

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL
TYNEDALE LOCAL AREA PLANNING COMMITTEE

At the meeting of the **Tynedale Local Area Planning Committee** held at Meeting Space - Block 1, Floor 2 - County Hall on Tuesday, 9 November 2021 at 4.00 pm.

PRESENT

T Cessford (Chair) (in the Chair)

MEMBERS

A Scott	A Dale
C Horncastle	Jl Hutchinson
D Kennedy	N Morphet
N Oliver	J Riddle
A Sharp	G Stewart
H Waddell	

OFFICERS

G Gavin	Head of Neighbourhood Services
D Hunt	Neighbourhood Services Area Manager
Olive	Highways Delivery Area Manager
S Pearson	Senior Manager, Specialist Services
M Taylor	Director - Business Development (Care Services)
N Turnbull	Democratic Services Officer
G Younger	Accommodation Lead

1 member of the press and 1 member of the public were present.

52 MINUTES

Minute No. 41

21/02542/CCD

Provision of a single storey modular classroom

Corbridge Middle School. Cow Lane, Corbridge, Northumberland NE45 5HY

It was noted that the name of the Councillor who had seconded the proposal had been omitted from the minutes. This would be checked and circulated.

Minute No. 43

Redevelopment of Queen Elizabeth High School: Update on proposed Highways works

The name of the scheme in the third bullet point on page 13 be amended to the 'park and stride' initiative.

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RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Tynedale Local Area Council, held on 14 September 2021, as circulated, be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair, subject to the above amendments.

53 **DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

Councillor Riddle declared an interest in item 9 on Winter Services Preparedness and Resilience as he participated in ad-hoc snow clearance.

54 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no questions from members of the public.

55 **PETITIONS**

This item was to:

a) Receive any new petitions:

i. Allendale Road (external e-petition)

Tara Wright introduced herself as the Lead Petitioner and a resident of Allendale Road. She explained that she had started the petition as she lived on difficult section of the road where there was blind bend and vehicles regularly exceeded the speed limit. She reported that she was often verbally abused when she tried to leave her driveway. She had posted on a local social media page and had received many comments in support.

Over 2,000 children were now attending the new school and it was extremely problematic trying to cross the road. The paths were unsafe due to their narrow width, overgrown vegetation and the speeding vehicles. She acknowledged that there were also problems on the other roads used as access to the school and suggested that something needed to be done.

Since the petition had opened there had been several accidents, one of which had required the services of the air ambulance. There were also numerous reports of other incidents which had not been reported to the police involving the children stepping in front of cars due to the narrow width of the paths or due to the number of children in the area. It was a major problem, particularly for residents which had 'blind driveways'.

A new led 'slow down' sign had been erected near their house and had flashed for every car which they had monitored over a particular period.

She supported the proposals for 20 mph speed limit in Hexham but suggested that something needed to be put in place to forcibly slow vehicles down before a very serious accident occurred.

Mrs Wright added that her property had been described as unsafe following a visit from Highways earlier in the year.

Many of those signing the petition had left comments of support and copies had

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been supplied with the petition papers handed over. Some of these had been made by persons who had been traumatised after witnessing accidents.

The problem with the paths were mainly at the bottom end which was slower with vehicles tending to speed at the top where vehicles needed to be forcibly slowed down.

She thanked the Committee for the opportunity to address them.

The Democratic Services Officer confirmed that a copy of the petition had been handed over. It would be processed and passed to the relevant officers with a report prepared for a future meeting.

ii. Community campaign to amend the use of Military Road B6318 (e-petition)

It was reported that an e-petition had recently been opened. As it related to areas within Castle Morpeth and Tynedale, a report would be requested for the Petitions Committee, if the threshold was exceeded.

b) Consider reports on petitions previously received:

i. Wylam Right of way path closure; Stephenson Terrace to Country Park repair riverbank subsidence

The Local Area Council was requested to acknowledge and agree the Council's response to a petition which requested repairs to the riverbank, restoration of a path and reopening of a right of way. (A copy of the report is enclosed with the signed minutes).

The Democratic Services Officer confirmed that the Lead Petitioner had been invited to attend the meeting but was not in attendance.

Greg Gavin, Head of Neighbourhood Services, provided a brief summary of the background of the right of way path closure.

He commented that the area had experienced ground instability issues for many years. As Highway Authority responsible for the management and maintenance of the rights of way network, repairs had been carried out until the approach had no longer been viable with the advancement of the erosion. Due to safety concerns, it had been necessary to close the footpath in 2013 and divert the right of way.

Officers had held discussions with Wylam Parish Council who owned the land, the adjacent business owner and ward member, and had attempted to assist in seeking quotes from suitably qualified contractors. Unfortunately, no company has been prepared to provide a cost for undertaking site investigation and design works. These had been estimated at £70,000 with a solution possibly exceeding £500,000 in addition to an ongoing maintenance liability.

