



**Community
Foundation**
Tyne & Wear and Northumberland
Enriching lives through effective giving



Tyne & Wear's Vital Issues 2015

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Introduction

This is the second iteration of Tyne & Wear's **Vital Issues**, three years on from the original 2013 publication. It provides the evidence base for our **Vital Signs** report, a community philanthropy guide that seeks to assess the vitality of our communities and identify how philanthropy can make a difference in a range of areas critical to quality of life.

As in 2013, the report seeks to assess the local situation in relation to 10 key themes, and uses a grade to summarise our assessment of the local situation and scope for philanthropic action. In doing so we are very aware that many readers will wish to debate with us on particular issues we have raised, challenge our interpretation or choice of data and query the grade we have awarded. We welcome this, as Vital Issues and Vital Signs are very much designed to stimulate learning through discussion and debate.

Although our basic approach to Vital Issues has not changed, there are several significant differences between the content of this edition of Vital Issues and our 2013 publication. Our earlier version concentrated heavily on identifying need within the sub-region, which tended to result in a number of low grades. In 2015, we have shifted the focus, trying to concentrate a little more on community assets: the good people, great organisations and special places that explain why so many people love to live and work in Tyne & Wear. In addition the national framework for Vital Signs, as set by our national association UK Community Foundations, has incorporated a revised set of indicators as the baseline against which we start the process of determining a grade for each theme. Finally there have been significant changes in the availability of government data on local issues.

- A significant number of data sets have been discontinued. This includes the National Indicators (NI) sets, which were really useful because they were specifically related to local district level statistics.
- In 2013 we made significant use of national rankings for Tyne & Wear or its districts based on government data available through our data providers. This time more such calculations have been done by the authors. They are therefore entirely new, and have not been previously published.
- Inevitably the criteria for a number of measures have changed since 2013, so that meaningful comparisons between historic and contemporary data is impossible.
- Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) are still produced but their publication has been put forward to September 30 2015. This data is essential to the Fairness theme, which looks in particular at inequality within Tyne & Wear using ward and super output areas statistics. This section will be revised when the data is available, although other, mostly regional sources have been used in the meantime.

As a result greater use of other data sources has been made. These tend to be independent reports, research, studies and consultations conducted or commissioned by organisations like the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. While some of these cover district and sub-regional geographies, many don't. Consequently there is a greater reliance on national or regional level information which we have attempted to interpret in relation to what we know about the local situation.

The format of the report is also somewhat different. In the first report we confined ourselves to 5 factors for each theme, with a ‘bubbling under’ section to pick up any other issues of note. We also made considerable use of grades. This time the approach is to:

- Update the subjects identified in the first report if new data allows this.
- Repeat any observations or recommended actions we think are still relevant, even if it has not been possible to update the statistics.
- Show any repeated text or quotes in italics.
- Have no restriction on the number of subjects in each theme.
- Use grades only as a means of summarising the position in relation to a theme.

Finally, we should say that alongside the changes in the report there is a strong element of continuity. In our 2013 report we identified four cross-cutting themes which remain relevant today, particularly in light of our findings about local priorities for investment in community assets. They are:

- **Multiple issues:** *Most civil society organisations, particularly those that focus on a vulnerable group or a geographical area, address multiple issues, often without realising it and certainly without including it in how they measure their impact. Identifying all of the outcomes that arise from a given activity is a good way to emphasise value, but it is also something that philanthropists can consider when deciding what activities to invest in, making their investment more cost effective. Developing a better understanding of ‘knock on effects’ and the interconnectedness of different activities could be encouraged as part of a funding strategy.*
- **Social capital**¹: *Investment in social capital is often ignored, mainly because many funding streams demand measurable outputs and outcomes, which are less easy to identify than with more precise interventions. However, increasing participation, cohesion, civic pride and a sense of ownership are crucial to helping deprived communities become more viable. More often than not it is small community groups and the local amenities they provide that are best placed to do these things. From a community philanthropist’s point of view, it is a highly cost effective investment, where relatively small amounts of money can achieve a great deal.*
- **Strategic funding:** *There are a number of priorities in this report that call for a more strategic approach to funding, where a number of things that, in order to be successful, need to be done together, over a longer period of time and with more significant amounts of money. The need to consider this approach is becoming acute with the disappearance of many funding streams that were designed to be strategic. There is a strong case for community philanthropists to consider working together in this way. A good current example is The Local Environmental Action Fund (LEAF) at the Community Foundation.*
- **The particular strengths of civil society:** *A common theme is the distinctive position that civil society organisations have in disadvantaged communities. Their four unique selling points are: the **trust** of local people and communities; **in depth***

¹ The term Social Capital denotes the networks of relationships among people who live and work in a particular society, enabling that society to function effectively.

knowledge and understanding of particular groups; an **holistic approach** to addressing needs; a **freedom and willingness to innovate** and experiment usually not enjoyed by the public and private sectors.

Tapping into these qualities should be a focus for philanthropy.

Themes and grades

This report covers 10 nationally agreed Vital Signs themes. In 2013 we included 2 additional themes, Young People and Civil Society Organisations. We have not done so in 2015, as our view is that these are better dealt with throughout the main body of the reports.

At a national level a new range of indicators were agreed for each of the 10 national themes that allow for a baseline grading of how each Vital Signs area is doing relative to the rest of the UK in relation to each theme. These are summarised in the table below. Grades are from A (best scoring 20% of sub-regions) to E (worst 20%). The Vital Signs UK baseline grades for Tyne & Wear are therefore:

Theme	Indicator, date of publication, source and description	Baseline grade
Work	Unemployment rate (Claimant Count), July 2015. ONS. The proportion of people aged 16-59/64 (men/women) claiming Job Seekers Allowance or National Insurance Credits.	E
Learning	5+GCSEs A*-C, March 2015. DOE. Residence-based proportion of students gaining these qualifications.	D
Fairness	Indices of multiple deprivation, April 2011. DCLG. The overall deprivation score compared to the national average.	E
Strong communities	Wellbeing: average (2013/14). September 2014. Land Registry. Results of a national survey of 320,000 people, with a representative sample in every UK County and Unitary Authority	E
Housing and homelessness	Housing affordability score. December 2013. Land Registry. Based on average house price and earnings data.	B
Arts, culture and heritage	Employment Workplace (Creative), November 2015. ONS. This workplace based figure provides the proportion of employment in the Creative Industries sector.	C
Local economy	Gross Value Added (GVA), December 2014, ONS. Gross Value Added indicates the economic activity within a region by measuring the production of goods and services.	C
Healthy living	Mortality rate circulatory disease, February 2015, DoH. The mortality rates from heart disease and stroke and related diseases per 100,000 people aged under-75 within the area.	E
Environment	Natural Environment Score, 2013, GT Place Analytics. A composite score based on weighted factors including housing density; road density; air quality; tranquillity; natural beauty; green space; and water quality.	E
Safety	Offences (total), 2015, Home Office. The total number of offences per 1,000 resident population including theft, domestic and non-domestic burglary, robberies, criminal damage and arson, drug offences, sexual offences, fraud, weapons offences, public order offences and violent offences.	C

This Vital Issues report looks a little more closely at the detail behind this general assessment, and on this basis we have produced a revised set of grades for each theme. These grades reflect our analysis of the situation in Tyne & Wear, including learning from the public consultations we have undertaken, and our assessment of the scope for philanthropic action. The revised grades are awarded according to the following scale:

A	Everything is great. Let's keep things that way!
B	Things are going well, but we can make them better
C	The situation is OK, but could be improved
D	Things aren't going very well. We should take action as soon as possible
E	Things are going very badly. We must act now!

The amended grades for each theme are:

Theme	Vital Signs Grade
Work	D
Learning	D
Fairness	E
Strong communities	D
Housing and homelessness	C
Arts, culture and heritage	B
Local economy	C
Healthy living	E
Environment	C
Safety	B

To a significant extent the grades reflect our consultation findings: Work, Learning, Fairness and Strong communities are all graded below C and feature in the poll's top 5 priorities. The most significant anomaly is Healthy living, which we have afforded top priority for action, but which only 6% of poll respondents identified as a priority. In our view, however, it was not appropriate to amend the E grade given the overwhelming evidence of significant health inequalities within Tyne & Wear.

A note on our use of percentages

Within the theme sections in this Vital Issues report we have rounded percentages to one decimal point. There is inevitably some small loss of accuracy, but in our view this makes the many tables in Vital Issues much easier to read and understand. Where we make reference to variations in levels (e.g. "there has been a 55% increase") these are calculated on the basis of the exact figures.

Work

Grade D

Overview

For those in work, wages in Tyne & Wear are relatively low: mean full time weekly wages before tax are £568 against a national average of £623. In-work poverty is thus a significant issue, and it has been claimed that 60% of all children living in poverty in the North East have working parents. The rate of self-employment is really low in Tyne & Wear being about 2/3 of the national figure, and in Sunderland it is less than half.

The table below provides an indication of the employment situation in Tyne & Wear. Residents' figures are for those who live in Tyne & Wear in employment anywhere, whilst the workplace figure reflects the number of people employed in a workplace there who may live out of area:

Employment	National (%)	Tyne & Wear (%)
Full time (residents)	74.1	73.6
Full time female (residents)	57.9	57.1
Full time female (workplace)	57.9	57.9
Full time male (residents)	88.5	87.5
Full time male (workplace)	88.4	88.9
Part-time (residents)	25.6	26.3
Part-time (workplace)	25.5	25.7
Part-time female (residents)	41.83	42.5
Part-time female (workplace)	41.8	42.1
Part-time male (residents)	11.1	11.5
Part-time male (workplace)	11.1	11.1

Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS)

There are far more female part-time workers than male by a factor of 4, but this only reflects the national picture.

