer questions on the area you would like help with. Your answers will generate a free personalised report with information and advice.

For more information go to www.southtyneside.gov.uk/asksara

Raising the Bar for Children with Additional Needs

A school for children and young people with additional needs has been officially opened in South Tyneside.

Council Leader Tracey Dixon cut a ribbon and unveiled a plaque to mark the official opening of Epinay Business and Enterprise School.

Children and staff moved into their new school on the site of the former South Shields School last September following an investment by the Council of more than £1.9 million.

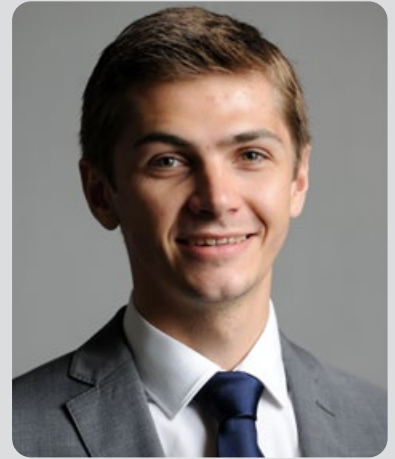
The school has been adapted for its new learners and now houses state-of-the-art facilities, including a rebound therapy room, play therapy room and sensory light areas for children and young people with special educational needs.

Outside, an early years play area features specialist items such as a bug hotel, sand-pit, water-wall, mud kitchen and a climbing wall.

Headteacher Chris Rue said: "We hope to repay the faith the Local Authority has shown in us by continuing to raise the bar and set new expectations for our children with additional needs in this school.

"We want to be the best, the beacon school that the Local Authority is proud of, parents and carers are proud of, but, most importantly, we want to be the best school for the children and young people who come here."

The new site can accommodate more children, meaning fewer children now have to travel outside the Borough for their education and children with a greater range of special needs can be taught. The additional space also means that Epinay's sixth form, which was formerly located on off-site rented premises, now has its own dedicated space at the school.



"All our children deserve the very best and Epinay certainly offers that. This new school and its state-of-the-art facilities provide an outstanding learning environment which will undoubtedly make a difference to the lives of these young people and their families."

Councillor Adam Ellison, Lead Member for Children, Young People and Families



Cllr Tracey Dixon, with Robert Whitelaw, Vice-Chair of Governors, Cllr Audrey Huntley, Chair of Governors, Cllr Adam Ellison and headteacher Chris Rue

South Tyneside Works
Unlock your potential

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

Our specialist 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, we've got something for you.

Eligible learners will be fully funded and have nothing to pay towards the cost of the course.

To get in touch call **0800 073 1772** or email skills.learnerenquiries@southtyneside.gov.uk.



Spread the word!

FOSTER IN SOUTH TYNESIDE

You Can Foster

There's no such thing as a typical foster carer – foster carers are as different as the children they care for.

There are many misconceptions around fostering, which may prevent people from finding out more information about becoming a foster carer.

“I can't foster because I'm single”

You don't have to be married or in a relationship to foster. If you can provide the time and energy to dedicate to the care of a young person, then you are suited to foster caring.

“I can't foster because of my sexuality”

Your sexual orientation does not determine your ability to provide a safe and stable home to a young person. Families who foster are as unique and diverse as the children in their care.

“I can't foster because I'm not a homeowner”

You need to show that you have enough room to care for a child or children in a safe environment, whether you rent or own your home.

“I can't foster because of my job”

You can still foster if you work full time. What is important is that you have the space and time to meet a child's needs.



“It's funny to think that I thought I couldn't do it because I didn't have any special skills, because all children need is a safe home and someone to care for them.”

Joan, a foster carer with South Tyneside Council

If you would like to know more about fostering with South Tyneside Council, you can give our Fostering team a call **0191 423 8500** for a friendly and informal chat. They are always happy to talk and meet with people who have an interest in foster caring.

Discover more

www.southtyneside.gov.uk/fostering

 0191 423 8500  fostering@southtyneside.gov.uk  www.facebook.com/groups/stcfostering

“
**I'm really grateful
 for the support I've
 received, I feel so much
 more confident
 and settled.**
 Peter Bill ”

Peter Bill



Veterans Supported Back to Civvy Street

South Tyneside Homes' Armed Forces Support team are here to help.

Former Rifleman Sam Price is celebrating his first anniversary living in his South Shields home. Just last year, Sam was homeless, living in a tent in Oldham, having lost his job and experienced a bereavement.

The 28-year-old veteran contacted South Tyneside Homes' Armed Forces Outreach Service and within days, he was brought to the north east and supported into accommodation.

Sam was given access to the Housing Register for a two-bedroomed property so that he could regain shared access to his two children.

Sam said: "I got in touch with the Armed Forces Support Officer, and he got me a bus ticket up here and told me he would sort the rest."

"I wouldn't be here without the help I received. I'm living in a two-bedroomed house which means I can have my



Sam Price

children as much as I want, and I'm working again.

"Coming out of the Army was a struggle, going from being a soldier to the sudden lack of structure makes it really hard to adjust."

The team works with a range of partners including health, social services, the British Legion, HMP Service and armed

forces charity, SSAFA to support and engage with veterans, helping them access training, education, employment and funding opportunities.

Peter Bill, was also supported by the service, being moved out of unsuitable accommodation and into a property in Jarrow.

The 49-year-old, an ex-Royal Artillery soldier, has mobility issues and was struggling living in a house of multiple occupation.

He said: "I was in a basement flat and was having to be helped by other residents to get to the bathroom on the floor above."

"My sister contacted the Armed Forces officer who helped with my housing application and accessing benefits."

"I'm now in a ground floor property and have a support network around me, as well as more privacy."

South Tyneside Homes has a dedicated block of furnished flats available for affordable rent to ex servicemen and women as they leave the forces.

The 'move-on' scheme, in Laygate, South Shields, was developed to provide veterans with support to enable them to progress into a more independent life and employment, education or training.

South Tyneside Homes is also trialling accommodating veterans in dispersed properties in the community.

Cllr Ed Malcolm, Chair of the South Tyneside Armed Forces Forum, said: "We are committed to supporting the men and women who have served their country.

"We know that it can be a big adjustment coming out of the army and settling back into civilian life.