He reported that the fencing and signage had been improved and inspections were being undertaken on a more regular basis.

Ch.'s Initials.....

It was noted that the regression of the riverside bank continued and had accelerated over the previous year. Without remedial action, it was likely that the access road would be lost and that the nursery business and residential properties would also be adversely affected.

The Local Area Council were informed that there were at least 11 other locations which were affected by landslips affecting public rights of way in the county. Any decision would set a precedent regarding capital works in the future.

Members of the Local Area Council were extremely sympathetic with the situation. However, they were in agreement that it would not be a responsible use of tax payers money given that the Council was not legally or financially responsible.

The following information was given in response to questions from Members:

- Officers had agreed to review and offer informal technical advice on a temporary solution proposed by a local builder. However, they were unable to offer formal assistance.
- If no action were taken, it was likely that the access road would be lost and possibly also the nearby nursery business and residential properties. It was not possible to determine the timeframe, although the erosion had accelerated in the previous 18 months.
- The location of the access road prevented relocation of the business.
- A short 700-meter diversion of the public right of way on to the adjacent Wagonway provided good access to all existing public open spaces.

The Local Area Council unanimously agreed with the recommendations contained in the report.

RESOLVED that

1. The approach taken to respond on the matter, be noted and supported.
2. It be noted that the County Council was not the land owner and therefore had no legal or financial responsibility for the land. Taking any responsibility for this private land would set precedent for how the Council responded to other similar land stability issues elsewhere in the county which would create significant long-term financial liabilities for the Council.

c) To consider updates on petitions previously considered:

There were none to consider.

56 **LOCAL SERVICES ISSUES**

Members received the following updates from the Area Managers from Neighbourhood Services and Technical Services:

Neighbourhood Services:

- Grass cutting had been completed as the surface was now too wet and damage would be caused by the machines if there were any further cuts.

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There had been some challenging winds and wet conditions, but the correct number of cuts and standard had been achieved.

- Winter maintenance of shrubs and hedges was underway.
- Street cleansing would be concentrated around war memorials ahead of Remembrance Sunday. Leaf clearance was a priority until the end of the year and they were working through a list of known hot spot locations, but would also respond to reported areas of concern.
- The number of incidents of fly tipping in the Tynedale area had fallen from 97 to 68 for the period April to October when compared with the same period in the previous year. Over 90% of these had been removed within the 3 working day target.
- The grounds and cleansing teams supported the winter gritting rota of roads and town centre footpaths.
- Residual, recycling and garden waste collection services were mainly operating well.
- Access problems due to road works or parked cars had resulted in a few missed waste collections which were normally revisited the following day.
- Income from garden waste and bulky waste collection services had exceeded targets. An annual review of garden collection rounds would be undertaken to assess capacity of the service. The kerbside glass collection trial was proposed to be extended until March 2023 to gather more data. A small number of additional households were also to be included.
- Green Flag status had been awarded to 11 of the Council's parks including Hexham and Eastwood Park, Prudhoe.

Responses to issues raised by Councillors included:

- Mild weather late in the growing season had resulted in some weed regrowth; areas of concern to be reported.
- Demand for the garden waste collection service had been very high which had meant that the income target had been exceeded.
- The kerbside glass collection trial was to be extended to provide more robust data. It was likely that legislative changes would require a broader range of materials to be collected at the kerbside, including food waste, proposals were being developed for a separate food waste trial, but this would be subject to the normal budget approval process. It was understood that these changes would be funded by the Government and would therefore be rolled out when new burdens funding was received.
- They were working with the Climate Change team to determine the carbon footprint of waste collection services. As these were statutory services, the Council was obliged to provide them, but would design efficient routes to minimise the carbon impact.
- The garden waste collection service was at capacity and would require additional resource to enable it to be expanded further into additional locations. The outcome of the Government's consultation was awaited to determine whether the garden waste service would become a mandatory statutory service and whether a levy could continue to be charged.
- Officers were analysing the results of the alternative methods of weed removal and a report would be included in the Forward Plan in due course.

Technical Services:

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- Highway Inspections were being carried out and were up to date in the Tynedale area with actionable defects being repaired within the specified timeframe. The number of defects had reduced in recent months.
- The gully wagon and drainage gang continued to work on routes and in areas identified following inspections or reports through CRM. 110 miles of ditching works had been undertaken in the Tynedale area in the previous 12 months.
- Work continued on the Local Transport Plan which included completion of surface dressing works at 33 locations, 22 of 28 highway investment schemes had been completed to date and included footway permanent repairs.
- Members schemes issued to date had been programmed.