The difference between residential and workplace employment gives an indication of 'travel to work' across the sub-region. For example, the resident full-time employment rate for Newcastle is low (70.6%) while for Gateshead it is 76.1% (even higher than the national average). For workplace statistics the roles are reversed. For example full-time female figures are higher than the nation average (59.1%) while for Gateshead it is low (56.9%). This shows that there are more Gateshead people working in Newcastle than the other way around. Whilst that is perhaps to be expected, the figures for part-time working are the reverse. There are considerably more residents in Newcastle working part-time than there are places occupied in Newcastle itself. While in South Tyneside, for instance, the figures are reversed. This would seem to suggest that there are more opportunities for part-time work outside Newcastle than in.

Between 2013 and 2014 the employment rate rose by 5.2% across Tyne & Wear, compared to 1.3% nationally. In Newcastle it is even more pronounced at 9.3%. A downward trend in unemployment is reflected in our improved grade for the Work theme. However this downward trend may now be coming to an end, and the overall rate remains high in UK terms. The table below shows that Tyne & Wear is just above the worst 10% of sub-regions for unemployment. South Tyneside in particular has the 6th highest rate out of 380 districts.

Unemployment rate		
	2015 rate	Rank (by percentile where 100 = lowest unemployment)
National	1.9	
North East	2.9	11.1
Tyne & Wear	3.14	11.3
Newcastle	2.7	11.8
Gateshead	2.9	8.2
South Tyneside	4.2	1.6
North Tyneside	2.4	18.2
Sunderland	3.2	5.8

Source: ONS

In addition the loss of relatively good quality public sector jobs has not been fully compensated for by increased employment within the private sector.

Those furthest from the labour market

In Tyne & Wear's Vital Signs 2013 we highlighted those furthest from the labour market as a priority, because they face multiple barriers and require more time and resources to help them into work. The Work Programme's large prime contractors have not performed well in this area, compounding the difficulty created by increased competition for available jobs from those better equipped to return to employment.

For many marginalised and vulnerable people there will be more than one issue that leaves them far from the labour market. Problems such as homelessness, offending, drug use and poor mental health are often seen together. This suggests that funders should encourage a holistic and partnership based approach towards helping this group into employment.

People with disabilities

In our previous report we found that people with disabilities in Tyne & Wear faced particular problems in finding work. The rate of employment for those who are registered disabled amongst the residents of working age within Tyne & Wear is the lowest for all English sub-regions at 24.6% compared to a national average of 33.7%. In addition:

- Disabled people are more likely to experience unfair treatment in work than non-disabled: 19% compared to 13%.
- The disabled/non-disabled pay gap is 11% for men and 22% for women.

One factor underpinning these problems may be lower levels of qualification within the disabled population resulting from lack of access to education and training opportunities.

Local authorities in Tyne & Wear have set a great example in relation to the employment of disabled people. In Tyne & Wear 19.5% of economically active people with disabilities were employed by local authorities in 2005/6. However this may mean that proportionately more disabled people's jobs have been at risk due to reductions in public expenditure.

Perhaps the most effective contribution that philanthropy can make to address the needs of people with disabilities in this area is to support services that:

- assist disabled people to get the qualifications they need to maximise their chances of finding work.
- support disabled people both to find work and in the workplace.
- Support disabled people wishing to explore the possibility of self-employment.

Civil society groups mostly use the social rather than the medical model of disability, which focuses on what people can rather than can't do.

Over 50s

We don't have up to date figures on the percentage of older people in employment for Tyne & Wear, but we do have figures on this age group for benefit claimants and what proportion are economically active (working or seeking work). The national average for being economically active is 71% for the 50-64 groups. In Tyne & Wear it is 64%, and in Gateshead and Newcastle in particular, it is 61% and 62% respectively. This is very low by national standards.

By contrast the percentage of 50+ benefit claimants is much higher. The national average is 9.3%, with Tyne & Wear at 11.5%. Newcastle and Sunderland are 12.5% and 12.4% respectively. North Tyneside however is very close to the national average at 9.5%.

As well as the 50-64 group we also have figures for those beyond state pension age. The national average for the economically active is 9.9%. It is 5.2% for Tyne & Wear, with Gateshead at only 3.4% and no district better than 6%.

The over 50s are more likely to be self employed nationally, but disappointingly self-employment for all ages is only about two thirds of the national average in Tyne & Wear (10% and 6.5% respectively).

Older people are less likely to be seeking work if they are out of work. This is perhaps not too surprising.

All of this points to a serious under-representation of older people in the labour market compared with the rest of the country, so we don't think this problem has gone away since the last report.

There are a number of organisations that support or advocate for older people and quite a few web resources. There is an argument here for both public and voluntary sector organisations to work together on this issue, focussing on it more to try and redress the balance with the rest of the country. Civil society organisations that provide this kind of support are located predominantly in Newcastle. There is a case for developing similar levels and quality of provision in the rest of the sub-region.

Many organisations that support older people don't necessarily tackle employment issues, or it is not a priority for them. With their holistic knowledge of older people, there is a case for encouraging and funding some to increase their involvement in this issue. Older people's groups will have a good understanding of barriers and importantly the factors that lead to older people stopping work. Retention is a concern here and the ability to work with employers an important skill. Other areas are community participation and volunteering, training (especially around skills transfer), confidence and self-esteem.

Although the overall rate remains low by national standards, Tyne & Wear achieved the highest improvement in the country for getting 50-64 year olds to participate in the labour market between 2008 and 2014. Hopefully this trend will continue.

Workless households

In our last report we said that the proportion of workless households in Tyne & Wear was 24% compared to 19% nationally. Figures available for 2014 are for national and regional only, so for comparison we will use the regional figure for 2009, which was 24% thus:

Workless Households (%)			
Area	2009	2014	Change
National	19	16	-15%
Regional	24	21	-11%
Tyne & Wear	24	-	-

Source: ONS

The North East fall is slower than the rest of the country and remains the worst region. We can surmise from this that the rate in Tyne & Wear noted in our last report of 24% and over 28% for Newcastle will have gone down too. We cannot say whether the fall will have taken the districts within Tyne & Wear out of the worst 10% nationally (and the worst 5% for Newcastle).

Nationally around a third of children live in poverty, of which nearly half (15%) are from workless households, and two thirds of those (10%) are single parent families. We should expect all of these figures to be higher in Tyne & Wear.

There are big differences between individual wards in the number of workless households. Although ward data for the period after 2013 isn't yet available, it is unlikely that the relative position has changed very much, so the areas we identified in our 2013 report to concentrate on remain valid.

A key role for civil society, especially local groups, is in building higher levels of participation (social capital), which can be an early stage in the journey to work.

Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Groups

There seems to have been some improvement in the BME employment rate in Tyne & Wear since the last report. The national average stands at 61% and Tyne & Wear is fractionally below this level. This would take it out of the category of serious problem, except for some rather wild variations between districts.

Newcastle is lowest at 52% while North and South Tyneside are impressive 74% and 73%. The trouble with these differences is that the majority of BME residents live in Newcastle, and there are more working age BME people out of work in Newcastle than all those employed in the other four districts. This whilst the overall figure for the sub-region is still a significant improvement, a greater effort in Newcastle is needed.

An increase in inclusion and participation can underpin an improvement in levels of employment. It may be that there is merit in supporting voluntary groups that offer pathways to work as part of their offer to BME communities.

Fairness

Grade E

Overview

This theme is not purely about the gap between rich and poor, however that is defined. But this is nevertheless our primary focus.

We have awarded a lower grade this year for the Fairness theme. In part this is based on our assessment of likely future trends, which suggest that recent progress in addressing the high level of deprivation in Tyne & Wear is unlikely to be sustained. National research suggests that henceforth a combination of economic, fiscal and social policy trends will combine to widen the gap between rich and poor. A CASE/LSE report "The Coalition's Record on Cash Transfers, Poverty and Inequality 2010-2015" has suggested that "*Child and working age poverty are projected to be higher in 2014-15 than in 2012-13, with further increases forecast to 2020-21.*" Against this background the Institute for Fiscal Studies report "Living Standards, Poverty and Inequality in the UK: 2015" concluded: "*Recent falls in inequality are likely to prove temporary*".

The Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) were published on 30 September 2015. Because of changes in how they are calculated, direct comparison with previous years is problematic. An analysis of this data will be added to the online version of this report in Winter 2015. For now we simply note the average IMD score and rank out of 326 local authority districts, together with the rank by proportion of local super output areas in the 10% most deprived nationally:

Area	IMD average score	Rank of average score	Rank by proportion of LSOA ² s in the most deprived 10% nationally
Newcastle	28.3	53	30
Gateshead	26	73	78
North Tyneside	25.9	130	120
South Tyneside	30.6	32	34
Sunderland	29.7	37	42

Source: Department for communities and local government

Clearly the most recent figures show significant overall levels and concentrations of deprivation across Tyne & Wear. One useful further indicator deprivation are the % rates for receipt of Welfare Benefits. These are summarised below:

Benefit	National	T&W	Newcastle	Gateshead	S.Tyneside	N.Tyneside	Sunderland
16-24	10.1	11.9	7.9	12.7	16.8	13.1	14.5
Attendance Allowance	13.1	15	16.2	14.5	18.3	12.6	16.1
Carers	1.5	2	1.8	2	2.2	1.7	2.4
Working Age	12.5	16.7	15.2	16.4	19.6	14.5	18.5
25-49	12.8	15.7	16.2	14.5	18.3	12.6	17
Disability Allowance	6.3	8.14	7	8.1	9	7.4	9.4
Severe	3.1	4	3.7	3.8	3.91	3.6	4.6

² Local Super Output Areas (LSOAs) are areas lying within or across electoral boundaries used for statistical purposes. They don't change over time, making comparisons easier.