"Having a place to live, in a supported environment, can help ex-services personnel manage that transition and get on the right track to live an independent life on civvy street."

Targeting support to make things fairer is one of the Council's ambitions to help realise its 20-year vision.

If you need help with housing, call us on **0300 123 6633** (housing advice is available Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5pm).

**South
Tyneside** Homes

South Tyneside Council's
Housing Company

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

www.southtynesidehomes.org.uk

DEBT ADVICE

Free Impartial Debt Advice For The Residents of South Tyneside

Our Welfare Support Team can offer face to face, telephone or home visit appointments to anyone who is a resident in South Tyneside. We will go through your situation with you giving you the information and advice you need to take control of your debts. We can deal with your creditors for you and take the pressure out of your situation.

We'll also maximise your income to make sure you are getting any extra income you are entitled to.

- Is your phone bill getting out of hand?
- Do you need some breathing space from your creditors?
- Is your gas and electric bill climbing to everest levels?
- Are you worried about bankruptcy?



For more info:

 | 0191 424 6040

 | welfaresupport@southtynesidehomes.org.uk

Damp, Mould and Condensation

Damp and mould in your home can cause health problems, including respiratory infections, allergies or asthma, and can affect the immune system.

Some people are more sensitive to others, including:

- Babies and children
- Older people
- People with respiratory problems, allergies and asthma
- People with an existing skin problem
- People with a weakened immune system

If you experience damp and mould in your home, it's important that you deal with it as soon as possible.

Types of dampness

There are 5 main types of dampness:

- Penetrating damp
- Rising damp
- Condensation and mould growth
- Leaks from plumbing
- Construction damp



Penetrating damp

Caused by water or moisture finding its way into your home when it shouldn't have, for example:

- A leaking roof or gutters.
- Leaking/damaged pipework
- Damaged or old brickwork absorbing water



Rising damp

Caused by water rising from the ground into the home. Damages plaster, wallpaper, paint and skirting boards. It's caused by insufficient damp proofing. You must treat the source of the rising damp before repairing the internal walls. A remedial Damp Proof Course (DPC) needs to be installed or fixed at the source of the problem.

Condensation damp

Caused by moisture created in the home. Most people create at least 4 pints of moisture every day just from normal everyday activities, such as breathing, cooking, bathing, washing and drying clothes.

How to prevent damp and mould caused by condensation:

- Cover pots and pans when cooking, and turn the heat down once the water has boiled
- Open windows or use extractor fans in kitchens and bathrooms
- Close internal doors when you cook or shower
- Run cold water first and then add hot water when filling a bath. This can reduce steam by up to 90 per cent
- Leave a gap between furniture and external walls
- Dry clothes outdoors or use a dryer which is vented to the outside
- Open bedroom windows for 5-10 minutes when you get up
- Dry your windows and windowsills every morning, as well as surfaces in the kitchen or bathroom which have become wet
- Keep the temperature inside your home reasonably constant for as much time as possible

WARM SPACES

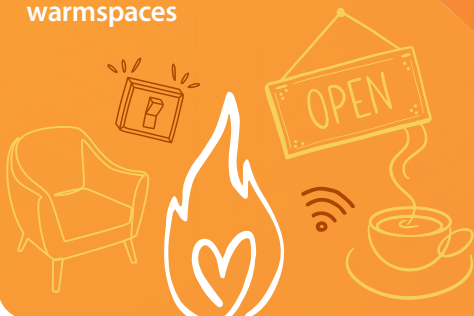
SOUTH TYNESIDE



Nearly 70 Warm Spaces have been set up across South Tyneside in places such as churches, cafes, community centres and children's centres where people can keep warm and enjoy free activities

In December more than 400 people across the Borough accessed a Warm Space. Warm Spaces are playing a hugely valuable role in helping people keep warm and beat the cost of living crisis.

You'll also find information on cost of living support at the warm spaces. To find out more, or locate a warm space near you, visit www.southtyneside.gov.uk/warmspaces



Cost of Living Crisis

Many residents are currently struggling with rising living costs. That's why it's important to know what help and support is available now that could benefit you, a relative, friend or neighbour.

A hard copy directory is available in all Council buildings including libraries. Our dedicated website is kept up to date with all of the latest support available at www.southtyneside.gov.uk/costofliving

Support and advice

The cost of living pages are to help residents find support and advice including:

- Money and debt advice
- Local support services
- Benefit checks
- Crisis support and food
- Jobs and skills support
- Warm Spaces in South Tyneside
- Support with education
- Health information

Since the Covid pandemic, the Council has significantly increased contributions to the five major food banks. A total of £118,000 will be used from the Household Support Fund in 2023-2024.

We are doing all that we can as a council to tackle the cost of living crisis but this is not something that we or our partners can do alone. That is why we have written to the energy companies to ask them to better support vulnerable customers and why we are calling on government to do more to support those at the sharp end of this crisis.



"There is no doubt that the soaring cost of energy combined with inflation is already having a devastating impact on our residents. As a council we are committed to doing all we can to support our residents through these incredibly challenging times."

Cllr Ruth Berkley, Lead Member for Voluntary Sector, Partnerships and Equalities



Online Council Services and Payments

Residents can set up their very own Council Tax e-account online. This allows you to view your transactions, apply for Council Tax discounts, exemptions and update your information.



You can get your Council Tax bill by email (e-billing). Instead of a letter through the post, you will get an email with a link to view your Council Tax bill online.

How to register for e-billing

1. Register for your online Council Tax account (you will need your Council Tax account number, which you can find on your bill).
2. Once you've registered, you will be asked to sign up for e-billing.

If you have already set up your online Council Tax account (which is separate to the Council's e-services online account), you can sign up for e-billing by logging in to your account and selecting 'Change how I receive my Council Tax bill'.

Once you have registered for your online Council Tax account, you can also log in to check:

- your balance
- the instalments you will pay
- the next and previous payments on your account

For more information visit www.southtyneside.gov.uk/counciltax



E-services



Online forms are available to report problems, make a request, enquiry or give the Council feedback quickly and easily 24/7.

The online forms are easy to complete and reduces the amount of information the customer needs to provide.

Forms include:

- Pay housing rent
- Set up a Direct Debit to pay Council Tax
- Pay for or query a parking fine
- Request a bulky waste collection
- Book a slot at the Recycling Village
- Make a payment

The council's online forms cover everything from allotment payments to housing payments and even a Welfare rights officer enquiry.