Winter Services Preparedness and Resilience:

The following issues were discussed:

- New larger gulley wagons with capacity for jetting and suction were due to be delivered in December. It was understood that an additional machine had been ordered. Information was currently being gathered regarding any additional resources required in advance of the budget setting process.
- Officers were requested to address surface water issues at Whiteside Bank on the A68.
- Urgent works by the utility companies resulted in LTP works being postponed and needing to be reprogrammed.
- Information on a scheme at Wall Village Green to be provided to Councillor Morphet.

RESOLVED that the updates be noted.

57 WINTER SERVICES PREPAREDNESS AND RESILIENCE

The report provided an update on the pre-season preparations ahead of the forthcoming winter services season.

Winter services activities were undertaken to ensure that, as far as practical, the highway was maintained in a safe condition, in accordance with legal obligations under the Highways Act 1980. They planned to respond appropriately to forecast weather conditions and have sufficient manpower and resources available. For the 2021/22 season:

- A 3-weekly rota had commenced on 1 November for 105 staff from Technical and Neighbourhood services including supervisors, drivers and operatives. It would operate until April 2022.
- Existing process had been reviewed to ensure compliance with Covid-19 guidance.
- Introduction of a new IT system and vehicle hardware for specialist winter route management and automated salt spreading technology had been fitted across the gritting fleet. This would enable any driver to be deployed on any gritter on any route.
- 2 winter services managers operated a week on, week off rota to consider forecasting information and determine the appropriate course of action using

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the Vaisala and MeteoGroup systems. Officers should only be contacted directly in an emergency situation; other incidents should be reported through the Contact Centre.

- The fleet included 28 multi-purpose gritting vehicles. There were 28 primary gritting routes and 26 secondary gritting routes across 11 depots. 44,000 tonnes of salt were held in stock.
- Grit bins / heaps had been replenished; requests for refills could be reported to the website of Contact Centre by quoting the serial number of the bin.
- The 'Highway Services in Winter' leaflet would be available soon following a review of the information contained including details of policies, maps of the primary gritting routes and the strategic footpath network to be treated. This would also be shared with County Councillors and Town and Parish Councils.
- Daily alerts would be issued during the winter using social media.
- Contracts had been reviewed with farmers and sub-contractors who assisted with remote roads in rural Northumberland.
- Snow squads had worked well in previous years and would be utilised again. 12 snow wardens had been trained and provided with equipment in the Tynedale area.
- Cross boundary arrangements were in place with Newcastle City Council, Durham County Council, Cumbria County Council, Scottish Borders Councils, Colas and Highways England to aid each other in periods of heavy snow.
- Winter services were a priority and may impact on other work which would be completed as soon as practicable.

The winter services team were thanked for the prompt replenishment of grit bins and for the work they carried out over the winter months.

RESOLVED that the report be received.

The meeting adjourned for five minutes and resumed at 5.10 pm.

58 **NORTHUMBERLAND COMMUNITIES TOGETHER**

Maureen Taylor, Executive Director Wellbeing – Adult Services, was in attendance to give a presentation on the work of Northumberland Communities Together (NCT) which had been established in March 2020 in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. (A copy of the presentation was enclosed with the signed minutes). Unfortunately, Paul Brooks, Head of Northumberland Communities Together Hub, had been unable to attend the meeting.

She explained that the service comprised a multi-disciplinary team which worked with community groups and key partners to provide essential services to vulnerable residents in the county and tackle shared challenges.

They aimed to prevent residents becoming more vulnerable, addressing the social determinants of health which included access to healthcare, housing, transport, hunger, fuel etc. Whilst some members of the public had coped initially during the pandemic, others were now identifying themselves as requiring assistance and NCT ensured that the help was available to those that needed assistance in whatever form it was required.

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The team was split across front line operational delivery and programme and project delivery. A recent collaboration with Northumbria Police to support violence reduction with a colocated worker.

The Council had been successful in funding bid from North of Tyne Combined Authority to establish community hubs the first of which had been developed in Cramlington, making use of an empty Council building. The library had relocated and was being used by many organisations in the community and was to be replicated in other localities. Discussions were ongoing with communities in the Tynedale area to ascertain natural hub locations and what would be of benefit to those communities. Feedback and ideas from members were welcomed.

The response hub could be contacted by telephone and email, between the hours of 9am – 6pm, 7 days per week, and was available to all.

Pop up activities had been held during lockdown which had enabled contact with vulnerable families, providing advice and assistance. Events had been repeated on request and some communities were now running their own events.

Statistical information included details of:

- Support provided including contacts to clinically extremely vulnerable residents including welfare visits, emergency food parcels, PPE and wellbeing parcels.
- The distribution of statutory aid.
- Community enrichment.

The NCT model had been recognised nationally and was one of five local authorities chosen to develop future plans around the Holiday Activity and Food Programme.

Anonymised case studies were provided of the intervention and assistance given to residents which had enabled them to maintain jobs and tenancies.