Disabled							
50+	9.3	11.6		11	12.1	9.5	12.4
Inc incapacity Benefit	5	6.6	6.4	6.5	7.1	5.6	7.4
Inc incapacity Support	2	2.7	2.6	2.51	3.22	2.3	3
Job Seekers	22	30	27.1	28.9	42.5	25	30.8
Lone Parents	1.2	1.5	1.5	1.3	1.8	1.2	1.6
Pension Credit	15.5	22.1	23	21.5	24	18.8	23.3

These figures compare sub-region and district prevalence of different benefits with the national average. The shaded areas (3) are where the figure is below the national average, and the bold numbers (50) are where the figure is more than 33.3% above the national average.

Recent and proposed government actions to reduce the benefit bill have and are likely to have a major impact in Tyne & Wear. Therefore support, advice and advocacy will be really important to ensure that the most vulnerable are protected, while encouraging those towards work for whom it is most appropriate.

Understanding poverty

In the absence of a detailed analysis of the IMD data we have some other sources of information on this theme published in the last 12 months:

- ‘The Society We Want’ (2015), published by the Webb Memorial Trust.
- ‘Hard Edges: Mapping Severe and Multiple Disadvantage’ (2015), published by the Lankelly Chase Foundation.

Unlike the Indices of Multiple Deprivation, these studies don’t get down to district or ward level. However, they take a very detailed look at issues of social and economic inequality that are very relevant to Tyne & Wear, given that it is likely to score low against most IMD 2015 indicators.

The Webb Memorial Trust reframes the problem of poverty, partly by exploring what a good society without poverty would look like, why it has declined as an important concept, and looking at how it might be revived. Part of the methodology involved seeking the views of over 12,000 people, supplemented by focus groups. The report contains useful definitions of common terms that can be used to help us understand the nature of poverty in Tyne & Wear:

Absolute poverty is defined as ‘lack of sufficient resources with which to meet basic needs’. These may include food, clean water, housing, sufficient clothing or medicines. Tyne & Wear residents at the very margins of society, such as homeless people living on the streets, remain the most likely to experience this type of poverty. However the rise in food bank use in North East England is a worrying sign that aspects of absolute poverty may be becoming more widely experienced.

Relative poverty is defined as ‘low income or resources in relation to the average’. This is a lack of means that makes it a struggle to live a normal life and participate in ordinary economic, social and cultural activities. This is clearly the type of poverty experienced by most of those in deprivation in Tyne & Wear.

Social exclusion means the process by which individuals or entire communities are systematically blocked from various rights, opportunities and resources that are normally available to members of a different group, and which are fundamental to social integration. It is generally underpinned by factors such as unemployment, low income, poor housing, inadequate health care and barriers to lifelong learning, culture, sport and recreation. Negative attitudes to those who are socially excluded, which appear to be on the rise, tend to compound the problem of social exclusion.

From the above it is apparent that relative poverty and social exclusion are experienced as the absence of things which we regard as essential to our quality of life, rather than simply those that are necessary for us to exist at all. The Webb report is useful in that it suggests what these intangibles are, the extent to which we all feel they should be present in a good society and the gap between our expectations and reality:

Qualities of a good society people consider to be important and present			
	Very or fairly important (%)	Very or fairly present (%)	Gap (%)
Fairness	94	36	58
Fair chance for all	94	32	62
Security	93	62	31
Safety	93	67	26
Freedom	93	68	25
Well-paid work	92	33	59
Compassion	90	42	48
Tolerance	90	48	42
Absence of poverty	90	24	66
Choice	89	57	32
Equality	88	42	46
Level playing field	86	26	60
Prosperity	85	40	45
Independence	84	54	30
Self-reliance	83	44	39
Social mobility	80	42	38
Solidarity	76	28	48
Welfare benefits	74	69	5

The fact that we seem to place such a high value on fairness, security, freedom, choice and equality - often above things necessary to material wellbeing such as good pay and welfare benefits – suggests that tackling relative poverty is as important as eliminating absolute poverty. A further insight into the Fairness agenda comes if we examine the size of the gap between how things are and how we want them to be in a good society. The greatest of these disparities can potentially point to where the greatest focus is needed, not just to benefit those in poverty but all of us. They are: Absence of poverty; Fair chance for all; Level playing field; Well-paid work; Fairness; Compassion; Solidarity; Equality; Prosperity and Tolerance.

Severe and multiple disadvantage (SMD)

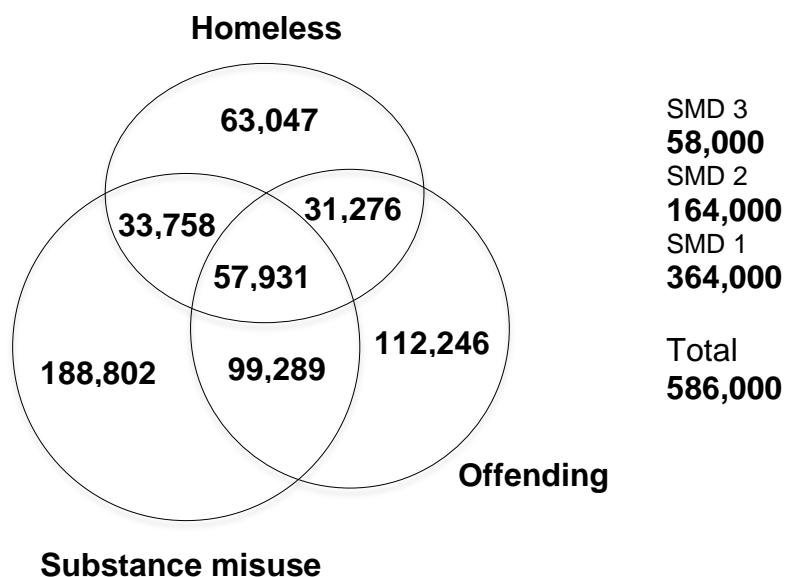
SMD is based on the observation that when someone faces multiple issues to living a stable life, the severity arises from:

- The multiplicity and interlocking nature of these issues and their cumulative impact.
- The degree of dislocation from societal norms that follows.
- And the stigma that arises from both of the above.

The four ingredients found to most frequently occur together are the basis of the Lankelly Chase study:

- Offending
- Substance misuse
- Homelessness
- Mental health problems

SMD1-4 indicates how many of the four factors are acting together. The number of people so affected in England are shown below:



Drilling down to local level Newcastle is in the highest 10% for incidence of SMD and Tyne & Wear in the highest quarter. The estimated number of people is:

Incidence of SMD in Tyne & Wear				
	SMD 1	SMD 2	SMD 3	Total
Newcastle	3758	1693	599	6050
Gateshead	2040	931	329	3325
South Tyneside	1634	736	260	2630
North Tyneside	1624	732	259	2615
Sunderland	2563	1154	408	4125
Tyne & Wear	11619	5246	1855	18545

Around 40% of the total (approximately 8,000) also have mental health problems.

Tackling disadvantage holistically is one quality that is a distinguishing factor of civil society organisations, and it is exactly these interlocking issues that require this approach. For philanthropists there is need not only to support organisations that do this but to encourage more to do so. In addition good practice in joint working and referral protocols is important to ensure all the relevant skills are in place.

Other major equality issues

Philanthropy has a role to play in helping civil society to tackle inequalities experienced by people arising from their race, disability, faith, gender, age and sexuality. A good way for philanthropists to address equality issues is to focus on organisations that support communities of interest and promote integration, cohesion and awareness.

- Being on the margins of decision making is a common problem. Activities that promote participation and give communities of interest a voice, and influence at all levels, needs support.
- Communities of interest are disproportionately affected by the upheaval in welfare, benefits, social care and other government initiatives and changes. Interventions that help people through this minefield are crucial.
- A common theme through equality strands is isolation and exclusion. A general sense of separateness from mainstream life that is exacerbated by prejudice, and in extreme cases, hate crime.

There are gaps in badly needed civil society activity, as well as threats to the sustainability of existing provision. These are:

- Education, training and awareness raising of equality issues; making the issues visible.
- A marked lack of research in many areas of equality.
- The sharing of information, common issues and good practice between equality strands.

Community philanthropy can be particularly effective in supporting celebrations of diversity.

Housing and homelessness

Grade C

Overview

Tyne & Wear has relatively affordable housing and is doing well at tackling homelessness. However the potential effects of further changes in the social housing field and welfare benefits provision, and on-going problems such as fuel poverty and rough sleeping mean there is little cause for complacency.

Affordability of owner occupation

Around 58% of households were in owner-occupied dwellings at the time of the 2011 census compared to 63% for England. The affordability ratio is the average local house prices divided by average gross earnings. The lower the ratio, the more affordable the housing.

House affordability			
	Ratio	Percentile (100 is best)	% change (2002/12)
National	8.9		+1
Regional	6.3	90.9	-5.2
Tyne & Wear	6.4	79.6	-3.7
Newcastle	7.2	65.7	+0.6
Gateshead	6	90.1	-1.4
South Tyneside	5.7	94.0	-6.3
North Tyneside	6.9	71.1	-2.3
Sunderland	5.7	94.6	-0.3

Source: Land Registry

This is something to celebrate. The ratio is very good relative to the national average, and half that of London. The rate of change in affordability is also much better than average. Nationally the ratio has gone up by 1%, while it has fallen everywhere in the North East. The Tyne & Wear exception is Newcastle, which has gone up a little, but it is still only half the national figure. Affordable housing can be a key part of the offer to businesses looking to locate in Tyne & Wear.

Rented accommodation

The rented sector is more significant in Tyne & Wear than in many other parts of England. The 2011 census recorded 27% of households renting from social landlords, and 13% in the private rented sector. This compares with England figures of 18% in social housing and 17% in private rented.

