

# South Tyneside NEWS

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



South Tyneside Council



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Spread the word!

**THIS IS  
SOUTH  
TYNESIDE**

# Welcome

As 2023 draws to a close, we have taken time in this newsletter to reflect upon an exciting year of significant change, while looking forward to 2024 and continuing our work.

We will continue to deliver on our ambitions to achieve our vision to make South Tyneside – A place where people live healthy, happy and fulfilled lives.

We want all people in South Tyneside to be:



## Financially secure

Residents will be financially secure. They will have what they need for a good standard of living.



## 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.



## Connected to jobs

Residents will have access to jobs, skills, and learning. They will have the skills and confidence to apply for a wide range of quality local jobs. These jobs will be in key and growing areas of employment and will benefit all of our borough.



## Part of strong communities

Residents will live in clean, green, and connected communities where they feel safe.

And we want these things for every resident, so we are committed to:



## Targeting support to make things fairer

We will target support at the residents and parts of our borough that need it the most, reducing inequalities and making things fairer.

Residents can find out more about our 20-year vision, ambitions and three year strategy at [www.southtyneside.gov.uk/vision](http://www.southtyneside.gov.uk/vision)



I hope you all have a Merry Christmas and are able to spend some time with loved ones over the festive period. I wish you a very Happy New Year. 2024 is set to be another exciting year for our borough.

*Tracey Dixon*

Leader of the Council

## Meet your Local Councillor champions

Alongside the Leader and Lead Members, six champions have been working as advocates for a specific area of the Council's business.

The main responsibility of each member champion is to encourage communication and positive action over the issue they represent.



Equality, inclusion, diversity and LGBTQ+  
– Cllr Shane Smith



Skills  
– Cllr Judith Taylor



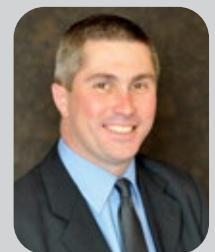
Youth Engagement  
– Cllr Ken Dawes



Democracy  
– Cllr Ann Best



Domestic Violence  
– Cllr Pat Hay



Town centres and villages  
– Cllr Mark Walsh

You can find out more about the role of councillors and how decisions are made at: [www.southtyneside.gov.uk/Councillors](http://www.southtyneside.gov.uk/Councillors)



## Our South Tyneside Conversation

# Let's talk about Hebburn...

**As a new Council Leadership Team, we are committed to talking to residents about areas right across our borough.**

How we live has changed. The way we shop, work and spend our leisure time has changed, which means the spaces where we spend time will change too.

We've invested in Hebburn over the last decade and want to ensure it continues to be a place that meets the needs of our residents and businesses.

Our Hebburn Conversation asks questions about what the future might look like for Hebburn Town Centre, Riverside Park and Hebburn surroundings.

### Get Involved

The easiest way to engage in our conversation is to answer survey questions at [www.ourconversation.co.uk](http://www.ourconversation.co.uk).

We want to know what's important to you, so we can shape plans around the future people want to see.

Our Conversation will also be held in the heart of the town, with a face to face inside Hebburn Central on **Monday 4 December from 12noon- 7pm.**

Our teams will be out and about welcoming your views at Fountain Park on **Monday 27 November from 11am- 5pm.**



***"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 and Transport*

## YOU SAID WE DID ✓

You said supporting our towns across the Borough was important.

We held a conversation about South Shields Town Centre and are now holding one about Hebburn Town Centre

## South Tyneside Local Plan Regulation 19

Residents can have their say on the amendments to the local plan before it goes to planning inspectors. Information will be promoted to residents in early 2024.

Keep checking our website and social media channels for information [www.southtyneside.gov.uk/haveyoursay](http://www.southtyneside.gov.uk/haveyoursay)





Through our climate change strategy 'Sustainable South Tyneside', we are delighted to have exceeded our first major target, cutting carbon emissions by 30 per cent.

# Viking Energy Network Jarrow

**South Tyneside's flagship renewable energy scheme, the Viking Energy Network at Jarrow, is complete and set to cut annual carbon emissions by 1,035 tonnes.**

We are incredibly proud to be leading the way with this multi-million-pound pioneering project which harnesses low-grade heat from the River Tyne and exports it to council-owned buildings, including Jarrow Focus leisure centre, three residential tower blocks, Jarrow Business Centre and Jarrow Town Hall.

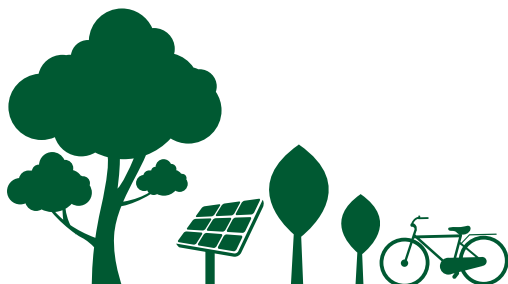
This network – a UK-first – is unique in that it combines three renewable technologies – a river source heat pump, a combined heat and power (CHP) back-up system and a 1-megawatt solar farm – ensuring minimal use of fossil fuels. It also has a private wire electrical network with storage battery.

Cllr Tracey Dixon, Leader of South Tyneside Council, with Paul Quinn, Contracts Manager for Colloide, inside the energy centre.

A new energy centre on the banks of the river and extensive pipe network is used to distribute the heat across the town. The innovative new network, constructed by Colloide Engineering Systems Ltd, demonstrates our commitment to net zero and a switch to cleaner, more secure energy sources. The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero is funding a phase 2 study into the potential of expanding the heat network to connect other local buildings.

## YOU SAID WE DID

You said addressing climate change is a priority  
We declared a climate emergency and are taking steps to become carbon neutral



Check out our video on South Tyneside Council  
YouTube <https://youtu.be/hlzaS8IFO10>

# School Streets trial underway

70% of residents said that they would prefer to walk or cycle for short journeys.



Pupils Daley Johns (aged 8) and Mila Eavies (aged 4).

Two Jarrow primary schools are taking part in a six-month trial of School Streets to help create a safer, healthier environment outside the school gate.

Vehicles are not permitted on the roads outside Simonside Primary School and St Mary's RC Primary School on school days (Monday to Friday) at specific times (8-9.15am and 2.30-4pm) until Monday 18 March 2024.

The roads affected include:

- Glasgow Road
- Arran Drive
- Ayr Drive
- Crieff Grove

The trial aims to reduce traffic around the schools, encourage more children to walk, wheel, scoot or cycle, and improve air quality.