A summary was provided of the priorities and focus over the winter months, particularly keeping warm and the types of assistance available. Digital connectivity was crucial to enable participation and ensure residents weren't restricted by their location.

NCT were now embedded within the Council as a service and officers were grateful for the support from community groups who had embraced partnership working and had established good relationships. They welcomed opportunities to connect further with new groups as all played a vital role.

It was agreed that the presentation would be circulated to ensure that members had contact details for the West and Tynedale Locality Co-ordinator.

Members expressed their support for the work that had been carried out and were delighted that programmes were receiving national recognition. Thanks, were also given to a number of companies and organisations for their assistance and donations during the pandemic, these included Essity and Bernicia.

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It noted that it was important to build resilience in areas of deprivation, address housing need, homelessness and levelling up.

Staff had embraced the opportunity to engage with residents and had found their roles extremely fulfilling. The Executive Director was very proud of all those involved and for the support the Council had given.

RESOLVED that the presentation be received.

Councillor Horncastle left the meeting.

59 YOUTH SERVICE PROVISION

Sharron Pearson, Senior Manager - Specialist Services and Ginny Younger, Accommodation Lead, were in attendance to provide Members with information on Youth Service Provision. (A copy of the power point presentation was enclosed with the signed minutes).

An overview was provided of the Northumberland Adolescent Service including the role and function of each service area. It included:

- Youth Service
- Sorted Substance Misuse Service
- Youth Justice Service / Exploitation
- 14+/18+ Teams One & Two
- Accommodation Team
- Business Administration Team

The Youth Service provided support to young people in Northumberland across three distinct strands:

- Prevention
- Participation and Advocacy
- Early Help & Missing

The provision of universal youth services were developed and delivered across the county working in partnership with the voluntary sector. Through data analysis and feedback, they determined where resources should be targeted to meet the needs of those in the most deprived areas. Advice and support was provided to smaller providers including information about funding opportunities, training, safeguarding, identification of young carers. They also worked with key partners such as Northumbria Police and Youth Justice Service.

In the Tynedale area, they worked with:

- Allendale Youth Ambition
- Haltwhistle Young and Sweet
- Prudhoe Youth Project
- Tynedale Youth Forum

The Chair thanked the officers for attending and expressed his surprise and the

Ch.'s Initials.....

range of the service and how well they had adapted during the pandemic.

The following issues was discussed by Members:

- Not all local authorities continued to provide a youth service and it was appreciated that this continued in Northumberland.
- They were reassured that the provision in Tynedale was a modern service with the right level of support for young people.
- Sessions were held with students with special educational needs in schools to promote interaction. Key fund opportunities were used to develop projects around key interests. It was noted that some of these children travelled to schools outside of their local area and it was important that their views were heard.
- Resources were limited but they made the best of them and were as efficient as they could be. Gaps or shortages could be supported by other services within NAS. They worked with community-based volunteer projects to bridge gaps so that the Council's resources could be used in targeted areas where it was most needed, they were in a good position to deliver the service.
- There were 3x 16 hour part time positions currently vacant.
- Recruitment of social workers was a national issue and also problematic within the region and Northumberland. Social workers sat within the adolescent service and children's safeguarding services. It was confirmed that at times the Council was using agency staff. This was sometimes beneficial to assess their practice, whether they were passionate and worked well in the area of work particularly when considering applications for permanent posts.

RESOLVED that the presentation be received.

60 **LOCAL AREA COUNCIL WORK PROGRAMME**

A list of agreed items for future Local Area Council meetings was circulated. (A copy is enclosed with the minutes.)

Members were invited to email any requests to the Chair and / or Democratic Services Officer between meetings.

In answer to a question, the Democratic Services Officer reported that the Police and Crime Commissioner had agreed to attend the meeting in May 2022.

Items to be referred to the LAC Chairs Briefing for consideration for inclusion in the work programme:

- Tyne Valley Rail Users Group
- Ambulance Service Update

RESOLVED that the work programme be noted.

61 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 14 December 2021 at 4.00 p.m.

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The Chair expressed his gratitude for the work the contribution made by Cath Homer as the elected member for Hexham East during the previous 9 years. More recently she had been the Vice-Chair of the Tynedale Local Area Council. He was extremely upset that due to the actions of anonymous individuals she had felt it necessary to resign.

CHAIR.....

DATE.....

Ch.'s Initials.....