Rents for both social and private rented accommodation in Tyne & Wear are lower than the national average. However, the supply of social housing could be reduced in future years as a result of restrictions on rent increases and the introduction of right to buy measures. Meanwhile private sector rents are increasing, but at a slower rate than elsewhere in the UK.

Quality of housing

Recent data on the quality of housing stock is hard to find, but it is likely this remains an issue particularly in the private rented sector.

Housing benefit

Despite the relatively cheap cost of housing, Tyne & Wear is in the worst 20% of sub-regions for dependence on Housing Benefit with Newcastle, South Tyneside and

Sunderland in the worst 10%. Unemployment and low incomes are the main contributors along with a significant proportion of part-time working. As with other benefits, a key role for civil society organisations is in supporting people through the benefit changes still to be implemented. Organisations assisting those furthest from the labour market into work will also have a role.

Homelessness

In the last report we said this about the national picture.

The statistics for homelessness are shocking. The average life expectancy for homeless men is 47 and for women 43. Homeless people are 9 times more likely to commit suicide, 51% have been excluded from school, 40% have experienced abuse and 33% self harm. Many, in desperation, turn to crime, drugs and sex work. Alarmingly, in the year from 2010 to 2011 local authorities' homelessness figures rose by 10% and rough sleeping by 23%, and it will continue to rise if not checked over the next few years, exacerbated by cuts to council spending, to the benefits system and to increased unemployment. Additionally there is a lot of homelessness hidden through squatting and 'sofa surfing'

This has been updated and the following information comes from a 2014 briefing by the homelessness charity Crisis.

- Rough sleeping has risen by 55% in the four years to 2014.
- Local Authority statutory homeless figures have risen 26% in the four-year period.
- This amounted to 111,960 nationwide, but obscures the fact that 280,000 people approached their local authority for homelessness assistance.
- Homelessness bed spaces have reduced by 4000 to 35000 over the four years, sparking an increase in 'hidden homelessness' (hostels, friends, family etc.).
- Over half of homelessness services have had funding cuts. The welfare and housing systems have traditionally acted as a buffer between unemployment, poverty and homelessness. Government reforms, particularly cuts to Housing Benefit, are eroding this safety net. Housing Benefit has been cut by around £7bn.
- Housing shortage and welfare cuts means that all forms of homelessness will rise despite the economic recovery.
- Only 2% of homeless people are in full-time employment, but the overwhelming majority want to work.
- Up to 80% of homeless people have mental health problems.
- Homeless people are 13 times more likely to be a victim of violence.
- 20% of women have become homeless to escape violence. 28% of them form unwanted sexual partnerships, and 20% engage in sex work to survive.

Against this gloomy backdrop the local picture is more encouraging. When agencies address the homeless problem they engage in two distinct actions: preventing homelessness from occurring in the first place and relieving homelessness that has occurred. In Tyne & Wear the main preventative actions are (in order of importance):

- Alternative accommodation
- Resolving benefits issues
- Assistance to remain in private rented or social housing
- Debt advice
- Resolving arrears
- Mediation and conciliation (family and exclusions)
- Sanctuary from domestic violence

Work to prevent and relieve homelessness is more successful than the national average. If we compare the Tyne & Wear and National figures we find that Tyne & Wear is more than 2.5 times more successful at prevention than the national average (10.82 per 1000 to 3.95 per 1000). The number of homelessness cases relieved is also slightly higher (0.49 per 1000 to 0.35 per 1000).

However the prevalence of **vulnerability** to homelessness is considerably higher than the national average. It is 11.31 people per 1000 compared to the national 4.3 per 1000. Keeping homelessness to percentage levels around the national average, despite there being 2.63 times more vulnerability in the population is therefore something Tyne & Wear should be proud of because it could have easily been very much worse.

There is, however, little room for complacency. In 2013 we reported a 23% rise in rough sleeping between 2010 and 2011. The subsequent 3 years have also seen rises, making it 55% nationally over the 4 years.

Rough Sleeping					
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Sleeping rough	1768	2181	2309	2414	2744
% change per year		23%	6%	5%	14%

Source: Department for Communities and Local Government

Recent data published by Homeless Link shows that the North East of England has seen the largest rise.

Increased vulnerability, rising need and reduced funding for homelessness services may jeopardise our excellent performance in tackling homelessness. There is a good case for philanthropy to start to focus on this issue ahead of problems arising.

Repeat homelessness

This is when people who have been helped out of homelessness return to it some time later and repeatedly. The reason for this is that those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness face multiple factors that contribute to that risk. Each risk is a barrier to stability, and achieving stability is the key to success. Interventions that tackle these factors have the primary purpose of building long term stability into the lives of vulnerable people, so that they can be safely left to take control of their own lives. As with preventative action, civil society organisations are well placed to do this.

Fuel poverty

The most up to date information on fuel poverty is 2013, and comes from the Department of Energy and Climate Change. The national average rate is 10.39% of households. Tyne & Wear figures are as follows:

Fuel Poverty (national average 10.39% of households)		
Area	%	Variance (±%) from national average
Tyne & Wear	11.6	+11.9
Newcastle	13.0	+25
Gateshead	10.9	+4.9
South Tyneside	11.3	+8.8
North Tyneside	9.9	-4.7
Sunderland	12.4	+19.3

The statistics show that, with the exception of North Tyneside, Tyne & Wear has higher fuel poverty than the national average. As noted in our 2013 report: *the causes [of fuel poverty] are low income, rising fuel prices, poor insulation and inadequate heating systems. This can lead to cold, damp and unhealthy homes. Children living in such homes are more likely to suffer poor health, disability and poor educational achievement.* Although many of the solutions are about buildings and systems, there is a great deal civil society organisations can do, particularly around advice, ensuring people get the benefits they are entitled to and bringing together agencies in a local area that tackle the implications of fuel poverty, such as poor health, raise awareness and make referrals. There is also a link to environmental groups looking at carbon footprint and sustainable communities.

Safety

Grade B

Overview

With some exceptions, the figures for most types of crime in Tyne & Wear are good by national standards. However, there are worrying signs that the rate of progress may be slowing. Although public satisfaction with how this issue is being handled is relatively high, we should be mindful that for some individuals and communities crime and anti-social behaviour are major issues affecting quality of life.

Crime

The tables below summarise the situation in relation to major areas of crime in Tyne & Wear.

Crime rates per 1000 of population							
Crime	National	T&W	Newcastle	Gateshead	S. Tyneside	N.Tyneside	Sunderland
Burglaries	3.6	2.1	2.5	2.2	1.7	1.4	2.5
Drugs	3.2	3.4	4.9	2.4	3.2	2	3.7
Robbery	0.9	0.4	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.3
Sexual	1.3	1.2	1.9	1	1	0.8	1
Violent Crime	12.1	9	12.4	7.3	9.1	7.4	8
Weapons	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.5
Total Crime	60.6	53.2	72.3	45.7	48.4	37.6	53
Crimes per 1000sq m							
Vehicle	13.1	12.1	14.1	11.5	6.9	5.3	10.9
% change in total offences							
Change 2003-2014	-45.6	-59.1	-54	-62.9	-60.5	-61.4	-61
Change 2013-2014	-1.2	-0.3	-2.9	+0.6	+2.9	-0.3	+1.4

Source: ONS

There's a lot to celebrate in these figures. The shaded cells are where the local rates are 25%+ lower than the national figure. The black cells are where the rates are 25%+ higher. Some aspects deserve particular mention:

- **Burglaries** – South Tyneside is less than half and North Tyneside almost a third of the national rate.
- **Robbery** – The whole of Tyne & Wear is only 40% of the national rate, and in north Tyneside it is less than 20%.
- **Violent crime** is also good, and the sub-regional figure is below the national rate for sexual and vehicle crimes.

What is particularly encouraging is that, against the background of a national long-term reduction of crime of 45.6% all areas of Tyne & Wear do so much better, with Gateshead having a magnificent 62.9% reduction.

There are signs, however, that the downward trend in crime may be coming to an end at least in parts of Tyne & Wear. Despite very large reductions between 2003 and 2014, the last year has shown a rise for Gateshead, South Tyneside and Sunderland. If so, some effort will be needed in this area. The high rate of weapons related crime is also an obvious concern.

Newcastle has the greatest problem with crime in Tyne & Wear. Its status as the regional capital may be partly responsible, with drugs and sexual crime in part the flip side of its thriving night life. There is perhaps a case for philanthropic action to support voluntary organisations providing street-based services in the city on evenings and weekends and those that work with offenders, drug users and the victims of sexual crimes in liaison with statutory services.

Re-offending

Re-offending rate (%)		
Area	2013 rate	Change from 2012
National	9.2	-4.5
Tyne & Wear	14	-5.4
Newcastle	16.4	-1.3
Gateshead	12.8	-5.6
South Tyneside	12.6	-10.7
North Tyneside	13.9	+1.6
Sunderland	13.7	-10.9

Source: Ministry of Justice

There has been a fall in re-offending rates nationally, but in Tyne & Wear the fall has been higher. There are local variations however: Gateshead, Sunderland, South Tyneside and Newcastle (albeit marginally) fell but North Tyneside actually increased. It is worth repeating what we said in 2013 about this issue:

A large number of offenders experience a combination of factors which contribute to their offending. To be effective in reducing re-offending there must be a holistic approach to interventions including: Accommodation; Skills and employment; Health inequalities; Drugs and alcohol; Children and families; Finance, benefits and debt and Attitudes. A good example of civil society action is working with offenders while they are in prison to ensure that on release they do not become homeless, are supported towards employment and do not fall back into a culture of criminality.

