



Northumberland  
County Council

Local Area Council Updates  
Northumberland Communities Together

November 2021

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

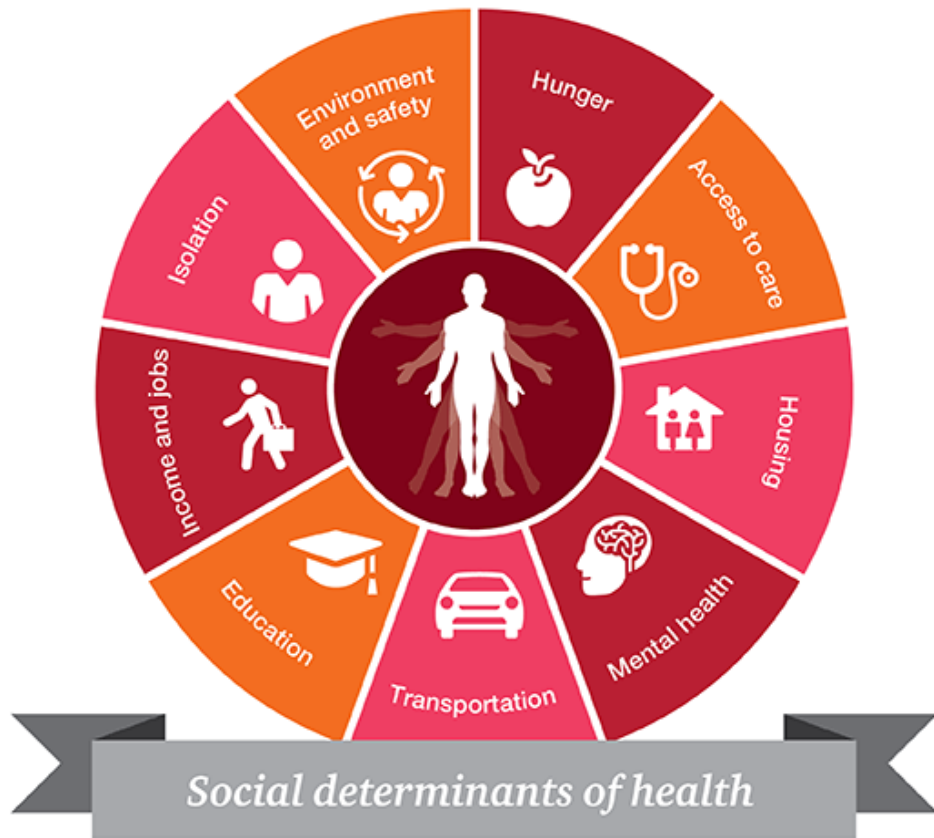
*“Connecting, strengthening and supporting adults and young people in local communities to improve health and life chances”.*



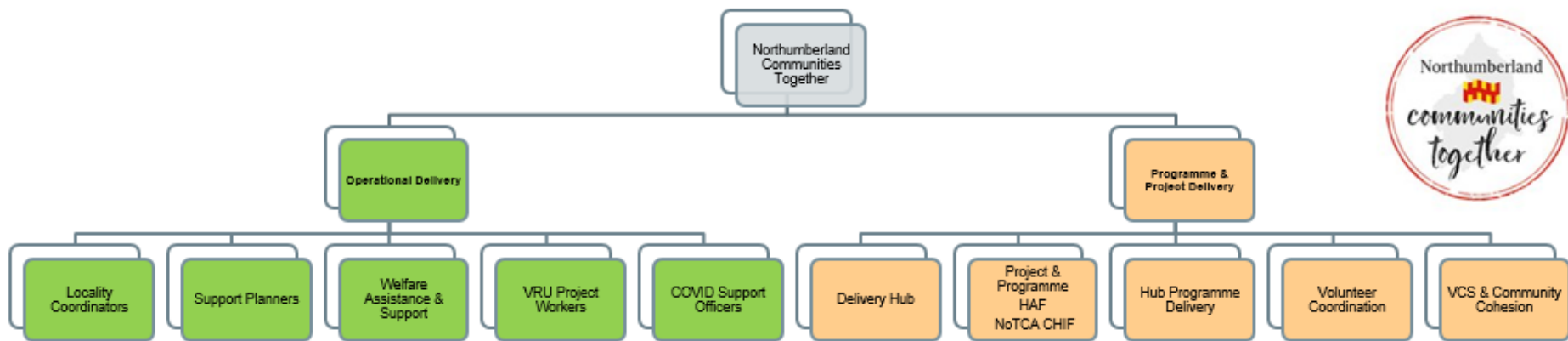
**Northumberland Communities Together** is an inclusive community and multi-disciplinary team approach that responds to the specific and emerging needs of our residents and communities by fully optimising the knowledge, capability and capacity that exists within our communities and amongst our local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