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Northumberland
County Council

Local Area Council Updates Northumberland Communities Together

November 2021

www.northumberland.gov.uk

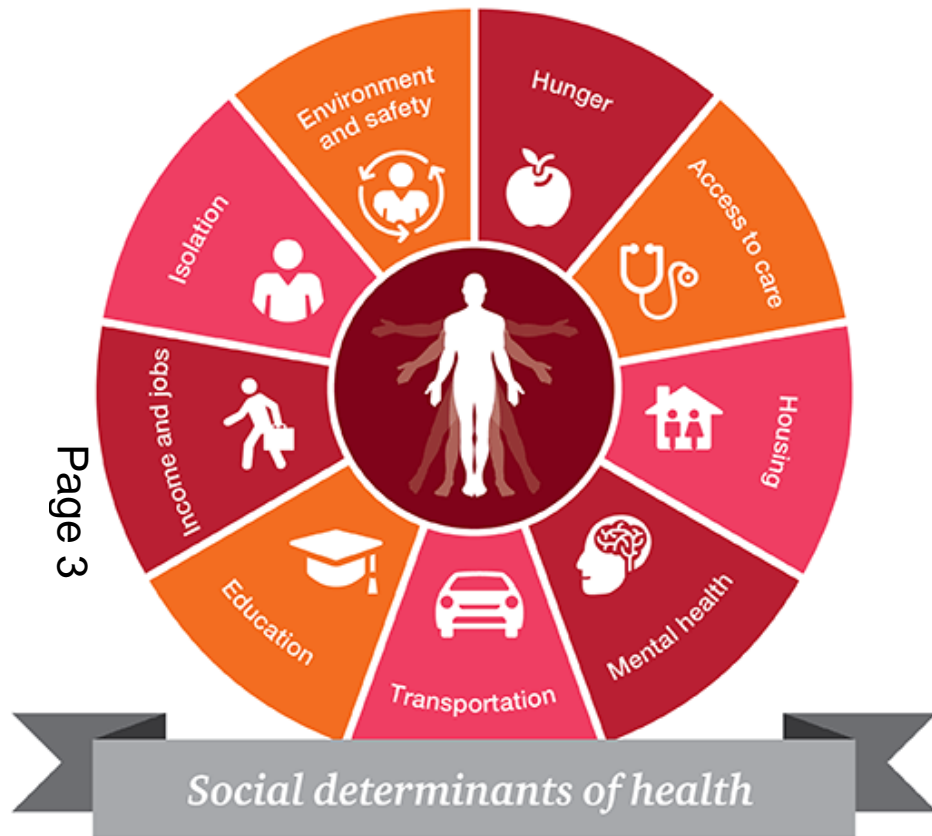
“Connecting, strengthening and supporting adults and young people in local communities to improve health and life chances”.



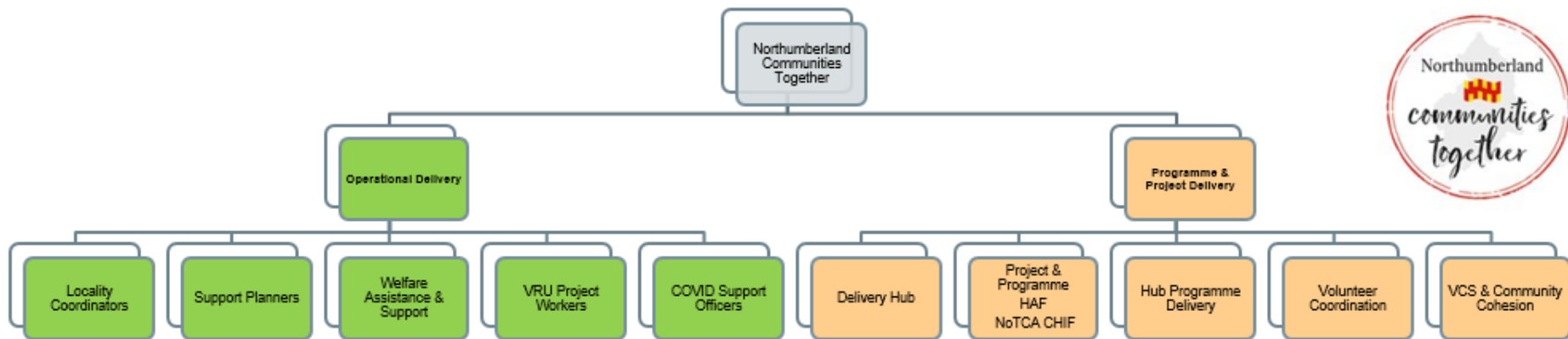
Northumberland Communities Together is an inclusive community and multi-disciplinary team approach that responds to the specific and emerging needs of our residents and communities by fully optimising the knowledge, capability and capacity that exists within our communities and amongst our local networks and partnerships.

We help facilitate our **Northumberland Communities** coming **Together** to tackle shared challenges.

Northumberland Communities Together supports working together, trying out new things, and making the most of all knowledge, skills, and resources available. By working in and with our communities we can **make a difference** where and how it is needed.



- **Social determinants** of health impact our day to day well-being, our life chances, and how well we thrive in our communities and lives. These broad strands theme our work.
- **NCT builds relationships and co-develops** activity and interventions that enhance, complement and helps to embed the work of other services and organisations.