Anti-social behaviour

The proportion of adults over 16 experiencing anti-social behaviour in the Northumbria police area is high. 30% of respondents in the most recent Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) (December 2013) had witnessed some form of anti-social behaviour: one of the highest figures in England and Wales. 13% had witnessed drink-related behaviour and 11% had experience of groups hanging around on the streets.

Confidence in the police and criminal justice system

The CSEW suggests a high degree of confidence in the Northumbria police area. Data released in May 2014 showed that in the Northumbria police area, which includes Tyne & Wear, there is a high degree of confidence in the police with 67% agreeing that the police do an excellent/good job (compared to 62% for England) and 65% agreeing that they deal with local concerns (compared to 61% for England). More recent data released in 2015 showed that confidence in the criminal justice system as a whole in the Northumbria police area was about average for the UK – with 50% of respondents very or fairly confident it was effective and 65% that it was fair.

It should be noted that confidence in the police and the criminal justice system varies markedly, depending on factors such as age (being lower amongst those in the mid-20s to 30s), levels of deprivation in the community (being lower in the most deprived areas) and whether the respondent has personal experience of crime and anti-social behaviour (being lower amongst those with personal experience).

Vulnerable people

In 2013 we said: *Domestic violence, hate crime and bullying disproportionately affect particular groups of people; students; older people; people with disabilities; BME groups; sex workers; young people and the LGBT community. Of particular concern is repeat victimisation, the tendency for victims to continue to be targeted. This priority is also often related to anti-social behaviour, and the misuse of drugs and alcohol.*

In the absence of local figures, there is some national data on issues like hate crime that are likely to be reflected locally. Hate crimes recorded by police show that they went down slightly between 2012 and 2013, but within that crimes linked to disability and transgender rose significantly.

Hate Crime			
Type	2011/12	2012/13	%
Race	36016	35885	-0.04
Sexual orientation	4362	4267	-2.2
Disability	1757	1841	+4.78
Religion	1622	1573	-3.02
Transgender	309	361	+16.83
Total	44066	43236	-1.88

Source: Home Office

Learning

Grade D

Overview

There are signs of progress, both in terms of attitudes to learning and levels of attainment. However, problems remain and at all levels it is possible that people are not achieving their full potential. This is a key issue for a region that will need a skilled and knowledgeable workforce to compete both nationally and internationally.

Literacy and numeracy

Consultation with some agencies that deal with literacy and numeracy reveals that very little data has been collected in recent years. The only recent data is from the National Literacy Trust and deals specifically with literacy in children and young people's reading. The data only goes to regional level but provides some encouraging evidence.

Children and young people reading frequency							
	Every day	Few times a week	About once a week	Few times a month	About once a month	Rarely	Never
National	41.3	28.6	9.7	5.4	2.1	9.6	4.1
North East	46.7	29.3	8.9	3.0	1.1	7.4	2.8
Percentile (rank /12 regions)	16.7(2)	16.7(2)	75(9)	100(12)	100(12)	91.7(11)	91.7(11)

Whilst we don't have the figures for adult literacy, children and young people are arguably more significant because they will be the next generation of adults, and it is something to celebrate to see figures for the North East are good. The survey included over 32,000 children across the country and over 2,000 in the North East, so the results are fairly reliable.

Given that in our last report we noted that literacy and numeracy rates were in the bottom 10% in Tyne & Wear, these figures are encouraging and suggest the issue is being given attention. Also attainment of maths and English GCSEs being around the national average is good news. There needs to be a note of caution, because these figures are regional and exclude adults, and we have seen significant variations across the districts of Tyne & Wear for other statistics. It would be prudent therefore to keep the pressure on this issue, particularly in our more disadvantaged areas. Organisations that focus on basic skills should have the means to keep up the good work.

Educational attainment

The table below shows levels of educational attainment in Tyne & Wear.

A level and GCSE	National	T&W	Newcastle	Gateshead	S. Tyneside	N.Tyneside	Sunderland
A/AS average UCAS points	706.4	679.4	645.8	679.9	665.9	690.5	706.5
GCSE A-C female	86.5	92.4	91.7	92.7	95.6	92.9	90.6
GCSE A-C male	79.6	88.5	88.7	87.3	90.3	87.7	88.5
GCSE A-C English/Maths	54.6	55.1	57.3	57.1	54.2	57.3	50.9
GCSE A-G	92.4	92.74	91.6	92.9	93.3	94.3	92.1

Source: Department for Education. NOTE: Black is below average, Grey is above average

Although a direct comparison may not be wholly reliable, it seems that Tyne & Wear's performance at attaining GCSEs has improved markedly since 2013. For 5 A-C results (both male and female) all sub-regional and district figures are well above national average. The sub-region is the second best in the country, and the districts are in the top 10% with the only exception being Sunderland for the female figures, but still in the top 20%.

Figures for A-C passes that include English and maths, have also improved, but unlike the generality of A-C passes they are around the national average rather than well above it. This suggests that there are a higher proportion of 5 A-C without English and Maths. The figures remain encouraging though.

Unfortunately A and AS level performance is below the national average with the sub-region, Newcastle and South Tyneside all being in the bottom 20%.

NVQ	National	T&W	Newcastle	Gateshead	S. Tyneside	N.Tyneside	Sunderland
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
NVQ 1	11.7	12.7	10.8	11.7	11.7	12.8	16.1
NVQ 2	20.4	23.3	17.7	24.4	25.8	25.7	25.4
NVQ 3	19.6	22.5	21.9	23.6	24	20.7	21.4
NVQ 4	40.4	33.3	41.5	30.9	30.7	35.0	26.1
NVQ 4 change 04/14	+36.2	+30.4	+26.6	+20.7	+52.7	+21.3	+38
NVQ 4+	36	28.8	35	26.1	26.3	31.7	23.2

Source: Department for Education. NOTE: the broadly comparable qualifications for NVQ 1-4+ are: GCSE D-G (NVQ 1); GCSE A*- C (NVQ 2); AS/A level (NVQ 3) BA (NVQ 4) and MA (NVQ 5).

The disparity between lower and higher levels relative to the national picture is very noticeable, with much more of levels 2 and 3, but much less of 4 and above.

Student retention in education is the key to upping attainment levels, and civil society organisations can have an impact on this by raising aspirations not just of young people, but parents too.

Unauthorised school absence

Frequent absence from school can clearly have an impact on attainment, but can also serve as an indicator of both the experience of young people in education and the priority afforded to education within families. The table below shows the % of school sessions lost to absence for Tyne & Wear:

Absence				
	2011		2014	
	Unauthorised	All	Unauthorised	All
National Average	0.9	4.7	0.9	4.4
Tyne & Wear	0.9	5.0	1.1	4.5
Newcastle	1.3	5.4	1.3	4.4
Gateshead	0.8	4.9	1.1	4.3
South Tyneside	0.4	4.9	0.7	4.4
North Tyneside	0.8	4.6	0.8	4.1
Sunderland	0.9	5.4	1.2	4.9

Source: Department for Education

Between 2011 and 2014 overall absence has gone down significantly across all geographies, and Tyne & Wear's reduction is a bit better than nationally. Disappointingly though, within that overall reduction, unauthorised absence has risen across the sub-region. Some of that increase might result from a more strict approach to authorised absence, but even so that effect is still more pronounced in Tyne & Wear.

The reasons for unauthorised absence are varied. This is from the Department for Education and Skills report "Absence from School: A Study of Causes and Effects in seven LEAs' (2003):

Those who had skipped school gave a variety of reasons for doing so: some said little more than that they just did not like school; many complained of general boredom at school, and just not seeing the point of it. These formed the largest group. Some identified more attractive options like playing out or doing what they wanted.

More specific reasons were:

<i>Being bullied:</i>	<i>They might get bullied or always getting hurt</i>
<i>Dislike of teachers:</i>	<i>They might always get shouted at school</i>
<i>Wanting to avoid tests:</i>	<i>They have tests and they hardly know anything</i>
<i>Bravado:</i>	<i>They try to act hard</i>
<i>Trouble at home:</i>	<i>They are getting picked on or have problems at home</i>
<i>Laziness:</i>	<i>They don't want to get out of bed.</i>

Some of these things need to be tackled by the school, but there are some that can be addressed by civil society organisations that work with families.

Access to Higher Education

The table below shows the % of A level students entering Higher Education across Tyne & Wear. The figures come with a health warning, in that it is possible that a high % of students going on to HE *may* simply reflect the fact that only the most academically able students reach the A level stage in an area. The more interesting figures relate to the gap between Tyne & Wear and the rest of the UK in terms of access to the top 1/3 of HE institutions. The final column shows that proportionately less Tyne & Wear young people appear to be accessing the best universities, especially the least advantaged.

% of Tyne & Wear A level students and their peers on free school meals (FSM) that entered Higher Education in 2013				
	% students in HE (those on FSM)	Variance	% students in top 1/3 HE institutions (those on FSM)	Variance
UK	56 (54)	-	23 (13)	-
Newcastle	53 (34)	-3 (-20)	17 (4)	-6 (-9)
Gateshead	53 (41)	-3 (-13)	17 (x)	-6 (-13)
Sunderland	68 (x)	+12 (-54)	20 (0)	-3 (-13)
North Tyneside	56 (55)	0 (+1)	16 (x)	-7 (-13)
South Tyneside	69 (56)	+13 (+2)	15 (x)	-8 (-13)

Source: Department for Education NOTE: x denotes a very low %

Young people not in employment, education or training (NEET)

The table below shows that there has been an overall reduction in the % of 16-18 year olds that were known to be NEET in Tyne & Wear between 2013 and 2014:

	2013	2014	Variance
Newcastle	9.8	6.7	-3.1
North Tyneside	6.2	6.8	.6
Gateshead	7.2	7.6	.4
South Tyneside	8.3	6	-2.3
Sunderland	8	7.3	-.7
Tyne & Wear	7.9	6.9	-1
National	7.6	7.3	-.3

Source: Department for Education

This is indicative of overall progress within Tyne & Wear, but it should be noted that the recent data on 16-25 year old NEET rates across the North East is somewhat less encouraging and shows a rise since 2014.