Sustrans is a national charity who works with schools across the UK to help more children get active on the school run.



(Left to right) Simonside Primary School Head Teacher Donna Scott, Leader of South Tyneside Council Cllr Tracey Dixon and Helen Ette, School Streets Officer at Sustrans, are pictured with pupils Daley Johns (aged 8) and Mila Eavies (aged 4).



**Most of the parents have been very supportive of the School Street. Our children will now have a safe area to cross to school and won't have to dodge between parked cars. It will also make the street calmer for residents too. I'm really excited about the scheme, and I hope it will encourage other schools in South Tyneside to try a School Street too.**

Donna Scott, Headteacher of Simonside Primary School



Families who need to travel can drive and 'park and stride' from parking on the Scotch Estate and at Perth Green Community Association.

Signage is in place advising residents of the restrictions to vehicles. Residents on those streets, Blue Badge holders, teachers and those with legitimate reasons will be allowed vehicular access.

## Public consultation



A consultation on the School Streets trial is taking place until Monday 18 March 2024.

For more information visit:  
[www.southtyneside.gov.uk/schoolstreets](http://www.southtyneside.gov.uk/schoolstreets)

# How do you feel about maths?

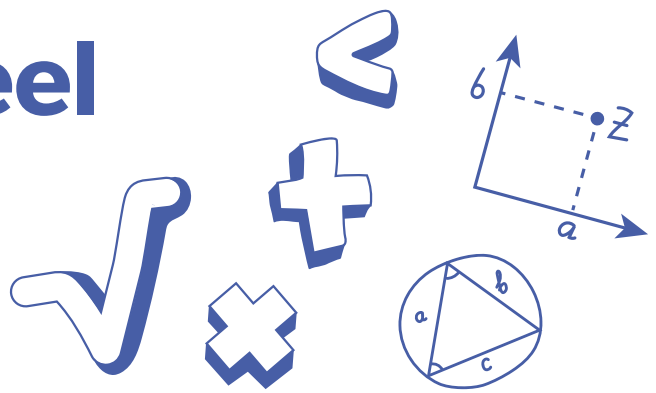
If the thought of using numbers leaves you feeling a little uncomfortable, you're not alone.

Across the UK about 1 in 4 adults have a low level of numeracy.

Good numeracy skills may unlock job opportunities and lead to higher wages or prepare you for further study. They also help in everyday life, such as helping children with homework and budgeting money. If you feel like you could do with a maths boost, there is support to help you.

## National Numeracy

National Numeracy is an independent charity with a vision for everyone in the UK to get on with numbers so they can get on in life. Discover free, helpful resources and advice about maths at [www.nationalnumeracy.org.uk](http://www.nationalnumeracy.org.uk)



## National Numeracy Challenge

A great way to start improving your skills is with the National Numeracy Challenge, a free online learning tool to help you understand your current numeracy level and improve with tailored learning resources.

Try it out at [www.nationalnumeracy.org.uk/challenge](http://www.nationalnumeracy.org.uk/challenge)

## YOU SAID WE DID



You said investment and jobs were a top priority  
We delivered over 250 courses to help you get into work, change your career path and improve your skills



# Multiply



Multiply is a fully funded government initiative offering free maths courses to help adults improve their numeracy skills for work and for everyday life.

The focus is on practical skills and having fun with numbers, rather than abstract maths.

You can sign up to one of the free Multiply courses in South Tyneside if you:

- are aged 19 or over
- do not already have a GCSE at grade C (or equivalent) in maths

Courses are suitable for beginners and those who want to build on the foundations of their maths knowledge.

Find out more at: [www.southtynesideworks.com/multiply](http://www.southtynesideworks.com/multiply)



# Investing in children's care

Work to increase the number of residential places for South Tyneside's children in care is underway at two sites.

## Building Children's Homes

A new children's home is being built at Grant Street in Jarrow to accommodate up to four children and works have started in Seton Avenue in South Shields on an assessment centre which will offer overnight support on a short-term basis for up to two children.

A further children's home will be built in Hebburn New Town to house up to another four children.

***"We are committed to providing our cared-for children with the best home and parenting experience we can offer, so they can attend school, see their families and enjoy time with their friends."***

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

Once complete, these developments will almost triple the number of placements for children in care in our borough. The new developments are the latest pillars of investment as we continue our improvement journey for children's services.

Cllr Ellison with Robert Storey who will manage the new facility, Ruby Watt, a care-experienced young person, Kevin Turnbull, Director at JDDK Architects and Norman Trainer from Surgo Construction

## Responding To Need

The new builds are a direct response from the Council to a lack of places for children in care. As is the case for other councils, South Tyneside's young people are sometimes placed away from family and friends. Previously this has been as far away as Scotland and Lancashire. The new builds will allow children to stay in the communities they call home, close to their school, family and friends which will provide stability in their lives. Each of the sites incorporate adequate parking, including designated disabled parking and on-site electric charging points.

Work should be complete within the year on the schemes with disruption kept to a minimum.

**We look forward to updating you on the progress in 2024.**

## We are recruiting Social Workers

We'd love for you to join our South Tyneside team! South Tyneside is a great place to be a social worker. We are PROUD of our employees and the job that they deliver to make a difference in the lives of children, young people and their families. We offer a range of great benefits with training and progression.

Visit our website to find out more [www.southtyneside.gov.uk/jobs](http://www.southtyneside.gov.uk/jobs)

# SUPPORT FOR OUR ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY

**South Tyneside Council, and its partners at South Tyneside Homes, proactively support our armed forces, reservists and veterans.**

Employees across both organisations have received awareness training on the needs of ex-service personnel and signposting to additional support.

## Housing Information

Our borough's Armed Forces 'move-on' accommodation scheme helps veterans ease back into civilian life, and get access to employment, education or training, and one-to-one support on issues from healthcare and mental health to welfare and benefits, through a dedicated outreach worker.

Contact Lee Moore, our Armed Forces Support Officer in South Tyneside for any armed forces query.

Call: 0300 123 6633

*Whatever your situation,  
we will do what we can to help.*



## Veterans for Veterans

**NAAFI Break South Tyneside is a local organisation that is run by veterans for veterans**

It's a welcoming and accessible support group, creating a safe space where veterans can meet. A drop-in is held on the first and third Wednesday of each month, 10am- 12noon at Action Station Boldon Lane, South Shields, Tyne & Wear, NE34 0LZ.

The group offers guidance and advice to currently serving personnel, reservists, veterans, and military leavers in critical areas of their lives, including housing, education, health, and well-being. This support aims to help veterans navigate the often complex and challenging aspects of civilian life after military service.