Reducing health inequalities and protecting our most vulnerable



Supporting adults and young people to have more influence and control over their future



Reducing the number of households and children who are experiencing poverty and disadvantage



Targeting available resources at achieving outcomes that make a real difference to the lives of local people with the greatest need



Providing opportunities for people to be active, healthy and independent



Developing community hubs that support people to become more independent, resilient and reduce reliance on local services



Working with communities to enable them to come together to tackle shared challenges



Creating the right environment and conditions for growth – volunteers, placements, enterprise

Our Response Hub



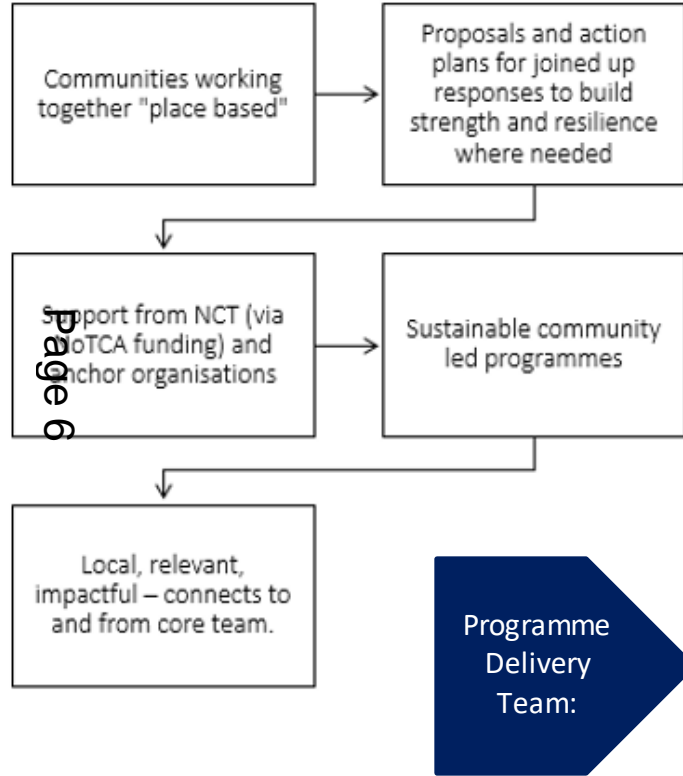
Operational team:

Supporting and connecting communities



Locality Coordinators: mapping and connecting groups, organisations and activity
Support Planners: Connecting residents to the most appropriate and effective response
Northumberland Emergency Transitions Support: Our welfare assistance funding
Rights Officer: Supporting the hub regarding benefits and wider rights.
Covid Support Officers: Keeping the county covid safe and aware (outreach + track and trace)

Our Community Engagement & Enrichment



Programming for impact

- Emerging concerns, opportunities, data and local knowledge informs programming
- Support partnership approaches – resource friendly and more impactful!
- Make best use of available assets and expertise and add complementary resources.



Community Hub Developments

Community Hub
Investment
Fund
Delivery Team:

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Smooth and safe operations

- Covid secure places and activity
- Physical and operational planning of new community hubs and programmes
- Building capacity and capability for sustainable delivery



Snap Shot of Progress



Statutory Support COVID-19

- Provided direct support to 25,515 Clinically extremely vulnerable residents, over 18,000+ direct contacts/referrals
- Made over 2,000 welfare visits to Clinically extremely vulnerable residents
- Coordination of the Distribution Hub including over
- 7,000+ emergency food parcels,
- 2,832,374 units of PPE,
- 3,000 wellbeing parcels.

Distribution of Statutory Aid

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- Distribution of Defra Emergency Assistance Fund £367,814 (closed)
- Distribution of DWP COVID Winter Support Grant (CWSG) £992,515 (closed)
- Distribution of DWP COVID Local Support Grant (CLSG) £1,170,243 (closed)
- Distribution of DfE Holiday Activity & Food programme (HAF) £1,128,130
- Distribution of DWP Household Support Fund (HSF) £2,480,330

Community Enrichment

- Secured North of Tyne Community Hub Investment Funding £496,474 Supporting the development of community assets including establishment of Community Hubs
- Establishment of local place-based partnerships and local pathways to quickly and appropriately signpost and connect residents to support, drive innovation and improvement
- Enrichment and Community Hub programme activity clearly aligned to and delivering outcomes against the wider determinants of health
- Provided over 36 Summer HAF Activity Camps and provision for 11,000 young people
- Provided 1,817 family activity passes during summer holiday (803 Adults & 1014 Children)
- 12 supported learning placements

Bethany's Story (*Cramlington, Bedlington, Seaton Valley*)

Background

- Care Leaver (other Local Authority Area)
- Homeless (sleeping rough) awaiting support
- Potential risk - fleeing unhealthy relationship
- At risk of losing employment due to domestic situation
- No support network