Our e-services are completely secure

A padlock icon will appear on your browser window when you are using e-services.

This shows that the form is secure and that the information sent between your computer and our servers will be automatically encrypted.

Find out more at www.southtyneside.gov.uk



Are you a carer in South Tyneside or a business who employs a carer?

Carers UK provide information and advice about caring alongside practical and emotional support for carers.

Carers UK resources

Caring for a loved one who is ill, disabled or older can be rewarding, but without the right support caring can have an impact on your health, your job, your finances and your social life.

Employers for Carers is a digital platform developed by Carers UK providing a range of information and resources that may help to make caring situations easier.

Resources for carers

Carers will have access to advice and information relevant to their situation. They will be able to identify sources of support including technology, as well as promoting their own health and well being.

Resources for businesses

South Tyneside Council has a membership with Employers for Carers.

It gives all small to medium-sized employers (up to 250 employees) and health partners of any size in South Tyneside access to a range of resources to help them to support and retain carers in the workforce.

This platform is aimed at HR, line managers, and anyone with a responsibility for supporting working carers. To access the resources, you need a free access code.

How to access the resources

To get the free access code, complete an online form with your details at www.southtyneside.gov.uk/carers. The code will be sent to you by email.

Resources available

Businesses will have access to a range of dedicated resources and practical advice for staff with employee wellbeing responsibilities, such as HR teams and line managers.

The resources include: case studies, model policies, FAQs, toolkits and essential guides.

You will also have access to e-Learning modules including:

- Supporting carers in your workplace - for line managers
- Caring and work - an induction module designed to slot into your organisation's induction programme.



carersUK

To find out more visit www.southtyneside.gov.uk/carers





Members of a better u Champions Network

Welcome to a better u

Change4Life South Tyneside has now become 'a better u', it's the place to find information and advice about self-care to help you look after your health and wellbeing – just with a brand new look!

Our health and wellbeing is affected by everything around us. It's not just about keeping our bodies fit and healthy, but our minds too. We can offer help, guidance and advice for everyone here in South Tyneside. If it affects any part of your health or wellbeing, we want you to have the right tools to support your self-care.

We want South Tyneside residents to:

- feel healthier and happier
- be able to look after their physical and mental health and wellbeing
- take the best care of themselves and others, as easily as possible.

The aim of a better u is to make self-care easy for everyone. If you need a helping hand, a better u will be there to point you in the right direction. We can help with trusted advice and jargon free information to help you find out what's available in your local community.

From pregnancy to childhood and throughout adulthood, a better u is there every step of the way.

Whether it's staying active, eating well, managing a health condition, learning a new skill, meeting new people or making lifestyle changes – **a better u can help you get there.**



We want to help you shine as a better u

Find out more from our animation video at <https://youtu.be/J9gfnUo90Qc>

Become 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.



We're committed to making South Tyneside a place where everyone can lead a happy and healthy life. Helping residents – whatever their age – to take care of their wellbeing is a key part of this. Our residents who volunteer to be health and wellbeing champions are trusted voices in their communities. Providing people with information on health related issues will help them to make positive changes in their lives. I'd like to extend a special thank you to them all."

Cllr Anne Hetherington, Lead Member for Adults, Health & Independence



Making a Difference



Members of staff at Sea Change Café



Places of Welcome Plus



Hospitality and Hope Community Shop

News from your local NHS

NHS

**North East and
North Cumbria**



Richard Bainbridge and his wife were supported by Admiral Nurse Lauren Carter



Here to help: Richard with the Admiral Nurse team (L to R) Lauren, Lisa and Bridie

New service for families with dementia

A new NHS Admiral Nurse service has been warmly welcomed by South Tyneside families affected by dementia.

Three specialist Admiral Nurses now offer practical advice and support for people with dementia and their families. Hosted by South Tyneside Health Collaboration, the service is supported by Dementia UK and the NHS.

Dr Jim Gordon, a local GP and mental health lead for the NHS's North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB), said: "A dementia diagnosis can be a huge shock to patients and families, who often struggle to accept what is happening.

"This small team can make a big impact, not just for patients but for carers who can become isolated and highly stressed. Admiral Nurses make a real difference, offering advice and linking families up with respite care and other services."

More than 944,000 people are living with dementia in the UK, and Admiral Nurses help people stay independent for longer as well as supporting carers.

Harton resident Richard Bainbridge, 80, cares for his wife Geraldine, 79, a well-known figure locally as former Chair of South Shields Amateur Operatic Society.

Richard said: "We knew something was wrong, but it took time to pluck up the courage to ask for a diagnosis. I was confident we could cope, but this proved not to be the case at all.

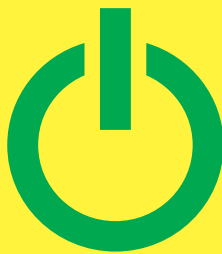
"The Admiral Nurse team arranged respite sessions for Geraldine. She was one of the first to get a place, and it's been very positive.

"It's not easy to access support but the Admiral Nurses seem to be able to cut through all that. I'm glad the advice and support is there for people in the future."

If your family is affected by dementia, speak with your GP who can refer you to the Admiral Nurse service.



Stay switched on



**You may be eligible for free support from your energy supplier -
sign up to their priority services register!**

All energy suppliers have a **priority services register**. By signing up to this register it lets your supplier know you may need extra free support.

Lots of people can register - all you need to do is contact your energy supplier and tell them about your situation. If you are eligible, they can help with things like advance notice of power cuts, priority support in an emergency, or sending bills to a family member or carer.

We have listed opposite the groups who are normally eligible. If your situation isn't listed, you might still be able to sign up – check with your energy provider.

Check if you're eligible - contact your energy supplier or visit:
[www.energynetworks.org/
be-winter-ready](http://www.energynetworks.org/be-winter-ready)



If you have a different supplier for gas and electricity, you need to contact them both.

Am I eligible?

You can get extra support if you:

- Are disabled or have a long-term health condition
- Have a hearing or sight condition
- Have a mental health condition
- Are recovering from an injury
- Are pregnant or have children under five living with you
- Have extra communication needs (such as if you don't speak or read English well)
- Need to use medical equipment that requires a power supply
- Have reached your state pension age
- Have poor or no sense of smell
- Would struggle to answer the door or get help in an emergency

If your situation is not listed, you might still be able to register – for example, if you need short-term support after a stay in hospital.