For more information about NAAFI Break contact Joe Mills on 07850 584 960.

## Armed Forces Friendly Employer

We recognise the contribution and sacrifice made by members of the armed forces community and the unique skills they bring to our workplace. We are proud to have signed the Armed Forces Covenant and proud to be a Forces Friendly Employer.

If you have served in the Armed Forces and need a helping hand to get back into civilian life, our council website has information and advice at [www.southside.gov.uk/armedforces](http://www.southside.gov.uk/armedforces)







### 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

# Improving how we deliver tenancy support to customers.

## We've launched a new way of working to support our tenants!

Changes have been made so we can focus on supporting tenants to maintain their tenancies and properties.

Area Management, (which includes teams like street cleaning, emptying litter bins, removing graffiti and cleaning the seafront) was previously delivered by South Tyneside Homes. The teams moved to South Tyneside Council to align more closely with other council teams, including the co-ordination of work agreed at Community Area Forums (CAFs).

We have reshaped our teams and services, so they are more effective and efficient. We have brought our Income and Housing teams together, making things easier for you if you come to us for support or advice.

You will soon see more Housing Officers on the ground in your local area. These members of the team are positioned to work with and support tenants just like you. If you spot a Housing Officer out and about, say hello!

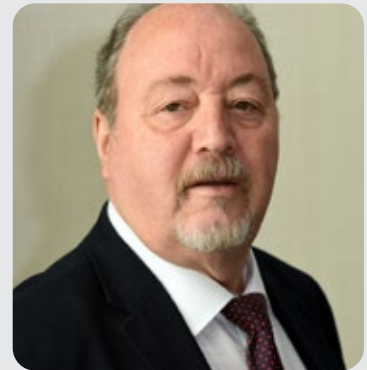
The Officers have significantly smaller patches than before, so they can easily build relationships with tenants and understand what you need from us. This means that you will have one designated point of contact for any queries or questions relating to your tenancy or your property going forward.

Your Housing Officer will be contacting you shortly to introduce themselves. You will receive a letter with their name and contact telephone number – if you have any questions about your tenancy or property you will be able to contact them directly.

## Read our Annual Report 2023

### This year's Annual Report is here!

Head to [www.southtynesidehomesannualreport.org.uk](http://www.southtynesidehomesannualreport.org.uk) to find out how we've performed in the past year, good news stories, and more.



**Every year our Annual Report is written with help from our tenants. This involves customers examining performance and most importantly highlighting areas for improvement."**

*Councillor Jim Foreman  
Housing and Community Safety*



Winter can bring all sorts of seasonal bugs and illnesses, including coughs, colds and upset stomachs.

Although these are unpleasant, they usually clear up in less than a week, and there's no need to visit your GP. You can get quick, expert and confidential advice from your local pharmacist. [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk) is an excellent website for health advice and information about where to get the right treatment. Lots of advice and support can be found at [www.southtyneside.gov.uk/article/16204/Keep-warm-keep-well](http://www.southtyneside.gov.uk/article/16204/Keep-warm-keep-well)



## Protect yourself and others against Flu

### Eligible residents encouraged to get free flu jab

A South Tyneside woman is urging eligible people to take up the offer of a free flu jab after her Christmas was spoiled last year by the disease. Janine Cole, 45, of the Fellgate Estate in Jarrow, is entitled to a free flu vaccine because she has an autoimmune disease, which makes her more susceptible to complications of influenza (flu).

Last year, Janine, who is a teaching assistant, was busy with other things and simply forgot to get the vaccine.

But just days before Christmas she was struck down with flu. On Christmas Day she managed to crawl out of bed to watch her teenage children open their presents but was so weak she could not even sit up.

Janine became progressively worse and ended up in Urgent Care where her blood oxygen levels were found to be extremely low. The flu had developed into pleurisy which caused severe chest pain.



***"Helping residents to take care of their wellbeing is important. The nhs website has some great info and I can provide information on any symptoms you are worried about."***

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



Janine, who is usually a fit and active person, was ill for three weeks. She said: "I missed Christmas and New Year and I had to take an extra week off work to recover.

I certainly will be getting the flu jab this year and would highly recommend anyone who is eligible to do so."

People aged 65 and over, pregnant women, children aged between two and nine and those with an underlying health condition as well as carers and those living in a care home are advised to have the vaccine.

**You will be contacted by your GP as soon as vaccines are available, book your appointment as soon**

**NHS**



# BE WISE IMMUNISE

The risks of **COVID-19** and **flu** are still real. Get your vaccinations to protect yourself and the people you love. **To find out more and book your appointment, visit [nhs.uk](https://www.nhs.uk)**





# Local Area Coordination in South Tyneside

We are pleased to announce a new scheme coming to South Tyneside. Primrose, Biddick and All Saints and Whitburn and Marsden are all areas that will benefit from a dedicated Local Area Coordinator.

## What is a Local Area Coordinator?

Local Area Coordinators are paid workers who get to know the local residents and families, including those accessing services like health and social care.

### Coordinators will:

- Be based in a specific area
- Available to everyone in that area, with no referral or time limit
- Get to know residents so they can help shape and coordinate their plans for a better life
- Listen and focus on people's strengths to build relationships and trust
- Work with local groups, services and organisations

Local Coordination is designed to help people regain and maintain control of their lives, so they can stay strong and connected to members of their own communities.

Read how the scheme has worked in other areas here [www.lacnetwork.org](http://www.lacnetwork.org)

## Want to get involved?

We are looking for local people to help us shape this scheme and recruit Local Area Coordinators. The roles will be advertised later in the year and we will be holding a recruitment event in the community.

If you're interested in getting involved, please email:

[diane.walker@southtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:diane.walker@southtyneside.gov.uk)



living better lives

## Adult Social Care supports people and their carers to stay independent and well so they can live the life they want

Join the **Working Together** Group to discuss your experience of Adult Social Care in South Tyneside

- Have your voice heard
- Share your experiences
- Meet new people
- Get involved to help improve services!

For more information please contact:

 0191 424 6178  [livingbetterlives@southtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:livingbetterlives@southtyneside.gov.uk)





***“This is an amazing example of partnership working and encouraging children’s imagination for our future.”***

*Cllr Jane Carter, Lead Member for skills and education*

**If you are a local business owner or run a local organisation, help South Tyneside thrive by signing up to the pledge.**

Over 200 local businesses have signed up since it was launched.