Intervention

- Expedited access to her accommodation with housing services
- Provided support white/Brown goods
- Provided support grant and welcome hamper (food and fuel)
- Established trusted support network through Cramlington hub
 - Explored financial situation and offered advice
 - Ensured not at risk of violence, harm or domestic abuse
 - Provided access to a mobile device so she could manage her personal affairs



Katie's Story *(Ashington/Blyth)*

Background

- Referral from local Councillor for support and assistance
- Resident with disability and long-term healthcare need
- Unable to manage property maintenance (Garden)
- Environmental concerns by residents
- At risk of losing tenancy (eviction proceedings)

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Community discord

NCT Intervention

- Mobilised local voluntary support to improve environment
- Provided support whilst hospitalised to sustain tenancy
- Provided support on discharge
- Fostered greater community cohesion and established local enterprise



What's Coming Next?

Practical pop-up sessions within local communities providing information and assistance to access available support including

- Household Support Fund £2.4m to support vulnerable residents
- Self-isolation and practical support a lifeline for those at risk of struggling to maintain isolation due to financial hardship
- Holiday Activities and Food programme, which offers nutritious meals and enriching activities to children during Christmas and Easter holidays.
- Toy and gift family grants via trusted partners.
- Warm Home Discount which provides a £140 rebate on energy bills each winter to over 2.2 million low-income households
- Cold Weather Payment which provides £25 extra a week for poorer households when the temperature is consistently below zero.
- Northumberland Green Home Grants, up to £10,000 for home updates
- Healthy Start vouchers for pregnant women or those who have a child under 4 providing vouchers that can be used to buy milk, vitamins and other essentials
- How to access free childcare for eligible working parents, worth up to £5,000 per child every year



Get Ready for Winter

Northumberland Communities Together is here to listen, chat and support at this time of year.

We want you to stay safe and well this winter.

If you, your family or neighbour needs a bit of extra help, please get in touch. We can connect you to people who provide support that's right for you.

You may be worried about staying warm, winter bills, feeling lonely or struggling with family pressures.

Give us a call, we're here to listen

Please get in touch. There are lots of ways to talk to us; you can ring, email, or drop into our Community Hub in Cramlington.

Phone us on 01670 620 015 9am-6pm, 7 days a week

communitiestogether@northumberland.gov.uk  

Language translator: If English is not your preferred language you can ask the advisor to use a translator. Type talk: 01800 10845 600 6400

Your Local Point of Contact



Operational Lead – Julie Leddy

julie.leddy@northumberland.gov.uk 07966 331704

Locality Coordinators:

(North Northumberland) Ruth Armstrong

ruth.armstrong@northumberland.gov.uk 07967 809325

(West & Tynedale) Richard Kristiansen

richard.kristiansen@northumberland.gov.uk 07966 397 160

(Ashington/Blyth) Tracey Wilson

tracey.wilson@northumberland.gov.uk 07811 020810

(Cramlington, Bedlington, Seaton Valley) Michelle Redfern

michelle.redfern@northumberland.gov.uk 07813363276

(Castle Morpeth) Vacant - Out to advert

**Northumberland Communities
Together**
01670 620 015
9.00am – 6.00pm, 7 days a week

NCT@northumberland.gov.uk

Youth Service Overview 2021

Northumberland Adolescent Service (NAS)

NAS is made up of services to meet the needs of all adolescents across Northumberland and includes:

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- Youth Service
- Sorted Substance Misuse Service
- Youth Justice Service/Exploitation
- 14+/18+ Teams One & Two
- Accommodation Team
- Business Administration Team

Role & Function Of Services

Youth Justice Service:

- Delivers services to young people in both the Court and Out of Court arena
- We have measures in place to divert young people from entering the court arena for example – divert from court program and the Out of Court disposal panel
- We implement plans to divert young people from offending or reduce re-offending
- Work with young people aged 10-19

Exploitation:

- This is where adults take advantage of a/or a group of children/young people which places them at harm
- Our medium to high-risk cases are managed through the Missing Slavery Exploited & Trafficked arena which is led by Northumbria Police
- Missing from home episodes are a key indicator of exploitation and we therefore take a coordinated approach to Return Home Interviews
- Our Child to Parent Violence and Abuse project delivers support to young people and their families
- Our workers act in a support role to the wider social care workforce and are also available to deliver training to care teams/core groups/wider audiences within social care

14+/18+ Team provides:

- Supports Looked After children, 16+ Children In Need and Care Leavers up to the age of 25
- We work in partnership with wider agencies to ensure that there is an appropriate care team supporting each young person to ensure better outcomes
- We support young people to transitions into Adult services if appropriate

Accommodation Team provides:

- Responsible for ensuring young people are supported to access accommodation and maintain stability
- Provides support to homeless 16/17 year olds
- Work with housing partners and supported accommodation providers to progress referrals

Sorted Substance Misuse Service provides:

- Interventions for young people up to age 18
- The aim of the service is to provide direct harm reduction and support to young people who have complex needs with regard to substance use
- Sorted also provide advice, training and support to professionals to raise awareness and reduce the risks from substance misuse with young people

Overview of the Youth Service

The Youth Service provides support to young people in Northumberland and provides three distinct strands:

- Prevention
- Participation and Advocacy
- Early Help

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The provision of universal youth services are developed and delivered across Northumberland which includes working in partnership with the Voluntary Sector

Through data analysis and feedback from partners, we determine where to deploy resources and will deliver sessions in these areas.