No qualifications

In our last report we highlighted the high total number of people in Tyne & Wear without qualifications. This presented something of a broad picture, and some readers have noted that high rates amongst older residents in particular tend to skew the figures. So the following table of recent data on the % of residents with no qualifications presents a more detailed analysis:

	National	T&W	Newcastle	Gateshead	S.Tyneside	N.Tyneside	Sunderland
All	12.4	10.7	12.	11.45	9.6	6.1	10.9
Economically active	5.5	5.9	7.6	6	4.9	3.7	6.1
50+	13.6	17.5	20.8	21.1	16.1	9.4	18.3

Source: ONS

Looking at the figure for all residents Tyne & Wear might at first appear to be doing well. Unfortunately it's not as straightforward as that, as the national average is heavily skewed by some really high figures concentrated elsewhere in the UK. Crucially rates are relatively high in Tyne & Wear for the economically active, suggesting a large number of people are in relatively unskilled employment. We reported a significant problem with over 50s in the last report, and the continuation of this is unsurprising given that this group would have missed out on achieving qualifications back around the 1980s, and this will remain true for most of them. It suggests a need to concentrate on reskilling for this group.

Skills for employment

A major problem facing Tyne & Wear is a shortage of skilled workers. Obviously this can be overcome by attracting those with qualifications and experience into the region. Whilst this isn't necessarily a bad thing, it does mean that local people could miss out on the benefits of economic growth.

Raising levels of educational attainment, and getting more young Tyne & Wear students into our best universities, is a key aspect of addressing this problem. A further challenge will be to encourage more young people to see the attractions of those areas of employment where skills shortages are likely to occur – notably construction, engineering, manufacturing and the creative industries - and develop the progression routes that will lead into them.

Apprenticeships are of key importance, as the Confederation of British Industry North East Regional Director has stated:

"Encouraging more firms to benefit from apprenticeships will be critical to tackling this skills crunch, in part because of the combination of training they deliver: technical skills and knowledge to do a job, coupled with transferable skills and behaviours that can apply to many other posts, in many other industries. By allowing people to take their first steps on the career ladder and others to move up it, more apprenticeships can help move us towards growth that benefits everyone." ((Source: The Journal, 21 September 2015)

For philanthropists there is a potential role in supporting the efforts of the educational and business community to address skills shortages, and this could include ensuring that effort is put into more deprived areas where individual potential can risk being squandered.

Arts, Culture and Heritage

Grade B

Overview

Some readers may take exception at the relatively high grade we have allocated to this theme, citing the difficult situation that the arts, culture and heritage sector finds itself in as a result of the current relatively harsh funding and economic climate. However, we can only centre our analysis on what we know for certain about the situation rather than speculation. We acknowledge that we may well have cause to substantially review the B grade in 2017.

Size of the sector

An indication of the size of the creative sector – at least in historic terms - is given by 2013 figures for the % of Tyne & Wear's workforce employed in creative industries:

	%	National rank out of 380 districts (percentile)
Gateshead	3.07	75 (19.7)
Newcastle	2.64	104 (27.4)
South Tyneside	1.52	226 (59.5)
North Tyneside	1.34	255 (67.1)
Sunderland	0.92	335 (88.2)
Tyne & Wear	2.04	-
National	3.02	-

Source: ONS

This makes it larger than the engineering sector in all districts with the exception of Sunderland.

Economic impact

Some indication of the economic fortunes of the arts, culture and heritage sector in recent years is given by the independent economic impact reports produced by Newcastle Gateshead Cultural Venues, which comprises 10 key organisations³ running 20 venues devoted to visual arts, performing arts, music, film, writing and literature, dance, heritage and archives and science communication. The table below summarises some of the key indicators from these:

	2012	2014
Total economic contribution to NE economy	£77.6m	£85.8m
People directly employed	1233	1251
Attendances	3.6m	3.3m
Combined turnover	£53.6m	£55.8m
Value of local procurement	£19.8m	£34.9m
Project funding secured	£5.9m	£3.2m

Source: Newcastle Gateshead Cultural Venues

³ Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art and Baltic 39 (visual arts); Centre for Life (science centre); Dance City (national dance agency for North East); Live Theatre (new writing theatre); Northern Stage (producing theatre); Seven Stories (national centre for children's literature); Sage Gateshead and Gateshead Old Town Hall (music performance and learning); Theatre Royal (receiving and touring theatre); Tyneside Cinema (independent cinema); Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums (9 museums, galleries and heritage sites, plus the area archives)

Amenities

The GT Place Analytics cultural amenities score dates from 2012 and measures the spatial concentration of sports arenas; cinemas; zoos; theme parks; major event venues; Visit England attractions; Michelin starred restaurants; performing arts venues and cathedrals. It shows that Tyne & Wear scores highly, with all areas being well above the national average:

Cultural Amenities Score							
	National	T&W	Newcastle	Gateshead	S.Tyneside	N.Tyneside	Sunderland
Score	100	416.9	838.3	242.6	471.0	315.1	282.9
Percentile		12.2	12.4	32.2	21.3	26.7	28.2

It is notable that Theatre Density in Tyne & Wear is 4th best in the country, placing it at the 7.6 percentile. The sub-region also appears to be well endowed with heritage sites and listed buildings, the latter concentrated in Newcastle.

Public engagement

Levels of participation in the arts within Tyne & Wear have traditionally been low, with the North East having the lowest rate of all the English regions. The Department for Culture Media and Sport's "Taking Part" survey provides some useful data on regional trends in the % of respondents participating in arts, culture and heritage activity since 2013 and some key figures are included in the table below:

Area of participation	2013 NE (National)	2014 NE (National)	2015 NE (National)
Has engaged with the arts 1+ time in past year	73 (78.4)	76.4 (77.5)	73.7 (76.8)
Has visited a heritage site 1+ time in past year	74.9 (72.7)	77.6 (72.5)	77.3 (72.6)
Has visited a museum or gallery 1+ time in past year	52.7 (52.8)	52.6 (53.1)	52.2 (52)
Has visited a library	38.2 (37)	34.1 (35.4)	34.6 (34.5)
Has digitally participated in culture in past year	33.9 (43.5)	29 (37.8)	29 (37.8)

In the absence of sustained progress in most areas, there is clearly a case for continuing efforts to widen participation. Aside from the benefits to individuals, this is key to improving the sustainability of our arts, culture and heritage sector in a tight funding environment.

There are several strategies currently being employed to address this:

- Promoting the arts generally to everyone, including studies to identify the barriers to involvement.
- Civil society using arts and culture as a tool in their work. This would not only be a vehicle to address specific issues and target groups, but an opportunity to encourage those furthest from engaging involved, including volunteering.
- Targeting opportunities at the most excluded groups so as to ensure they are not overlooked. This may involve smaller specialist participatory arts organisations working in partnership with local groups with the focus on their needs rather than a particular art form. But there are also good examples of larger institutions extending their reach, such as Sage Gateshead's In Harmony project.

Art and social change

Art is a powerful tool for transforming both individuals and communities. Personal development through arts activity can be about building confidence, aspirations and skills. For communities it can be about creating and expressing shared collective identities, and enabling a diversity of voices to be heard within a community. The arts can also challenge and change perceptions, an important part of building community cohesion.

Whilst the focus of giving should be mainly about supporting local groups to use art as a means of achieving their aims, there may be an argument for being more strategic and allowing a more long term and carefully considered approach at community level covering cohesion, community of place and capacity building. Participatory arts organisations able to do this have a long history of engagement with local groups.

Strong communities

Grade D

Overview

Strong communities are built on the positive engagement of local people in the decisions that affect them, and on a network of strong relationships both within and between communities of identity, interest and place. In both areas civil society organisations play a key role, helping to make up the “democratic deficit” where it exists and bringing people together within communities and mediating where there is conflict. We find some cause for concern for the future as restrictions on public expenditure continue to impact on the local community and voluntary sector.

Engagement with representative democracy

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development states that “voter participation is the best existing means of measuring civic and political engagement” and as such is an important indicator of social cohesion.

Voter participation in local elections 2010 - 2014			
	2010	2012	2014
All Metropolitans	60.7	31.0	33.6
Tyne & Wear	59.1	33.3	34.3
Newcastle	59.3	33.3	34.2
Gateshead	60.8	34.4	35.5
South Tyneside	57.0	34.4	34.4
North Tyneside	62.9	33.3	35.1
Sunderland	55.0	32.5	33.3

Source: Electoral Commission

The apparent large reduction in turnout from 2010 is misleading. The 2010 results arise from the combination of local and national polls, when local election turnouts are always higher. There is a small rise from 2012 to 2014 but this should be read against the background of turnouts in 2007 and 2008 for all metropolitan districts being 34.8 and 34.3 respectively. In reality there has been hardly any change. One encouraging factor is the better performance of Tyne & Wear compared with all metropolitan districts. In fact only Sunderland was lower.