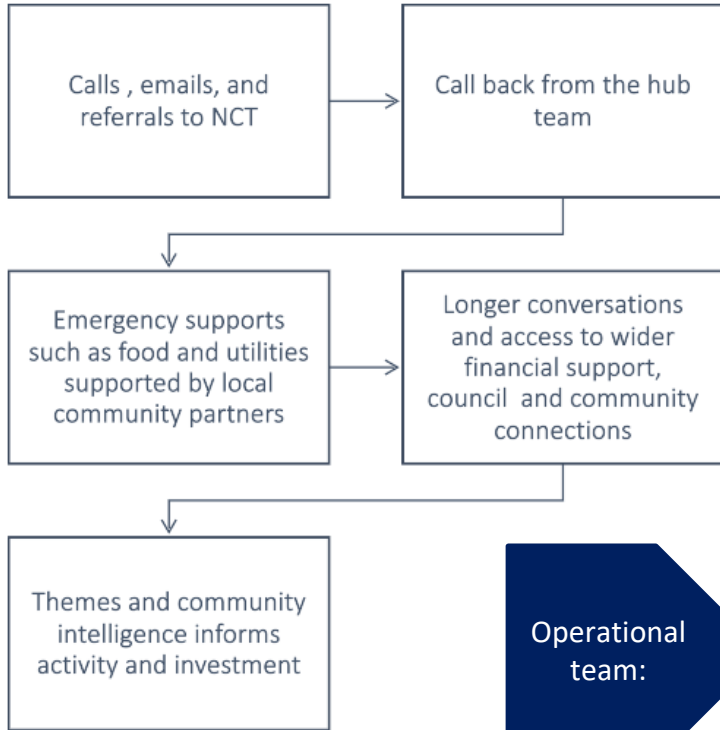


Working with communities to enable them to come together to tackle shared challenges



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

# Our Response Hub



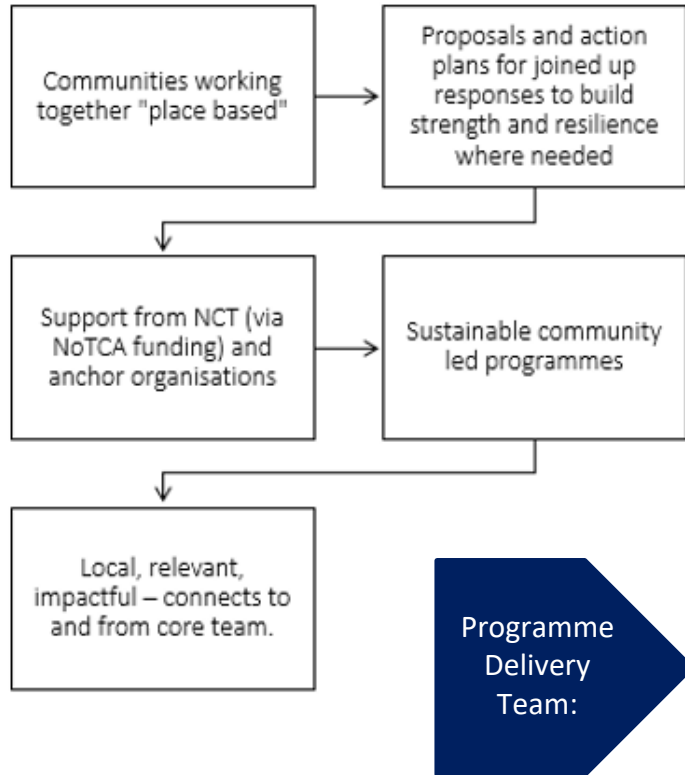
Operational team:

## 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.

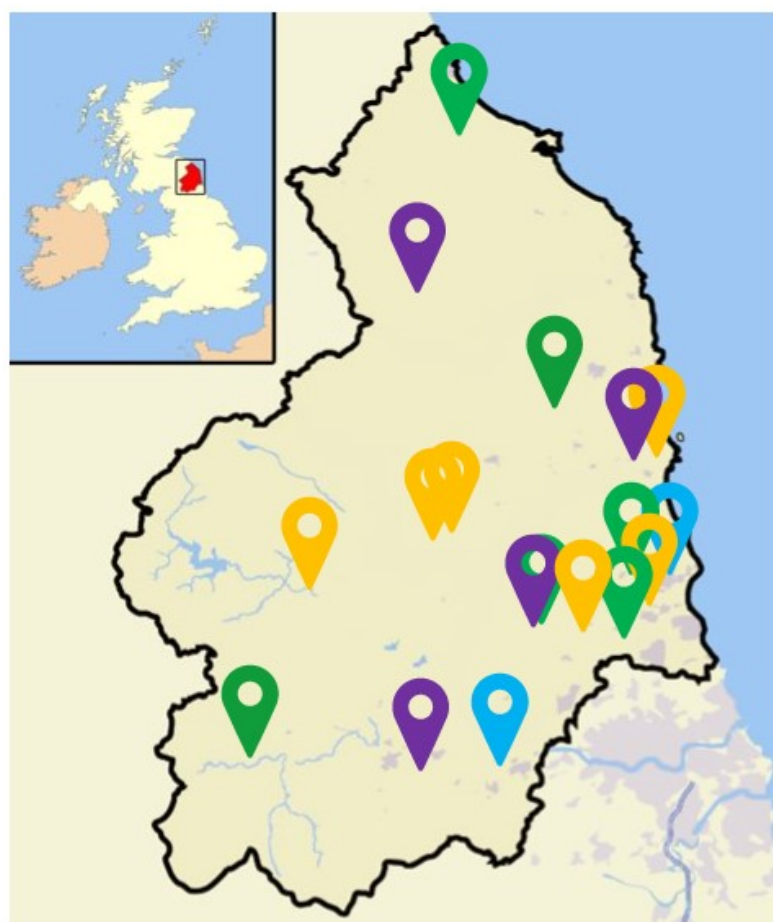


# Community Hub Developments

Community Hub  
Investment  
Fund  
Delivery Team:

## 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

- 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

## NCT 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)
- 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



Northumberland  
communities  
together

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:julie.leddy@northumberland.gov.uk) 07966 331704

## Locality Coordinators:

(North Northumberland) Ruth Armstrong

[ruth.armstrong@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:ruth.armstrong@northumberland.gov.uk) 07967 809325

(West & Tynedale) Richard Kristiansen

[richard.kristiansen@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:richard.kristiansen@northumberland.gov.uk) 07966 397 160

(Ashington/Blyth) Tracey Wilson

[tracey.wilson@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:tracey.wilson@northumberland.gov.uk) 07811 020810

(Cramlington, Bedlington, Seaton Valley) Michelle Redfern

[michelle.redfern@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto:NCT@northumberland.gov.uk)**