Prevention Services Across Northumberland

- Delivery of Detached Youth Work – Street-based engagement with young people, Centre based Youth Clubs and Virtual Online Youth Groups

How we approach the community

- We attend various meetings which includes many voluntary sector partners
- We attend the Victim Offender Location (VOL) meetings for the county

How we gather our information

- We listen to those living in the community on a regular basis and are able to support communities, families and complete one to one work with young people to address any specific issues
- We use a range of recording techniques to gather all our information
- We measure 4 outcomes to monitor progress: Young people are less isolated; supported to develop life skills; have access to opportunities and experiences which broaden their enjoyment, learning and horizons & young people have a safe space to explore their mental, emotional and physical wellbeing

What we do with the information we gather

- Information is used to help inform future service delivery
- We determine if we are meeting the needs of young people through the sessions we deliver and determine what new opportunities/activities we can offer
- Reports are written and shared with senior management and Corporate Parenting Advisory Group

Participation & Advocacy

Universal Participation through the following:

- Youth Cabinet and Parliament
- Make Your Mark national young people's ballot
- Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP)

Advocacy

Advocacy support offered to young people open to Children's Social Care to ensure their voice and opinion is heard

Performance Data:

85 referrals where young people have received a service in the last 12 months

110 responses received from young people through the young people's feedback form with young people rating the service they receive as 4.72 out of 5

229 statements from young people received via Mind of My Own App in the last 12 months

Participation & Advocacy

These are the groups we use to consult with young people:

Voices Making Choices (VMC) - We provide looked after young people a forum to express their views and wishes which helps to shape the services they receive

Regional Children In Care Council (RCIC) - Young people have been supported to share their views with the Regional Children in Care Council through the Voices Making Choices Group

Care Leavers Forum – Currently supports care leavers on a 1:1 basis to be able to express their views and wishes with the longer-term aim of creating a forum where young people can come together throughout the year to discuss the issues that matter to them – (currently virtual due to the covid pandemic)

Respect Equals Change - (REC)- 5 groups in 3 special schools, focusing on supporting young people to develop their ability to share their views and wishes

Northumberland youth service works closely alongside Young Carers Northumberland in providing a service for young carers across the county to be able to attend our service as well as providing training to raise awareness of identifying young carers and the support that is available for young carers.

Early Help - Missing

- Return Home Interviews (RHI's) are completed with children and young people who go missing
- Between January and July 2021: 45 Children and Young People have been missing on 121 occasions and this has included Looked after children, those on a child protection or Child in need plan as well as those not known to services.
- Northumberland's response to missing episodes are led by the Youth Service within NAS
- We have strengthened our multi agency working and now attend the regional missing network and have close links to the exploitation team. This provides a valuable outlet for sharing best practice and intelligence which is then used to proactively 'target' hotspot areas with a view to reducing missing episodes.
- Missing lead attends strategy meetings to ensure they have oversight of young people who may potentially go missing

Early Help – Targeted Youth Support

- 46 enquiries have been received through the Youth Service enquiry form requesting supporting for young people since November 2020
- Most enquiries come from, social workers, early help family workers, youth justice workers, exploitation team, and leaving care workers
- The early help strand lead attends Early Help HUB meetings, information is shared appropriately, and signposting is offered to professionals
- Common themes or topics raised by young people result in small groups sessions being held, for example; online safety, where young people have been supported to learn about how to remain safe online
- We have seen an increase in enquiries to support young people (and their families) in relation to their gender, identity and sexuality. Our youth workers are able to offer 1:1 support to those young people/families as well as linking them into the LGBT meetings we delivery virtually

Voluntary Community Provision Provided

We work in partnership with several voluntary sector groups and offer the following support:

- Advice and support to partnership sessions.
- Enquiries on funding – support Grow Your Own
- Training such as young carers identification and advice around safeguarding procedures
- Promoting links to other NAS services such as Sorted, Accommodation and Exploitation
- Supporting community events

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Projects that we work with within Northumberland include, but not restricted too are: Prudhoe Youth Project, Cramlington Youth Forum, Amble Youth Project, YMCA Northumberland.

Any Questions?

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