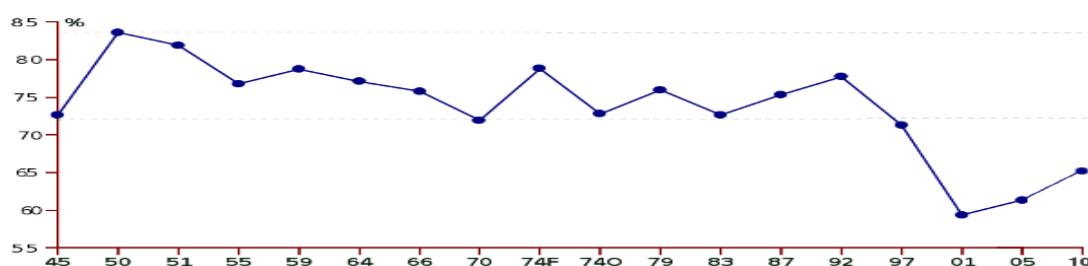
General election turnout is lower than the national figure in both elections but improved more between the two years. The national change is 0.45% compared to 7.31% for Tyne & Wear. Change at constituency level is evenly balanced (7 up and 7 down), but the increases are much bigger. Also noticeable is the difference between the more and less urban constituencies, with the more urban ones are consistently lower. The difference between the two elections should always be treated with caution because there are many other factors that affect turnout, especially the weather, which was pretty good for 2015.

General Elections 2010 and 2015			
	2010	2015	% Change
UK	65.8	66.1	+0.45
All Tyne & Wear constituencies	58.8	63.1	+7.3
Blaydon	67.7	66.4	-1.9
Gateshead	59.0	59.4	+0.7
Houghton & Sunderland South	56.6	56.3	-0.5
Jarrow	61.9	60.4	-2.4
Newcastle Centre	53.8	57.5	+6.9

Newcastle East	57.3	52.9	-7.7
Newcastle North	64.2	66.7	+3.9
South Shields	52.3	57.8	+10.5
Sunderland Centre	57.9	57.3	-1
Tynemouth	70.2	69.0	-1.7
Tyneside North	61.1	66.1	+8.2
Washington & Sunderland West	55.2	54.6	-1.1

Source: www.ukpolitical.info

The more serious problem is the longer-term fall in turnout. From 1945 to 1997 turnouts ranged from 72% to 84%, and was 78% as recently as 1992. Since then they have been 60%, 62%, 66% and again 66%. While disillusion with national politics may be a significant factor, it is worth considering whether strategies to improve community involvement in decision-making, and improve social capital and civic pride could have a beneficial effect on involvement in the democratic process at both local and national level.



Civil Society Organisations

The health of civil society organisations is a recognised cornerstone of participatory democracy, providing opportunities for local people to shape local quality of life and have a say in the decisions that affect their communities. As such it is a further strong indicator of the strength of local communities.

The Northern Rock Foundation “Third Sector Trends Survey” provides important contextual information on the state of the sector in Tyne & Wear. Its most recent report in August 2015 contained a detailed account in changes within the regional sector during 2008 – 2014. Key findings were:

- Third Sector organisations (TSOs) in the urban areas of Tees Valley (27%) and Tyne and Wear (24%) were the most likely to have significantly falling income compared with 16% in Northumberland and 18% in County Durham. This is mainly due to the higher proportion of larger TSOs in the urban areas.
- TSOs located in the poorest areas were more than four times as likely to have lost significant levels income in the last two years (30%) when compared with the richest areas (7%). Medium sized TSOs operating in poorer areas are much more likely to have had falling income (40% in the poorest areas compared with just 6% in the richest).
- Reliance on grants and earned income has increased, and contract income has decreased. The percentage of TSOs which are actively engaged in bidding for or doing public sector contracts remains relatively small (16%).
- Around 15% of TSOs are now drawing on their reserves to meet running costs, with about 5% heavily dependent on this source of income.

- There has been a 2% fall in the voluntary sector workforce in the North East since 2008. The sector now accounts for just over 3% of the regional workforce. The number of organisations employing staff has increased, but there has been a slight fall in staffing levels. Part-time employment now accounts for 43% of all full time equivalent posts, from 35% in 2008. There has been a 2% fall in the total cost of salaries within the sector.
- There has been a fall of 3000 in the number of volunteers in the sector from a 2012 peak of 151,000, but an increase in the ratio of volunteers to full-time equivalent staff.

The overall picture is thus of a contracting sector, which in general has not proved able to develop new income streams to replace those lost as a result of austerity cuts. The capacity of some organisations, both to manage themselves and deliver services, may be somewhat reduced due to a loss of both paid and voluntary staff. This may be more the case in deprived areas, than in more affluent ones. A substantial minority of organisations would appear to be financially at risk.

The findings from an April 2014 survey of 140 organisations in the North East, undertaken by Voluntary Organisations North East (VONNE) as part of its Surviving or Thriving initiative, tend to reinforce the sense of a sector facing tough times. Over half of respondents reported decreased funding, nearly a quarter lost staff and over half reported drawing on their reserves. Over the next year 44% expected to reduce provision, and around a fifth to close.

In June 2015 Newcastle Council for Voluntary Service (NCS) produced a survey of local community and voluntary sector organisations in Newcastle ("Taking the Temperature"). This again reinforced the message that a significant number of organisations may soon be entering financial difficulties: "*40% of those responding would be using reserves in this financial year (2015-16), with another 12% likely to use reserves i.e. more than half of all respondents.*" There is evidence too in the report that pressures induced by a tighter funding environment could potentially limit civil society organisations role as the focus of social cohesion, and undermine their crucial contribution to strengthening local communities:

"... a number of organisations noted having to compete with organisations they would have preferred to work with co-operatively, and the pressure of large organisations taking on more of the work of smaller ones. Some organisations felt forced into arrangements, rather than partnerships based on values... several respondents took the opportunity to promote the unique value of the voluntary sector, not as a 'cheap' provider of competitive services, nor as a supplier of unpaid volunteers, but as a genuine force for good... the public sector needs to take appropriate action if it wants to retain the rich and diverse mosaic that currently operates in Newcastle, which provides huge amounts of added value."

Support for the sector

Civil society organisations need advice, guidance and support services. Grant makers too benefit from having a single point of contact with local groups. The Third Sector infrastructure organisations that provided these services have seen real reductions in funding. It is beyond the scope of local philanthropy to make this good, but it can contribute both to the sustainability of existing services and the development of new approaches.

Environment

Grade C

Overview

Within the national Vital Signs framework the GT Place Analytics Natural Environment is used to provide a baseline assessment of the local environment. It is a composite score based on weighted factors including housing density; road density; air quality; tranquillity; natural beauty; green space; and water quality. The scores for Tyne & Wear are shown below:

Natural Environment Score		
	Score	Rank Percentile (low /100 is good)
UK	100	
North East	123.6	22.2
Tyne & Wear	45.7	83.0
Newcastle	32.5	84.6
Gateshead	56.4	65.4
South Tyneside	41	78.7
North Tyneside	61.6	59.6
Sunderland	45.1	75.3

The score tends to favour more rural communities and reflects a somewhat subjective assessment of environmental quality. Thus the North East has a good figure because Northumberland and Durham are largely rural. This factor also explains the relative scores of the districts with North Tyneside and Gateshead having more countryside and Newcastle with the least. Worst of all some of Tyne & Wear's finest natural assets, our rivers and coastline, aren't taken into account. In developing our local Vital Signs score for the environment theme, a wider range of factors are therefore afforded considerable weight.

Just as our national Vital Signs indicator tends to undervalue the Tyne & Wear environment, the same criticism could also be levelled against those taking part in our poll. It is curious that the environment tends not to be identified as a high priority amongst those taking part, and yet in a short survey conducted at our 2014 AGM it was prioritised as one of the top factors underpinning local quality of life. Do we need to value it more highly?

Sustainable living

The level of consumption in the UK is such that if we wanted everyone else in the world to enjoy it we would need 3 earths to supply and meet their needs.

An Ecological Footprint is a measure of the area of productive land and sea (global hectares) required to support a person's level of consumption. It includes the land needed to grow food and absorb waste and carbon emissions. The footprint counts all the impacts of personal spending as well as the business and government expenditure on someone's behalf. Ecological footprint is expressed in global hectares (gha), one of which equals the average productivity of all biologically productive areas per hectare on earth in a given year. The table below shows how many gha per capita we require in Tyne & Wear and nationally:

Ecological Footprint	National	Newcastle	Gateshead	S.Tyneside	N.Tyneside	Sunderland
gha per head	5.3	5	4.8	4.7	4.9	4.7
Percentile (low/100 is good)		5.8	6.1	1.3	1	1.8

Source: DEFRA

Although even Tyne & Wear's level of consumption is unsustainable, it is good news that all districts are in the top 7%.

We now have a great opportunity to ensure that improvements in economic prosperity are achieved without making our footprint significantly rise. This isn't just about how much we consume, but also about what and how. In the widest sense it is about encouraging people to make greener choices that cover travel, energy, water (and water quality) and ethically sourced products. While waste management is covered elsewhere, minimising waste is an integral part of a green approach to buying and consuming. Projects that tackle these issues at community level should continue to be supported, and innovative approaches encouraged.

Local Food

The points we made in the 2013 report remain relevant. The case for more locally grown food is supported by these factors:

Tyne & Wear is the worst in the country for fruit and vegetable consumption and the 4th worst for life expectancy.

Proportion of green space is in the bottom 20% despite sizeable rural areas (E.G. in Gateshead and Sunderland).

An important factor when assessing the environmental impact on food, including the impact on global warming, is food miles. Transporting food contributes 12% to the emissions associated with food.

What we said last time about intervention remains important:

The growing of local food via allotments, community gardens and city farms has great potential for multi-issue projects that not only tackle sustainability, but also healthy eating, local ownership and civic pride, general health and wellbeing, volunteering and employability.

Waste Management

In the last report we said that recycling in Tyne & Wear was in the bottom 20% compared to the rest of the country. The table below shows how it still is. This ties in well with two other sets of figures, which show residual household waste and landfill disposal are both much higher than the national average. Residual waste is waste not recycled, re-used or composted, and is the only statistic tied specifically to the district, whereas landfill and recycling may be distorted by a wider use of locations.