Garden Waste 2023

You can pay to have garden waste collected from your home by subscribing to the Garden Waste service.

The service costs £32 for collections from week beginning 27 March or 3 April 2023, depending on your location, until late November 2023.

We can accept

- Grass
- Leaves
- Weeds
- Flowers and plants
- Hedge trimmings
- Branches (not more than 10cm thick)
- Prunings and twigs
- Fruit blown down by the wind

We cannot accept

- Food or kitchen waste (this includes potato peelings, cabbage leaves, carrot and parsnip tops, orange peelings and pea and bean pods)
- Animal bedding
- Cat or dog faeces
- Vacuum dust or fire cinders
- Soil, stones or rubble
- Wood that has been treated or painted
- Cardboard and Tetra packs (milk or juice cartons). These can all go in your blue recycling bin
- Plastic flowerpots, trays or bags

To subscribe or find out more visit www.southtyneside.gov.uk/gardenwaste

Easter recycling

Check your Easter Egg packaging and recycle as much of the cardboard as possible.



DID YOU KNOW?

You can recycle the plastic trays from eggs and chocolate boxes in your blue bin if they are not black plastic. Foil should go in the grey household bin.

If you have any biscuit or chocolate tins, you can put those in the blue bin. You can also recycle plastic chocolate tubs. Remember to check our A-Z of Recycling if you are not sure about what can and cannot be recycled at www.southtyneside.gov.uk/recycle



Easter decorations

Decorations are generally not recyclable, so please do not place any lights, baubles, tinsel, garlands, foil banners and similar items in your blue bin. If you can't reuse or donate to charity, then please use your grey household bin.

If you have any electrical equipment or lights, you can dispose of at our Recycling Village.

If you have lots of extra food or unwanted non-perishable food like tins of biscuits or boxes of chocolates, you can donate these to local food banks. Some supermarkets also have donation points.



Let's recycle right!

A number of recycling loads are continuously being rejected due to a high level of contamination.

We need your help. Please check your waste before placing it in the blue bins.

Do not recycle

Although a large number of our residents are recycling correctly, we still receive the same items that **cannot be recycled!**



Nappies



Food waste



Clothes and shoes



Black sacks/
plastic bags



Batteries

PLEASE DO NOT PUT NAPPIES, FOOD OR BAGS (OF ANY KIND) INTO THE BLUE RECYCLING BINS.

Nappies and food can attract flies and maggots.

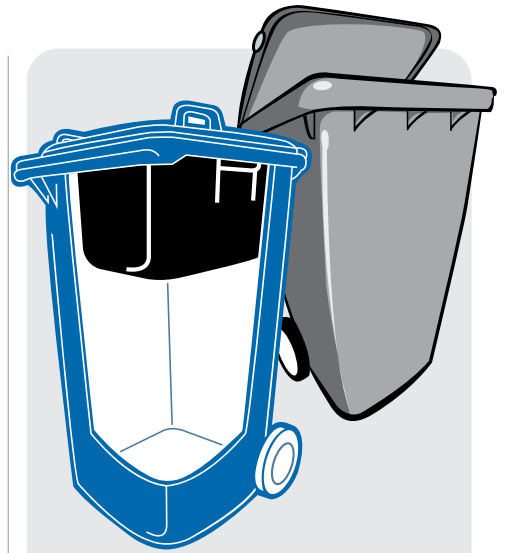
Recyclable

- ✓ Cans
- ✓ Tins
- ✓ Cardboard
- ✓ Plastic pots and tubs
- ✓ Glass bottles and jars
- ✓ Plastic bottles
- ✓ Cartons (such as juice)
- ✓ Paper

We ask that residents give any food or drink containers a quick rinse before discarding them in the blue bin.

This keeps the loads from being contaminated and produce good, quality recycling materials.

Find out what can and cannot be recycled at www.southtyneside.gov.uk/recycle



Bin Collections

Easter Collections

Normal collection	Revised collection
Friday 7 April	NO change

You can find out when your bin is being collected at www.southtyneside.gov.uk/recycle

HELPFUL TIPS

Below are some of our top tips for helping to recycle for South Tyneside

- Rinse and squash recyclable plastics and bottles
- Rinse glass bottles and tins
- Remove cling film/lid covers from plastic trays as these cannot be recycled
- Only put items that can be recycled in your bin
- Do NOT put batteries in ANY bin.



Did you know that The fantastic Love Exploring App is now available in South Tyneside?

It is a fantastic way to enjoy some exercise, learn more about our lovely area and have lots of fun!

What does it do?

The app, is free to download and allows you to follow guided trails around the area and discover more about our rich history, public art and places to visit.

There is also a games section which takes you into the world of augmented reality - you may even meet some dinosaurs on your travels!

There are 7 trail routes available on the app:

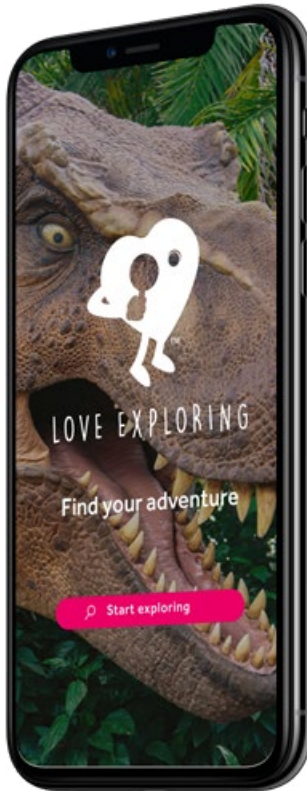
- **South Shields Seafront Trail** - A 2 mile walk through the seafront parks and along the Littlehaven Promenade.
- **The Customs House and South Shields Riverside Trail** - 1.4 mile trail starting at The Customs House, along the river path before heading inland.
- **Whitburn Trail** - 3.25 miles following a trail through the village centre and Cornthwaite Park, along part of the coastline and past Whitburn's historic windmill.
- **River Don, Jarrow Trail** - 1.25 miles past Jarrow Hall, the historic St Paul's Church & Monastic Site and around the surrounding area.
- **Hebburn Riverside Park Trail** - A 2.25 mile loop around Hebburn Riverside Park.
- **Lawe Top & North Marine Park Trail** - A 2.2 mile trail around the Lawe Top, Arbeia Roman Fort and North Marine Park.
- **Carr Ellison Park, Hebburn Trail** - A leisurely walk around the park. The route is approximately 1km and takes around 30 minutes to complete.