A recent survey found The Pledge has added at least £3m a year to the South Tyneside economy:

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

**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

[www.southtyneside.gov.uk/southtynesidepledge](http://www.southtyneside.gov.uk/southtynesidepledge)

# Little inventors idea brought to life by South Tyneside Pledge organisations



Isaac from Cleadon with reps from Ford Aerospace and Port of Tyne

## A young inventor from South Shields is to see his planet-saving idea spring to life, with the support of two South Tyneside pioneers.

Cell Pack Solutions and Ford Aerospace were two of the many local businesses and bright minds to back the campaign, with both companies agreeing to collaborate to help bring one of the winning ideas to life.

Nine-year-old Isaac, from Cleadon, visited Ford Aerospace at Port of Tyne to present his Wind Mirrors to a panel of high-profile business leaders.

Working in partnership with schools across South Tyneside, the Little Inventors Programme launched in February as a challenge to year 4 and 5 students to create inventions powered by movement and wind that could help reverse climate change.

Isaac’s idea, ‘Wind Mirrors’, would see propellers manufactured that could be attached underneath vehicle wing mirrors to generate renewable electricity that can be used to power vehicular accessories.

Both organisations were inspired to get involved having signed the South Tyneside Pledge, a commitment by over two hundred local organisations to boost local economic activity, reduce health inequalities, lower carbon emissions, and enhance civic pride. Equinor, Operator of Dogger Bank Wind Farm is also a signatory of the pledge.

Find out more about the pledge at [www.investsouthtyneside.com](http://www.investsouthtyneside.com)



**THIS IS  
SOUTH  
TYNESIDE**

# CHRISTMAS 2023

Christmas is just around the corner! South Tyneside has something for everyone this festive season – from a parade, carol singing and festive markets to light switch ons and pantomimes.

## CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ONS

### SOUTH SHIELDS

Thursday 23 November, 5-6pm

Join us outside The Word in South Shields as we switch on the South Shields festive lights.

To get everyone in the spirit, the Mayor will be joined by Metro Radio's Chris Felton, who will host the event alongside festive entertainment including singers, walkabout entertainers and stilt walkers.



### JARROW

Friday 24 November 4-5pm

Join us outside Jarrow Town Hall for this fun festive event.

The event will include local entertainment and music, including seasonal characters. It will be great festive fun for all the family and get everyone in the Christmas spirit!

### HEBBURN

Monday 27 November 4-5pm

Join us for this great event as we switch on the Hebburn festive lights. There will be seasonal songs and lots of entertainment. Guaranteed festive fun for all the family!

## CIVIC CAROL CONCERT

Monday 4 December 6.30 – 9.30pm

Join South Tyneside Orchestra for the annual South Tyneside Civic Carol Concert at Temple Park. A joint concert with the primary school choirs of South Tyneside performing a selection of festive music. Tickets £5 per person. Available to purchase from the Shop @ The Word and from participating schools.



### MARKET

You can browse a range of market stalls and pick up some festive gifts as South Shields Market will be running from 3-6.30pm on Thursday 23 November and throughout the Christmas lights switch on.

**METRO RADIO**  
THE BIGGEST HITS THE BIGGEST THROWBACKS



# SOUTH TYNESIDE WINTER PARADE

Friday 8 December 5pm

Delivered in conjunction with the team behind the Summer Parade, The Cultural Spring, South Tyneside Winter Parade will be an unforgettable evening of joy and festive spirit!

The parade will make its way along Ocean Road towards the seafront at 5.30pm where people lining the street will be entertained by fantastic parade performers and the Spark! Drumming group. The parade will end with a performance by Spark! And a finale event on Littlehaven Beach.



# Santa's Grotto

AT HAVEN POINT

2 – 23 December

11am-4pm Saturday and Sunday,  
4.30-7.30pm Monday to Friday

A team of fabulous elves have been busy making a very special magical home for Santa Claus, right at the heart of the seafront! He is really looking forward to meeting lots of children in his Christmas grotto and wishing them all a very Happy Christmas.

For details see [www.southtyneside.gov.uk/christmas](http://www.southtyneside.gov.uk/christmas)



As well as these events look out for our What's On Guide or visit the website

[www.southtyneside.gov.uk/christmas](http://www.southtyneside.gov.uk/christmas)

for a full list of activities including school choirs, bands, kids entertainment, crafts and a grotto return!

# Pantomime fun

Christmas is the perfect time to enjoy a family pantomime. Take a look below at the unmissable shows taking place over the festive period!

## ALADDIN

**The Customs House,  
23 November – 6 January**

The extremely popular Little Panto with the Big Heart returns to The Customs House this Christmas!

## THE ENCHANTED SNOW GLOBE

**The Customs House,  
2 December – 31 December**

The perfect show for under 7s, this show from Tree Stump Theatre and The Customs House will be full of singing and dancing.



the customs house  
arts and entertainment for all

Box Office: [www.customshouse.co.uk](http://www.customshouse.co.uk) / 0191 454 1234

## JACK AND THE BEANSTALK

**Westovians, 19 – 27 January**

Join Westovians for their popular annual pantomime.  
Box Office: [www.ticketsource.co.uk/westovians](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/westovians)  
0191 456 0980

## ROBINSON CRUSOE

**Jarrow Focus,  
30 November – 3 December**

The annual pantomime by Jarrow Musical Theatre Company is back! Box Office: [www.ticketsource.co.uk/jarrowmusicaltheatrecompany](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/jarrowmusicaltheatrecompany)

## SNOW WHITE

**Brinkbun CIO, 19 – 23 December**

A pantomime brought to you by STAMP  
(South Tyneside Academy of Musical Performance).  
Box Office: 0333 666 3366,  
[www.st-amp.co.uk/box-office](http://www.st-amp.co.uk/box-office)

## Festive Fairs

Offering a great opportunity to shop for unique Christmas gifts from a variety of stalls, showcasing some of the many talented craftspeople and traders from around the region. Free to attend, no booking required.

## FESTIVE MARKET

**2nd Dec,  
South Shields Market  
Square, 9am – 3pm**



## THE CUSTOMS HOUSE CHRISTMAS FAYRE

**18 – 19 November, 11am – 4pm**

## JARROW HALL CHRISTMAS FAIR

**25 – 26 November, 10am – 4pm**

## CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR AT SOUTER LIGHTHOUSE

**25 – 26 November, 10am – 4pm**



# New mural on The Word's rooftop garden



Mark One87 with the new mural at The Word

## WHAT'S ON

AT OUR LIBRARIES

Newly designed artwork has been created on the rooftop garden at The Word, supported with funding from Arts Council England.

Artist Mark One87 was commissioned to produce the mural, working with the local community to develop ideas for the design.

The project is part of a development to transform the roof terrace into a garden area. Along with the new mural, there will be various nature and garden themed activities taking place within the space.

## WHAT'S ON AT THE WORD

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



/worduk



@theword\_uk

# Join in with our library groups

**Did you know that our libraries offer you a chance to try something new, learn a new skill and meet new people?**

**Reading Groups** - Joining is FREE. Groups take place monthly across our libraries.

**Early Years Groups** - We have a range of groups for babies and toddlers from birth up until four years old. Activities are FREE and take place on various dates and times across our libraries.

### Events and Groups for Adults

- **Library Voices Singing Group** – Thursdays 6-7.30pm at The Word. £4 per person
- **Library Ukuleles** – Fridays 2-3.30pm at The Word. £1

- **Chess for All** – Saturdays and Tuesdays, 10am-12noon at The Word. Free, drop-in

- **Adult Colouring-In and Scrabble Group** – Wednesdays, 2-3.30pm at Cleadon Park. £1

- **Knit and Natter** – Mondays, 10.30am-12noon at The Word. Wednesdays, 10am-12.30pm at Cleadon Park. £1

- **Clippy Matting** – Wednesdays, 12noon at Hebburn Central. Fridays, 10.30am-12noon at The Word. £1

- **Carpet Bowls** – Tuesdays, 2.30-3.30pm at Cleadon Park. £1

Advanced booking not required.



**“Libraries provide a great opportunity for people across the borough to get involved and meet new people.”**

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

### Keep in touch with us!

Follow us on social media to stay up to date with all the latest news!



@southtynesidelibraries



@SouthTyneLibs



# Mayor reflects on summer engagements

The Mayor of South Tyneside, Councillor John McCabe and his wife Julie – the Mayoress, have had an incredible start to their Mayoral year with a busy summer of key events, civic duties and engagements.



“ *It's such a huge honour to be representing South Tyneside as first citizen. The Mayoress and I have had a wonderful start to our year, meeting some incredible people and seeing the fantastic work in our communities. We are fully embracing our time in office and championing all that makes our Borough a great place.* ”

## Key

- 1 Attending the Armed Forces Day parade and family fun day
- 2 This year marked the 10th anniversary that the Council marked Learning Disability Week
- 3 Enjoying the crowds at the fantastic Summer Parade
- 4 Srebrenica Memorial Day
- 5 Enjoying the Fit for the Finish schools fun run
- 6 Freedom of South Tyneside conferred to Sheila Graber
- 7 A proud moment at the Mayor's Sunday Parade
- 8 Attending the Blue Plaque unveiling to John Miles

The Mayor and Mayoress are also working hard to raise money for their chosen charities including South Tyneside food banks and Hospital Radio.



# #LoveSouthTyneside



The annual #LoveSouthTyneside Awards recognise and celebrate civic pride and community spirit across South Tyneside.

On Tuesday 18 July, awards were handed out to winners across ten categories at The Customs House. The awards celebrated and recognised the fantastic volunteers, hidden local heroes and people within communities that go above and beyond helping others.



***“The #LoveSouthTyneside Awards celebrate our unsung heroes. The people who make our lives richer from the little selfless acts that they do on a day-to-day basis.”***

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

Read some of these amazing stories at [www.lovesouthtyneside.co.uk](http://www.lovesouthtyneside.co.uk)

We'd love to hear more of the amazing stories from our residents and businesses in South Tyneside. The awards are returning in 2024!



## We #love volunteers

Inspire South Tyneside are based in South Shields. They work with communities, the Council and partners to enable brilliant people to do amazing things.

If you are an individual, organisation or a group who like to would like to give back to your community by volunteering and helping others in need then visit [www.inspiresouthtyneside.co.uk](http://www.inspiresouthtyneside.co.uk). You'll find workshops, training and how you can get involved.

**Inspire**  
South Tyneside  
*Working together to improve communities*



# CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR BIN COLLECTIONS

Normal collection day	Revised collection day
Tuesday 26 Dec	Wednesday 27 Dec
Wednesday 27 Dec	Thursday 28 Dec
Thursday 28 Dec	Friday 29 Dec
Friday 29 Dec	Saturday 30 Dec

\*No other collection dates will change.

Don't forget to place your bins out by 7.30am for collection.

You can find out when your bin is being collected at [www.southtyneside.gov.uk/bins](http://www.southtyneside.gov.uk/bins)



## RECYCLING VILLAGE OPENING TIMES

The Recycling Village at Middlefields is open every day (except Christmas Day) 9am - 6pm.  
Book a slot at [www.southtyneside.gov.uk/recyclingvillage](http://www.southtyneside.gov.uk/recyclingvillage) or call 0191 427 7000.

## CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTIONS

Did you know that you can recycle your real Christmas tree at sites across South Tyneside?

Find out where you can recycle Christmas trees at [www.southtyneside.gov.uk/waste](http://www.southtyneside.gov.uk/waste)

Did you know that the Council turns the trees from these sites into compost and soil? Some of which is used at parks and green spaces across South Tyneside

## GARDEN WASTE 2024

Subscriptions for the 2024 season will be opening shortly. Emails and letters will be sent to residents with information on how to subscribe. Find out more about the collection scheme at [www.southtyneside.gov.uk/gardenwaste](http://www.southtyneside.gov.uk/gardenwaste)



# DID YOU KNOW?

## 3 MILLION VAPES ARE DISPOSED OF EVERY WEEK IN THE UK?

Vapes contain batteries and if they are damaged during the collection and processing, they can start a fire. This is hazardous to our crew, facilities and collection vehicles.

You can take them to the Recycling Village or your nearest large supermarket.



**“We want residents to recycle as much as possible. Please check items can go in the blue bin before recycling. Putting the wrong item in a blue bin can cause an entire load not being recycled.”**

*Cllr Ernest Gibson, Lead Member for Neighbourhoods and Climate Change*

# RECYCLE RIGHT THIS CHRISTMAS

Contamination in resident recycling bins is very high. Over 19% of bins collected each week contain items they shouldn't. These include liquids, nappies and food. Contaminated recycling costs over £230,000. This money could be spent on vital services.



## ✓ Nice List

- Glass bottles and jars
  - Plastic bottles, tubs and trays
    - Cartons
  - Aluminium cans
    - Aerosols
  - Yoghurt pots
  - Cardboard
    - Paper
- and more!