For each route there is a guided trail as well as a Dinosaur Safari game.

How does it work?

Once you have downloaded the app on to your phone you will be able to see where to head in South Tyneside to start the selected trail. When you are there open the route on the app and it will direct you to the next point on your selected trail.

Find out more www.visitsouthtyneside.co.uk



healthwatch
South Tyneside

Your dedicated healthcare champion

Healthwatch South Tyneside is the independent champion for users of health and social care services in the borough.

We want to hear about your experiences, identify any issues or problems and help generate improvements.

Healthwatch tells commissioners and providers of healthcare services what you think by conducting patient surveys, visiting venues and attending meetings with user groups and reporting back our findings.

When new services are being planned or existing ones changed, we ensure the views of patients are considered.

You will find lots of advice and information about healthcare services on our website at healthwatchsouthtyneside.co.uk.

Contact us at info@healthwatchsouthtyneside.co.uk or by calling 0191 489 7952.

We look forward to hearing from you

Freedom of the Borough

Covid Memorials

Back in 2020, the Council declared its intention to create a meaningful and lasting memorial to loved ones lost to the coronavirus pandemic, to commemorate their lives and to provide a special place and focal point for families and friends to reflect and remember.



Covid memorials

In developing the memorial inscriptions, the Council engaged its partners at The Cultural Spring to hold a series of community engagement events that supported people to come together to share their stories and help leave a legacy behind for future generations.

The unveiling of the covid memorials this March coincides with the Freedom of the Borough being conferred to all local NHS, care services and key workers who during the height of the pandemic helped to keep people safe and ensure essential services could continue to be delivered.

The Freedom of the Borough is the highest honour the Council can bestow on any individual or organisation.

Unveilings will be held at 11am on Sunday 12 March at the following locations:

- South Shields South Marine Park
- Boldon Colliery
- Cornthwaite Park Whitburn
- West Park Jarrow
- Fountains Park Hebburn
- Front Street Cleadon

EXPLORE

SOUTH TYNESIDE



South Tyneside offers beautiful beaches, family fun, a heritage that is both ancient and deeply enriching, and a mix of bustling towns and villages.

With some of the country's finest food and a vibrant events programme, South Tyneside has something for everyone whatever your interest or age.



Customs House

With a programme of live theatre events attracting the country's leading performers covering everything from drama to comedy, music and dance to pantomimes and plays - there's always an exciting range of entertainment on offer at the Customs House!

www.customshouse.co.uk

Arbeia Roman Fort

Open from 27 March



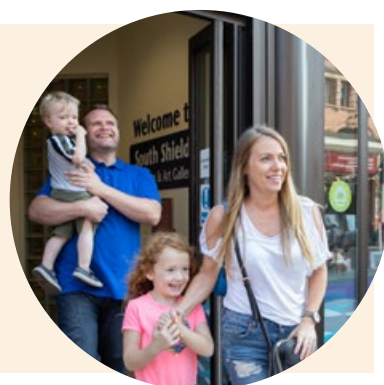
Around a ten-minute walk from South Shields Seafront is Arbeia Roman Fort, the most extensively excavated Roman military supply base in the Empire. The site features excavated remains, important site finds and stunning reconstructions of original buildings.

www.arbeiaromanfort.org.uk

South Shields Museum & Art Gallery

Come along to South Shields Museum & Art Gallery to enjoy brilliant exhibitions, find out about the tales of South Tyneside, visit the art gallery and meet the museum's critters in their creature corner!

www.southshieldsmuseum.org.uk



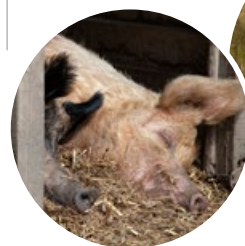
Souter Lighthouse

South Tyneside's beacon of history! Souter Lighthouse, with its dramatic red and white hoops, is an iconic landmark on the North East coast and is a special place to visit all year round.

Jarrow Hall

Travel back in time to Anglo-Saxon Britain at Jarrow Hall – Anglo-Saxon Farm, Village and Bede Museum. Throughout the year there's regular events, ranging from craft fairs to reconstructions, with something for everyone to enjoy.

www.jarrowhall.com



Plus lots more

Check out our website for more ideas and inspiration for things to see and do around South Tyneside. www.visitsouthtyneside.co.uk



YEAR OF THE COAST 2023

Year of the coast is a national campaign which aims to showcase the best of England's incredible coast.

As well as celebrating our fantastic coast it also marks the creation of the new England Coast Path. The entire English coastline will become accessible to visitors for the first time, with the 2,800mile sign-posted walking route becoming the world's longest! The Coast Path will provide access to hidden-away beaches, cliff-tops and coastal habitats as well as historically significant maritime areas.

To celebrate this, a year-long programme of events will be taking place around the whole of England's coastline, from major festivals to local food markets, arts trails and water sports. www.englishcoast.com

South Tyneside

South Tyneside Council is proud to support the campaign. We want to encourage residents and visitors to shop and support our local businesses, visit local attractions, attend our events programme and of course, enjoy our award-winning beaches and coastline!

The South Tyneside Coast has a number of coastal trails: www.visitsouthtyneside.co.uk

SPRING 2023
ACROSS SOUTH TYNESIDE

Holiday, Activities + Food

FREE

3 APRIL UNTIL 16 APRIL

* For young people aged 5-16 years in receipt of free school meals

For more information and eligibility please call **0191 424 0118** or email haf@southtyneside.gov.uk

Q | www.southtyneside.gov.uk/holidayclub



Spread the word!

THIS IS SOUTH TYNESIDE



South Tyneside Libraries

Groups and Activities

There's a great range of activities that take place across our libraries which offer a chance to try something different, learn new skills and socialise.

Early Years Groups

There's a range of activities for babies and toddlers, from birth up until four years old.

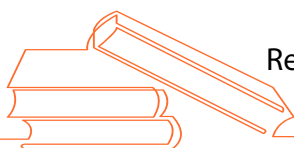
- **Baby Bounce** - from birth up to the time when they start to become mobile
- **Bounce and Wobbles** – For babies up to 1 year old who are mobile
- **Wobbles and Wiggles** – For ages 1-2 years old
- **Jiggle and Wiggle** – For ages 2-3 years old
- **Peek-a-Book** – For ages 3-4 years old

Activities take place during term time. Some activities take place during school holidays, enquire at the library for more information.



For more information:

🔍 www.southtyneside.gov.uk/libraries ✉ library.support@southtyneside.gov.uk



Receive the latest information and updates on our Library Services.

📱 @southtynesidelibraries 🐦 @SouthTynelibs

Cleadon Park Library

Baby Bounce	Monday	10.30-11am
Peek-a-Book	Thursday	10-10.45am
Jiggle and Wiggle	Friday	10-10.45am

Hebburn Central Library

Baby Bounce	Monday	10.30-11am
Wobbles and Wiggles	Monday	11-11.30am
Baby Bounce	Wednesday	2-2.30pm
Baby Bounce	Friday	10-10.30am

Jarrow Focus Library

Peek-a-Book	Monday	10.15-11am
Baby Bounce	Tuesday	10.15-10.45am
Wobbles and Wiggles	Thursday	10.15-11am

The Word Library

Jiggle and Wiggle	Monday	2-2.45pm
Baby Bounce	Tuesday	10.30-11am
Wobbles and Wiggles	Tuesday	2-2.45pm
Peek-a-Book	Wednesday	2-2.45pm
Bounce and Wobbles	Thursday	10.30-11am
Baby Bounce	Friday	10.30-11am

Spaces are available on a first come basis.

Sessions are
FREE and
are drop-in.

South Tyneside
**Libraries &
Information**

Follow us on social media

📱 @southtynesidelibraries 🐦 @SouthTynelibs



Share your love for reading!

Reading groups are a great opportunity for you to read with others, share your thoughts on books and to meet new friends. Joining is FREE so all you need to do is pick a time and place that suits you. Groups take place monthly across our libraries.

Events for adults

There is a selection of activities that take place at South Tyneside Libraries which are perfect for adults who want to learn a new skill, take part in fun activities and meet new people.

- **Chess for All** - every Tuesday and Saturday, 10am-12noon at The Word. Free, drop-in
- **Adult Colouring-In and Scrabble Group** - every Wednesday, 2-3.30pm at Cleadon Park Library. Free, no booking required
- **Library Voices** - our singing group meet every Thursday, 6 – 7.30pm at The Word. £4 per person, no booking required
- **Library Ukuleles** - every Friday, 2-3.30pm at The Word. £1 per person, no booking required
- **Knit and Natter** - every Monday 10.30am-12noon at The Word. £1 per person, no booking required
- **Clippy Matting** - every Friday 10.30am-12noon at The Word. £1 per person, no booking required



Library Memberships

FREE to join. Sign up at your local library or online at www.southtyneside.gov.uk/libraries



Soundpit Installation at The Word

Soundpit, created by Di Mainstone, invites you to explore what sound and music 'feels' like in a fully immersive installation featuring three sandpits.

Through playing and touching the sand, you can create your own images, sounds and pieces of music. It offers a fun and unique experience for all ages and abilities, particularly SEND users to enjoy engaging in sensory play and experimenting with the different sandpits, sounds, visuals and motion technology.



Free to enjoy!
See the installation until 23 April.



The Word Events

There's a range of events taking place at The Word in the coming weeks including sessions in FabLab, author talks, the return of History Wardrobe and more!

For more information visit www.theworduk.org





South Tyneside Parks

South Shields, Jarrow and Hebburn are home to a number of parks and outdoor spaces everybody can enjoy.

There's something we all love about our local parks in South Tyneside. That's why looking after our natural environment including our parks and green spaces is something we can all get behind as a community.

South Tyneside volunteer groups have helped massively to keep our parks and outdoor spaces as green and clean as possible.

Love Parks Week was recognised across the Borough last summer, a national celebration of our parks and green spaces organised by the charity, Keep Britain Tidy. North Marine and Readhead parks in South Shields and West Park Jarrow and Monkton Dene Park in Jarrow hold the coveted Green Flag status, which means they are now amongst the highest rated parks in the country

The international awards are a sign to the public that the space boasts the highest possible environmental standards, is beautifully maintained and has excellent visitor facilities. We're encouraging residents to love their South Tyneside parks by keeping them safe from anti-social behaviour and clean from litter and dog-fouling.

Any individuals or groups wishing to know more about volunteering in our parks and green spaces, including joining an existing group, please contact Jade Ridley via jade.ridley@southtyneside.gov.uk or **07970571909**

Join South Shields Indoor Bowling Centre

Try your hand at bowls for a change of scenery at Jack Clark Indoor Bowling Centre, Horsley Hill Road in South Shields.

If you're looking to try something new this year, then why not try your hand at the infamous bowls by joining one of the much-loved bowling clubs in South Tyneside.

The bowls centre welcomes you to an 8-rink indoor flat green bowling surface with 12 outdoor rinks to challenge on. The club caters for men and women of all ages with around 500 playing members who enjoy the bowling and social facilities. As a bonus, the centre has a café and fully licenced bar area with a spectator view of the bowling area, a perfect place to catch up with friends and enjoy delicious food and drink.

The club is always on the lookout for new members so if you are looking for an entry point to the fantastic world of bowls, or you are looking to make a return to the sport, then look no further.

You can enquire about membership by calling 0191 454 2023 or by paying a visit to the centre in person where a member of staff will be more than happy to show you around.



New Park Equipment heading to South Tyneside

Inclusive play equipment is set to be rolled out across several South Tyneside parks to support children with disabilities and sensory impairments.

Over the coming months, the Council will begin a programme to provide a new piece of fully accessible equipment in 11 parks and playgrounds across the Borough.

The improvements will involve new equipment, ranging from swings to level roundabouts, installed to accommodate wheelchair users and other children who have difficulties using the existing play facilities.

The Council has been working with disability and community groups through a series of consultation sessions, to understand their experiences and to ensure the new equipment meets the needs and wishes of those users.



This is to represent accessible play equipment and not what will be in place. Equipment could look like this.



“We know how important play is to the health and wellbeing of our children.