## ✗ Naughty List

- **Glitter**  
No cards, decorations, wrapping paper or pictures with glitter
- **Food**
- **Wrapping Paper**
- **Christmas decorations**  
None. No tinsel, holly wreaths, lights, trees or baubles. Donate where possible or throw in your grey bin.
- **Greetings card**  
Any cards with glitter, glue or foil

Check out our handy A-Z guide at [www.southtyneside.gov.uk/recycle](http://www.southtyneside.gov.uk/recycle) to find out how you can make a difference!

# What is Anti-Social Behaviour?

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) is behaviour by a person which causes or is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not of the same household.

This includes:

- Nuisance, rowdy or inconsiderate neighbours
- Littering or dumping rubbish
- Shouting or noisy behaviour in places where this might be annoying or upsetting
- Using rude, abusive or insulting language
- Threatening behaviour or bullying
- Alcohol related trouble or buying and selling of drugs



## What can the Council do about ASB?

The powers we have include ASBOs, parenting orders and premises closure orders (the power to close properties after serious persistent nuisance or disorder).

The Council and Homes work together to deal with disruptive tenants in council properties and issue fines for littering, dog fouling, fly tipping and breaching PSPO orders.

Crimes such as drug dealing, assault, threatening behaviour, car theft and burglary should all be reported to the Police on **999** or **101**.

If in immediate danger call **999**.



**Do you know where your wheelie bin is?**

**To avoid fires destroying your bin bring it in as soon as you can!**



## ASB linked to the Council can be reported at:

Online: [www.southtyneside.gov.uk/reportit](http://www.southtyneside.gov.uk/reportit)

email [asb@southtynesidehomes.org.uk](mailto:asb@southtynesidehomes.org.uk)

Text ASB and your message to **07786 200 802**

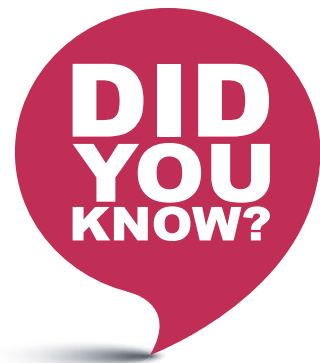
Contact South Tyneside Homes on **0300 123 6633**

(8am to 6.30pm, Monday to Friday) or our customer contact centre on **0191 427 7000**

Visit South Tyneside Homes' Anti-Social Behaviour Unit at Town & Hall & Civic Offices, Westoe Road, South Shields, NE33 2RL

# Time to put the brakes on nuisance bikers

Alongside Northumbria Police and South Tyneside Homes we are working together to reduce motorcycle nuisance across South Tyneside.



If you are affected you can **REPORT** motorcycle nuisance by:

- Calling 101
- Report an incident online at [www.northumbria.police.uk](http://www.northumbria.police.uk)
- Email: [community.safety@southtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:community.safety@southtyneside.gov.uk)

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.

## What do we need to 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)

All information will be confidential.

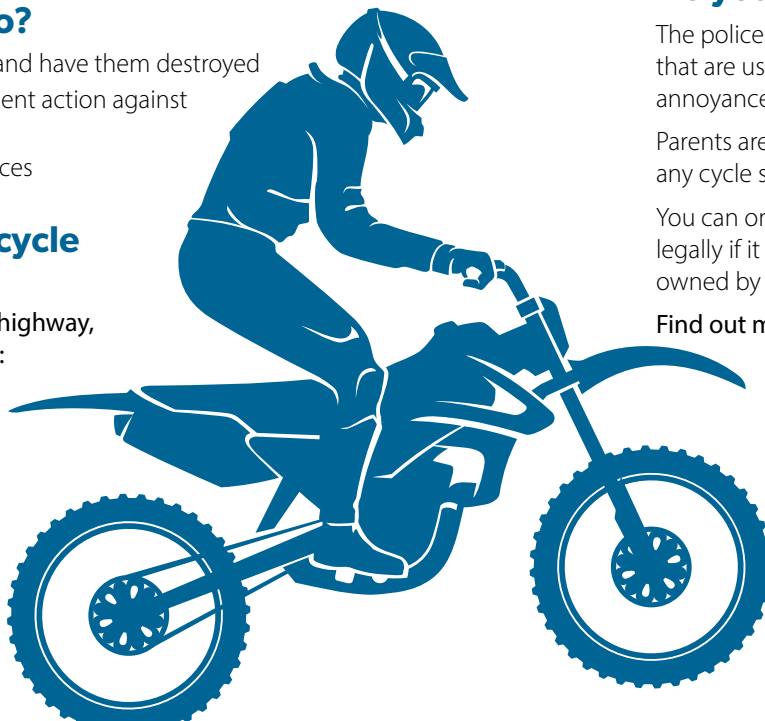
## What can we do?

- Seize the motorcycles and have them destroyed
- Take tenancy enforcement action against the owner
- Issue fixed penalty notices

## Riding a motorcycle on a road

To be used on a public highway, motorcycles must have:

- A valid MOT
- Insurance
- Road Tax
- Be registered



## The rider must also:

- Be 17yrs or over
- Hold a valid driving license
- Wear a helmet

## Do you know the law?

The police can seize motor vehicles that are used to cause alarm, distress, or annoyance to members of the public.

Parents are liable to pay a recovery fee on any cycle seized from their child.

You can only ride an off-road motorbike legally if it is on private land and land owned by the council is not private!

Find out more at [www.southtyneside.gov.uk/communitysafety](http://www.southtyneside.gov.uk/communitysafety)

# get active...



**If you're interested in improving your fitness levels, building confidence, feeling healthier or gaining motivation, then our range of flexible membership options make joining South Tyneside Leisure Services an easy decision.**

There are over 230 group fitness classes running weekly. Classes run from morning through to evening and cater to all abilities.

### Les Mills Virtual Workouts

For a fitness class with a difference, try out our Les Mills virtual programme. Les Mills virtual workouts are played on a big screen through a pumping sound system, delivering a truly inspiring experience that drives amazing results.



### Maternity Classes

Women can also remain active during/after their pregnancy or maternity leave, with Healthy Lives Maternity Classes offering sessions at Haven Point and Hebburn Central.

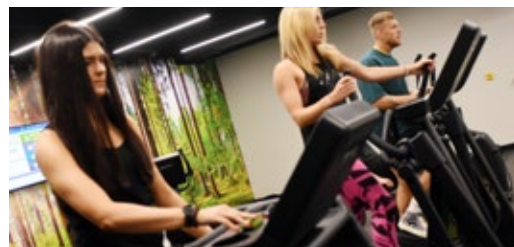
### Mobile App

You can download our 'STC Leisure' mobile app, where you can book classes, amend bookings, keep up to date with the latest leisure news and more. The app is available to download from the Google Play Store and the Apple App Store – simply scan the QR code.



Further information about leisure centres, facilities and memberships, is available at [www.southtyneside.gov.uk/leisure](http://www.southtyneside.gov.uk/leisure)

## Monkton Stadium refurbishment



**Monkton Stadium is the latest leisure facility in the Council's portfolio to benefit from investment with the opening of its refurbished 'green gym' earlier this year.**

The exercise machines in the green gym captures energy generated from a workout, converting it into usable electricity that will help power devices connected to the local grid. Monkton Stadium is the first venue in the region to use this third generation ECO POWER equipment supplied by green industry leaders and global brand, SportsArt.

Also included in the refurbishment works is a new sauna, changing rooms and an upgrade of the stadium floodlights.





## Launch of Foster with North East

**Foster with North East - a collaborative partnership between South Tyneside Council and 11 other North East local authorities**

For the first time, anyone considering a career in fostering in the North East will benefit from a united, single support hub for potential and newly-appointed foster carers. The Foster with North East team will be on-hand to offer advice, training and support alongside expert social workers from our South Tyneside Council fostering team.

Vivienne and her husband have been foster carers for 15 years with South Tyneside Council. They have five children and 12 grandchildren and are currently caring for two young people aged 8 and 9.

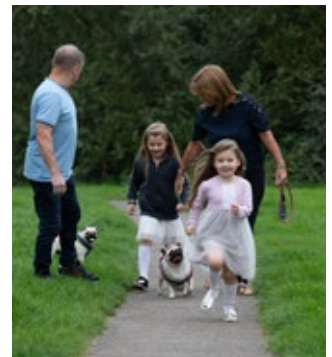
Speaking about her experiences of fostering Vivienne said,

***“I would advise anybody thinking about getting into fostering to explore it further. I’m a long-term carer, having been fostering for 15 years, and in that time, I’ve fostered 23 children.*”**

***“Currently I’m looking after two siblings - I’m so pleased that they still have each other and I’m able to make a positive difference to their lives. Fostering really is the most rewarding thing I have ever done, and there are so many different kinds of children you can help.”***



Vivienne and her husband Ian



Foster carers from diverse backgrounds and with different circumstances are needed across the North East. Foster carers can be married, single, homeowners or renters, employed or otherwise, have their own children or be childless – what matters is finding foster carers who can provide a safe, secure and loving home for vulnerable children.

Find out more at [www.fosterwithnortheast.org.uk](http://www.fosterwithnortheast.org.uk) or call 0800 917 7771.





# 500 forever families in five years

**Adopt North East is your local adoption agency, providing adoption services on behalf of South Tyneside Council.**

Since its launch five years ago, Adopt North East has found loving forever families for nearly 500 children and supported hundreds of adoptive families.

Among the growing community of adopters is Lynn\* who has benefited from the ongoing, dedicated support and guidance the agency offers throughout the process.

Speaking of her experience she said:

**“I feel a huge sense of gratitude to Adopt North East for welcoming me into the adoption process with them. I have felt a greater degree of empathy and support here than in any other agency I have been in touch with.**

**“I have been impressed by the professionalism in each interaction. The training was similarly delivered to a very high standard, and I feel very grateful to have had the opportunity to take two days out of my life to seriously reflect on my life-changing decision to adopt”.**

More than 20 children are waiting to be adopted right now. Get in touch with the Adopt North East team to find out more about adoption, the ongoing support you would receive and how to join one of the informal, warm and friendly information events.



Visit our website [www.adoptnortheast.org.uk](http://www.adoptnortheast.org.uk) to find out when our next information events are taking place or contact Adopt North East at any time- we'd love to hear from you.



# Adopt North East

**contact**

- (0191) 643 5000
- [AdoptNorthEast@adoptne.org.uk](mailto:AdoptNorthEast@adoptne.org.uk)
- [www.adoptnortheast.org.uk](http://www.adoptnortheast.org.uk)



# SHOP LOCAL

this Christmas...



Whether you want a gift for your loved ones, or a Christmas treat for yourself, Shop Local This Christmas and support local businesses and your community.

## Local Villages



Visit Boldon and the villages of Whitburn and Cleadon for boutique shopping, handcrafted gifts, antiques and specialist fashion for that extra special gift.

## 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.



## South Shields

Visit South Shields Town Centre to enjoy some high street shopping and browse popular brand favourites.

Stop by Shop @ The Word which offers a wide range of gifts, including creations by talented crafts people from the local area.



## South Shields Market

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](http://www.southshieldsmarket.co.uk)

## Hebburn and Jarrow



Offering a selection of independent shops and high street stores.

There are lots of transport links to help you enjoy a stress-free shopping experience.



# Homelessness support

South Tyneside has seven one-bedroomed properties for people sleeping on the street, or at risk of becoming homeless.

Thanks to funding from the government's Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme, tenants can stay in the homes for up to two years.



## Anthony's story

Anthony\* found himself living rough after his long-term relationship broke down.

The 57-year-old said: "I slept in an abandoned garage and a shed; it was absolutely freezing and damp. I've always been a bit of a loner, so I didn't call on friends or anything. No one knew I was there.

"I went to the doctor and he put me in touch with an outreach worker from South Tyneside Homes. He started off by getting me food parcels as he knew I hadn't been eating. He then put me in touch with my support worker, who managed to get me this flat."

Anthony is visited by his support worker several times a week and is helped with finances, accessing different services and attending appointments.

**"I'm so grateful for this support; I dread to think where I'd be now without it."**

\*name has been changed

## Liam's Story

Liam Salkeld, 39, has been living in one of the properties since June, after spending several months in an HMO.



The former sales trainer said:

**"I was absolutely desperate to get out of there, it was the wrong environment for me. My support worker fought to get me in one of these flats."**

**"I have been in a lot of debt in the past so I am working hard to clear that with her support and move towards getting a long-term tenancy."**



If you are homeless or at risk of homelessness call 0800 141 2645 (freephone)  
Monday to Thursday, 9am- 5pm, and Friday, 9am- 4.30pm.  
Out of office hours call 0191 456 2093

**REPORT IT**

If you see someone sleeping rough, report it at [www.thestreetlink.org.uk](http://www.thestreetlink.org.uk)

# You are not alone

During the Christmas period, domestic abuse calls rise by 25%

If you are in danger call 999 immediately

**Everyone has arguments, and everyone disagrees with their partners, family members and others close to them from time to time.**

We all do things at times that we regret, and which cause unhappiness to those we care about. But if this begins to form a consistent pattern, then it is an indication of domestic abuse.