“Making play accessible to all is a key priority for us which is why we have committed to installing a piece of fully accessible equipment in 11 of our children’s play areas.

“We are also looking at options for adapting existing play equipment to make our play spaces as inclusive as possible for families to enjoy. We want all our children to be able to join in the fun and play together – no matter their ability.”

Councillor Joan Atkinson, Deputy Leader of South Tyneside Council with responsibility for Culture, Leisure and the Visitor Economy

Parks to benefit:

- Carr Ellison Park, Hebburn
- Lukes Lane Park, Hebburn
- West Park, Jarrow
- Disco Fields, Boldon
- Readhead Park, South Shields
- West Park, South Shields
- Cornthwaite, Whitburn
- Cleadon Park, South Shields
- Galsworthy Road, South Shields
- Coulthard Park, Cleadon
- Heathway, Jarrow



Work is expected to get underway in the spring.

#LoveSouthTyneside

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



Shop Local THIS EASTER



Whether you're looking for a gift for someone special or an Easter treat for yourself, there are a fantastic selection of shops across South Tyneside to suit your shopping needs.

See below some of the best spots in the Borough:

South Shields Town Centre

Visit South Shields Town Centre to enjoy some high street shopping and browse from popular brand favourites. You can also stop by Shop @ The Word which offers a wide range of gifts, many of which have been created by talented crafts people from around the area.



South Shields Market

Enjoy a variety of stalls at one of the oldest open-air markets in the North East.

- Friday and Flea Market, Fridays 9am-3pm
- Traditional Market, Saturdays 9am-3pm

www.southshieldsmarket.co.uk

Hebburn and Jarrow

These two town centres offer a selection of independent shops and high street stores. Whether you're shopping for an Easter picnic or just picking up essentials, there are plenty of parking spaces and transport links available which can help you to enjoy a stress-free shopping experience.



Whitburn and Cleaton

If you're looking for vintage furniture, boutique clothing, a local butchers, or organic vegetables, visit the unique and independent stores in Whitburn and Cleaton.



Whitburn



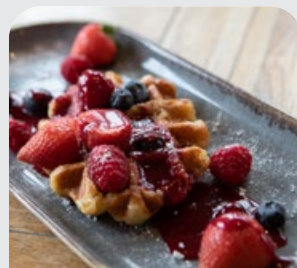
Cleaton

Boldon

The villages in Boldon are home to a range of stores including specialist fashion, boutique shopping and antiques.

The Nook and Laygate

These popular shopping spots in South Shields are both easily accessible from the Town Centre and offer a mix of high street stores and independent retailers.



Dine Local THIS EASTER



These destinations across South Tyneside also offer a great range of local cafes, independent bistros, high street favourites and cosy pubs where you can enjoy a bite to eat with loved ones over Easter.



Engagement team for South Tyneside

A new dedicated engagement team is set to tackle issues such as recycling, energy efficiency and crime and safety across South Tyneside.

Subject to full Council approval of the Medium Term Financial Plan, the three officers will use local insights and information and focus on disadvantaged areas of the Borough.

They will deliver a programme of engagement aimed at advising and educating residents on issues such as waste and recycling, community safety and crime prevention, and will also provide a visible presence at events.

Cllr Tracey Dixon, Leader of South Tyneside Council, said: "The proposed community engagement officers will be deployed on a priority basis to target issues where they are needed most.

"For example, if we have data around high levels of recycling waste contamination, they will provide advice to residents about which materials can be recycled but will follow this up to ensure behaviour change, and if necessary, with enforcement such as issuing warning letters.

"The ethos of this team will be around education and prevention; they will be working hand-in-hand with residents, businesses and partners to resolve targeted local issues."

Alongside the engagement officers, a new business and community response team will be introduced for the next two years, thanks to the Council successfully securing £8.8m from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

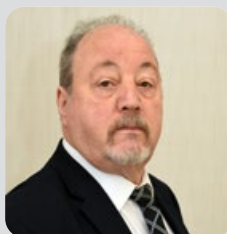
The team will support and complement engagement activity, targeting hotspot areas both proactively and reactively and will be available to respond out of hours.

They will focus on reducing anti-social behaviour in the three town centres, parks and housing estates. Officers will be equipped with body cameras to help gather evidence as part of their enforcement role.

Cllr Dixon added: "Over the next two years, this team will enhance the activity of engagement officers and other council enforcement teams.

"They will support businesses, shoppers and residents on a daily basis and their work could range helping to reduce anti-social behaviour by engaging with perpetrators and directing them to diversionary activities; to monitoring and calling in environmental issues such as litter on the beach at night, to providing public reassurance at high-profile events."

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



"By working together, we can engage more with our residents and offer a problem-solving approach which we hope will provide long-term solutions in South Tyneside."

Cllr Jim Foreman, Lead Member for Housing and Community Safety



Lighter nights

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



South Tyneside Youth Service provide a range of voluntary youth clubs to engage with young people.

The 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, South Tyneside Youth Service will be delivering a range of diversionary activities for young people across South Tyneside.

This includes football tournaments, climbing sessions and other fun and engaging activities.

contact

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

📷 | [stc_youthservice](https://www.instagram.com/stc_youthservice) 📘 | [South Tyneside Youth Service](https://www.facebook.com/SouthTynesideYouthService)

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.

The Council works 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.

Report it

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.



Let us know if it's affecting you!

Time to put the brakes on nuisance bikers

South Tyneside Council, Northumbria Police and South Tyneside Homes are working together to deal with motorcycle nuisance in the borough.

Riding on open land, parks, rights of way and footpaths is almost always illegal. Even on private land, permission is required from the owner of the land.

Report motorcycle nuisance

If you are affected by motorcycle nuisance please help us prevent it by reporting it:

- Northumbria Police call 101
- Report an incident <https://beta.northumbria.police.uk/our-services/report-it/report-an-incident/>
- Email: community.safety@southtyneside.gov.uk

It is helpful if you let us know:

- Details of the motorcycle (e.g. number plate, make, model and colour and where it is stored)
- Details of the rider (e.g. name, address and what they are wearing)
- When and where the motorcycle is being used (e.g. days, times and routes)

Any information will be treated in the strictest confidence.

What can we do?