Increased alcohol consumption or stress over money or how to juggle everything at Christmas is not an excuse.

## What is domestic abuse?

Domestic Abuse is an incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening, degrading and violent behaviour, including sexual violence. In the majority of cases by a partner or ex-partner, but also by a family member or carer.

## Who to contact

In an emergency always contact the police on 999.

There is a range of domestic violence and abuse services that might be able to help you, including:

- **Ask for ANI at a local pharmacy** - ANI stands for Action Needed Immediately. This codeword is a discreet way to ask for emergency help from the safety of your local pharmacy.
- **Options (Impact Family Services)** provides confidential and non-judgemental support to women over 16, on domestic abuse issues, in a safe place and can be contacted on 07375 788 835.
- **Places for People (South Tyneside Women's Aid) Women's Refuge** offers advice and support as well as providing safe, temporary and emergency accommodation, and can be contacted on (0191) 454 8257.

### Safeguarding

If you think someone is at risk or is being abused, you should report it.

To do nothing is the worst thing you can do.

### Report an adult:

0191 424 6000

Monday - Thursday - 8.30am to 5pm  
Friday - 8.30am to 4.30pm

0191 456 2093

Outside of the above office hours

### Report an child:

0191 424 5010

Monday - Thursday - 8.30am to 5pm  
Friday - 8.30am to 4.30pm

0191 456 2093

Outside of the above office hours

# Council helps residents with "Winter-Ready" campaign

Alongside partners we are ready to help those most at risk from suffering this winter.



## TOP TIPS:

1. Turn Down your thermostat
2. Only heat the room you are using
3. Bleed your radiators
4. Move furniture away from radiators
5. Fix any draughts
6. Close your curtains in the evening

## Prompting questions to help

Many organisations – including food banks – have agreed to use a card prompting them to ask key questions as part of their daily work when talking to people to signpost them to the support they need.

## We'll support you through the cost of living

A new cost-of-living support directory, which features all the help and support on offer, is available to pick up from our council libraries and Family Hubs.

For more information visit [www.southtyneside.gov.uk/costofliving](http://www.southtyneside.gov.uk/costofliving)



## Worried about a loan shark?

If you have borrowed from a loan shark or are worried about someone else, visit [www.stoploansharks.co.uk](http://www.stoploansharks.co.uk) or call 0300 555 2222. The team there can offer you emotional and practical support and keep you safe.



Don't forget community spaces across South Tyneside are open this winter to residents. You can pop in, have a chat and stay warm. These spaces are free, friendly and can be found online at [www.southtyneside.gov.uk/welcomingplaces](http://www.southtyneside.gov.uk/welcomingplaces). Leaflets are available in council buildings. You'll be able to find advice and information as well as connect with others.

## Don't miss out on Pension Credit

Around 2,600 local people are believed to be entitled to but not claiming Pension Credit which could benefit them by around £32 a week.

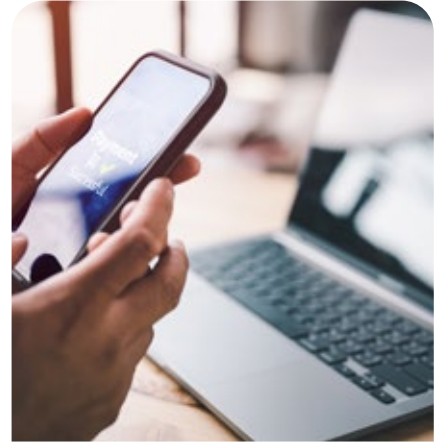
Check eligibility at [www.gov.uk/pension-credit](http://www.gov.uk/pension-credit) or ring 0800 991234

For support in claiming Pension Credit, contact **South Tyneside's Welfare Support Team** on (0191) 424 6040 or email [welfaresupport@southtynesidehomes.org.uk](mailto:welfaresupport@southtynesidehomes.org.uk)





## E-services



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

Online forms are easy to complete and reduces the amount of information you need to provide.

### Forms include:

- Housing rent payments
- Pay a parking fine or PCN
- Bulky waste collection
- Pay a council invoice payment
- Residential Care Payment
- Personal alarm care payment
- Allotment payments
- Welfare rights officer enquiries

### 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.

**The web address will begin with <https://portal.southtyneside.info>**

This shows that you are using the secure part of the South Tyneside Council site

Find out more at [www.southtyneside.gov.uk](http://www.southtyneside.gov.uk)

**ONLINE**

**24/7**

# 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](http://www.southtyneside.gov.uk/counciltax)



# MAKE SURE YOU'RE REGISTERED TO VOTE!

Time is running out to make sure you're included on the new register of electors which will be published on 1 December 2023.

In July the Electoral Registration Officer wrote to all residential properties to check and update the register of electors.

In September reminders were sent to those properties who still needed to respond.

YOUR FUTURE  
**YOUR VOTE**  
YOUR CHOICE



*"I would encourage everyone in South Tyneside to vote. Voting means you can have your say locally and nationally."*

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

Final reminders were sent in early November, if you receive a reminder please respond as soon as possible.

If you haven't received a reminder, but there have been any changes to the residents at your address in the past 12 months, contact us on **0191 427 7000** to check if the register needs to be updated.

## NEW WARD BOUNDARIES

The Local Government Boundary Commission is reviewing South Tyneside to ensure that each electoral ward contains roughly the same number of voters.

The Commission published its draft recommendations for new ward boundaries in October. Residents can view, comment or suggest their own proposals as part of a consultation which is open until **11 December 2023**.

You can see what is proposed for your neighbourhood by visiting the Commission's website at [www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/south-tyneside](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/south-tyneside)

## CHRISTMAS CLOSURES

Visit [www.southtyneside.gov.uk](http://www.southtyneside.gov.uk) for a full list of Council opening and closing times over the Christmas period.

Emergency numbers will be in operation.

If you are a leisure member visit [www.southtyneside.gov.uk/leisure](http://www.southtyneside.gov.uk/leisure) or check out the leisure app.

If you have a child in a STANLEY or access a children centre - please check with the venue.

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

If you know someone who lives in South Tyneside who has not received the newsletter by **20 November 2023**, or if you would like to provide feedback or comments, call **0191 427 7000** or email [communciations@southtyneside.gov.uk](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.southtynesidehomes.org.uk)