- Seize the motorcycles and have them destroyed
- Take tenancy enforcement action against the owner of the motorcycles
- Use our Public Spaces Protection Order to issue fixed penalty notices

Riding a motorcycle on a road

To be used on a public highway, motorcycles must be constructed to a specific standard and are required to have:

- **A VALID MOT**
- **INSURANCE**
- **ROAD TAX AND**
- **BE REGISTERED**

The rider must also:

- **BE AGED 17 OR OVER**
- **HOLD A VALID DRIVING LICENSE**
- **WEAR A SUITABLE CRASH HELMET**

What is 'a road'?

As well as the carriageway, footpaths alongside roads are part of the road. Pushing a motorcycle along the footpaths means it is on the road.

The law

Under the Police Reform Act, the police can seize motor vehicles that are used to cause alarm, distress, or annoyance to members of the public. Repeat offenders are warned that they may have their motor vehicle taken from them and disposed of and they may have to pay the cost of recovery.

Parents are warned that they may be liable to pay a recovery fee on any cycle seized from their child. Think twice before you let your child out on that motorbike!

You can only ride an off-road motorbike legally if it is on private land and you have the land owner's permission. Land owned by the local council is not classed as private land. In law off road motorbikes are regarded as motor vehicles which must be constructed to a specific standard in order to be ridden on a public highway. Most off road motorbikes do not meet this standard. Visit the Department for Transport website: www.dft.gov.uk for more information.

For more information visit www.southtyneside.gov.uk/communitysafety



Cost of Living Crisis and the link with Exploitation

The UK is in a cost-of-living crisis, and this affecting everyone, but especially those who are more vulnerable.

In these situations, people will be more at risk of Exploitation “being groomed, forced or coerced into doing something that you don’t want to do for someone else’s gain”. It is a complex and hidden issue.

Exploitation can take many forms including criminal activity such as fraud, scams and theft and we can all be victims.



Examples of this include:

- **Unsolicited emails, phone calls SMS text messages from fraudsters.** They may claim to be from a believable source, such as bank, energy supplier or government agency, perhaps promising financial reward, or threatening action on outstanding debts. Always confirm the source before acting.
- **Borrowing from a loan shark** – unlicensed, illegal money lenders target those who are struggling. They are unregulated, exploiting, and harassing borrowers.
- **Scams** – financial, dating, online, phone, courier, and romance
- **Slavery, Sexual Exploitation, Hate and Mate Crimes, Trafficking** (including for example moving a person from room to room in house, town to town or county to county)
- **Fraud** including submitting false or inflated timesheets or expense claims, working whilst off sick, theft of employer assets. Fraud is never without victims, making a gain at the expense of already limited resources and others who may also be facing



**South Tyneside
Safeguarding Children
and Adults Partnership**

contact

If you are worried about an adult or child contact:

Children: Integrated Safeguarding Intervention Team:

 **(0191) 424 5010**

(Mon-Thurs 8.30am – 5.00pm and Friday 8.30am – 4.30pm)

Adults: Let’s Talk Service

 **(0191) 424 6000**

(Mon-Thurs 8.30am – 5.00pm and Friday 8.30am – 4.30pm)

Out of Hours:

 **(0191) 456 2093**

(Evenings, Weekends and Bank Holidays)

What can you do?



STOP

Taking a moment to stop and think before parting with your money or information could keep you safe.



CHALLENGE

Could it be fake? It’s ok to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.



PROTECT

Tell someone and Report your concerns
Contact your bank and the Police immediately if you think you’ve fallen for a scam and report it to Action Fraud.

get active...

Download the new mobile app

You can now download the new 'STC Leisure' mobile app, where you are able to:

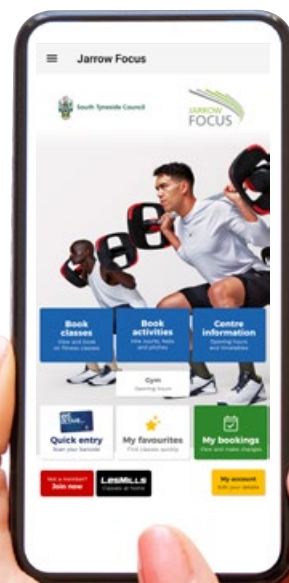
- Book fitness classes, gym inductions and sports facilities
- Amend your bookings
- Access your digital membership card
- Update personal information
- Keep up to date with the latest leisure news

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.



Please scan the QR code to download.



Apply for a leisure membership

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, two saunas, two steam rooms and over 200 classes per week.

There are also some new customer changes in place, following the launch of our updated leisure system:

- **New Mobile App** - an easier and faster way to book and pay for classes and activities. Choose to be kept up to date with our latest news and review your information and bookings. Quicker facility access
- **Self-Serve Kiosks** - collect sauna bands, check in and book activities without the need to queue at reception
- **Electronic check-in** and an opportunity to book for class programmes via tablets outside of studios

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.

Q | www.southtyneside.gov.uk/leisure



LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

YOUR FUTURE
YOUR VOTE
YOUR CHOICE

Thursday 4 May 2023

YOUR VOTE MATTERS
DON'T LOSE IT



This is your chance to vote for who you would like to represent you on South Tyneside Council, but to have your say you must be registered to vote.

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 **Monday 17 April 2023**.

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-10pm** on **Thursday 4 May**.

For the first time this year 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 voter-authority-certificate.service.gov.uk or by completing a paper form.

The deadline for applications is **5pm** on **Tuesday 25 April 2023**.

Voting by Post

Anyone who does not have photographic identification or does not want to show identification in the polling station, may prefer to vote by post. The deadline to apply to vote by post is **5pm** on **Tuesday 18 April 2023**.

If you would like a form to apply for a voter authority certificate or to vote by post, go to www.southtyneside.gov.uk/elections or call our Customer Contact Centre on **0191 427 7000** (Mon-Fri 8am to 6.30pm).

The Electoral Commission

Remember
bring photo ID
to vote



Find out more at
electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID

No ID? You can apply for free voter ID

We have changed the format and paper stock of the South Tyneside newsletter to make sure we keep costs down and provide you with as much news and information as possible. If you live in South Tyneside and don't receive this newsletter to your home address by 14 March 2023, or if you would like to provide feedback or comments, please call **0191 427 7000** or email marketing@southtyneside.gov.uk to let us know. If you would like the newsletter in a different format 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