Waste disposal	National	T&W	Newcastle	Gateshead	S.Tyneside	N.Tyneside	Sunderland
Residual (kg)	503	595	542	558	608	603	666
Recycled %	41.6	35.6	36.8	36.8	34.9	35.6	34.1
Landfill %	30.3	48.0	39.1	54.3	61.8	19.3	65.5

Source: Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

Community action on this issue could centre around persuading people to recycle more, and of course local authorities play a key role in designing recycling for ease of use.

Fly Tipping

DEFRA publishes local authority figures annually and we can look at the period from 2010/11 to 2013/14

Fly Tipping Incidents (number)				
	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Newcastle	22389	19278	11160	3745
Gateshead	6504	2954	5035	1617
South Tyneside	6545	6157	5738	6934
North Tyneside	904	884	1137	137
Sunderland	6774	15772	15730	2476
Tyne & Wear	43116	45045	38800	14909
T &W/1000	39.2	40.95	35.3	13.55
England/1000	15.5	14.04	13.42	16.08

Source: DEFRA

We said in the last report that fly tipping was one of the worst in the country, and this remained so until 2013/14 when it dramatically reduced to below the national average per head of population. While South Tyneside hardly changed, Newcastle, Gateshead and Sunderland fell by 75%. This is not only a cause for celebration in itself, but bucks the national upwards trend after 2012/13.

Vulnerability to climate change

Joseph Rowntree Foundation research has highlighted how disadvantaged communities that lack resilience are more vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Research undertaken in 2009 found that such vulnerability arose from:

- living in places at risk;
- experiencing deprivation;
- lacking awareness of risks and capacity to adapt;
- being less well supported by family, friends and agencies.

The research suggests that in Tyne & Wear this may be particularly relevant to coastal and riverside communities, although these are not the only places where such factors are found in high concentrations. Overall there is considerable scope to connect work on deprivation, building community resilience and adapting to climate change within Tyne & Wear.

Biodiversity

Key goals identified in Natural England's Tyne & Wear Lowlands plan (2013) include preserving habitats; improving water quality and reducing flood risk on the rivers and coast; developing woodlands and green space and developing an understanding of the areas unique historic landscape and heritage. Understanding and conserving biodiversity and natural habitats, both land and marine, are key priorities for the protection of the Tyne & Wear environment to which philanthropy can continue to make a significant contribution.

Transport

This is about reducing the impact of transport and congestion by promoting and facilitating more environmentally sustainable travel, such as cycling and walking. This includes campaigning for good infrastructure. Things like bike maintenance also link to other themes like health, employment and recycling.

Local Amenities

At community level access to and satisfaction with local amenities, like shops, surgeries etc., are not that different from the national picture. However, how local open space is utilised was found to be poor in our last report. Whilst measures like the proportion of green space have not been updated, nothing that's happened in the last two or three years suggests more areas have been given over to green space. Therefore the content of the last report is still relevant:

Environmental sustainability is also about the utilisation of local amenities. Tyne & Wear is in the bottom 20% for the percentage of green space with some areas, like Elswick, in the bottom 5% national, and changes to planning laws and other pressures will make it easier to build on green space. The maintenance of green space is critical to improving our carbon footprint, supporting climate change adaptation, and improving mental and social wellbeing.

In making better use of our less plentiful open spaces, civil society can play a big part in encouraging things like community gardens, city farms and allotments, especially as a part of healthier eating and social capital. Local authorities need to play a part through facilitating such opportunities via their planning decisions. Some of what we said last time is still relevant:

This is about the community creating, developing, protecting, conserving and better utilising their green spaces. The cultivation of a sense of ownership and community responsibility ties well into opportunities for communities working in partnership with local authorities and other public agencies.

Healthy Living

Grade E

Overview

The National Life Tables published by ONS in 2014 reveal that in the 10 years from 2003 to 2013:

- National and Tyne & Wear life expectancy from birth rose by 2.8 years. National was 78.35 to 81.15. Tyne & Wear was 76.85 to 79.65. A difference of 1.5 years.
- Newcastle was the only district that rose faster than the national average at 3.1 years. All the rest were slightly lower, South Tyneside the worst at 2.3 years. North Tyneside improvement was 2.7 but started from a higher position in 2003, and is still the best in the sub-region at 80.25.
- Tyne & Wear figures by gender show that male life expectancy rose faster than the national average while female figures rose more slowly. Thus the sub-regional gap between male and female narrowed from 5.1 to 3.7 years. This is now in line with the national difference, having been higher in 2003.
- Life expectancy from 65 shows a similar pattern rising by 2.1 years in both Tyne & Wear and nationally (19.8 and 18.7 respectively, or 84.8 and 83.7 if we add the 65).
- The gap between male and female has also closed from 3 to 2.4 years. The national gap fell too but more modestly from 2.9 to 2.5 years.

Despite some modest improvement relative to the national average, Tyne & Wear is still in the worst 10% along with Gateshead, Sunderland and South Tyneside at District level.

In this context it is perhaps surprising that the Healthy Living theme was a low priority amongst those responding to our poll. In our view improving health is a major challenge facing Tyne & Wear, and one of the most conspicuous areas of inequality. If anything we feel there is an even more pressing case for action in 2015. Since 2013 public sector provision of health and social care services have been subject to both an on-going process of reform and reductions in public expenditure. In addition to the disruption that this may have caused, reductions in other areas of public spending seem to be having a knock on effect of health, particularly those experiencing health inequalities.

Action is needed more than ever to encourage people in Tyne & Wear to take more care of their health, and much of what needs to be done is at community level. Encouraging positive behaviours like healthy eating and exercise, reducing harmful ones like smoking and excessive drinking, and conveying positive messages around issues like sexual health are all areas where civil society has a proven track record. It is our view that much remains to be done.

Obesity

The table below shows obesity rates for children in year 6 (10 year olds) in 2013 against the national average of 18.9%. Childhood obesity remains prevalent in all districts except North Tyneside. It might be worth investigating the circumstances behind this disparity.

	T&W	Newcastle	Gateshead	S.Tyneside	N.Tyneside	Sunderland
% of children	21.5	22.8	21.9	22.7	18.6	21.3
Percentile – low is bad	19.1	9.3	12.3	9.9	42.9	16.0

Source: Health and Social Care Information Centre

Data on adult obesity rates is not available for sub-regions and districts, but Public Health England has data for regions for 2012 and it is useful to look at figures for four categories of weight:

Weight Categories – Regional Percentages				
	Underweight	Good weight	Overweight	Obese
England	1.2	35.0	40.8	23.0
North East	0.8	31.3	42.1	25.9
Percentile (low bad)	88.9	11.1	11.1	11.1

Although it is good that the North East has a lower percentage of underweight people, this is only because it is the worst of nine regions for all the other categories. The existence of a significant problem with obesity is revealed in 2014 data for finished admission episodes⁴ in an in-patient setting with a primary or secondary diagnosis of obesity per 100,000 population:

Area	All	Male	Female
England	679	465	886
Gateshead	682	449	906
Newcastle	834	545	1125
South Tyneside	429	316	534
North Tyneside	1445	946	1912
Sunderland	635	351	905

Source: Health and Social Care Information Centre

Heart disease and stroke, cancer and diabetes

Circulatory disease and cancer are together responsible for over ½ the deaths in the UK, whilst type 2 diabetes is recognised as a growing health problem responsible for 24,000 excess deaths each year in England.

The incidence of all three diseases is higher in Tyne & Wear than in England as a whole, and within the area will vary with levels of deprivation. The table below shows mortality rates per 100,000 population for cancer and circulatory disease and the prevalence of diabetes within the population

Area	Mortality rate: cancer (2011-13)	Mortality rate: circulatory disease (2011-13)
Gateshead	172.8	97.4
Newcastle	173.6	96.9
North Tyneside	172.8	83.7
South Tyneside	192	97.3
Sunderland	171.5	94.9
Tyne & Wear	175.3	94.1
England	144.4	78.2

Source: NHS Information Centre

⁴ A finished admission episode (FAE) is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider.

% of patients with diabetes	
National	6.2
Newcastle	5.6
Gateshead	6.5
South Tyneside	6.9
North Tyneside	6.6
Sunderland	6.5

Source: Public Health England

Diabetes rates in Tyne & Wear are higher than average. However the problem areas are masked by an apparently low prevalence in Newcastle, which at 5.62% is just about in the lowest quarter. It is not clear why the figure here is low.

Wellbeing

The Measuring National Wellbeing survey was released in September 2014. It measures satisfaction with using the following questions:

- “Overall, how satisfied are you with your life nowadays?”
- “Overall, to what extent do you feel the things you do in your life are worthwhile?”
- “Overall, how happy did you feel yesterday?”
- “Overall, how anxious did you feel yesterday?”

These factors are measured down to local authority level. In addition there are figures showing how these have changed year to year at regional level and they are also broken down demographically at national level.

Wellbeing measures - Percentiles				
	Satisfaction	Worthwhile	Happy	Anxious
High/100 is good				Low/100 is good
Tyne & Wear	20	20	19	66
Newcastle	18	19	17	71
Gateshead	9	11	15	91
South Tyneside	6	8	5	72
North Tyneside	32	42	29	66
Sunderland	28	19	24	43

Overwhelmingly these figures show that wellbeing is lower than the national average. In fact the only measure above the national average is less anxiety in Sunderland. North Tyneside and Sunderland do best, South Tyneside and Gateshead worst.

Change in wellbeing from 2012/13 to 2013/14 (%)		
	UK	North East
Satisfaction with life	+0.8	+1.22
Worthwhile life	+0.65	+1.05
Happy yesterday	+1.23	+1.67
Anxious yesterday	-3.41	-2.34

Although the levels are generally below average, the good news is that they are increasing faster than average, except for anxiety, although even that is still improving at a reasonable rate.

The table below shows national wellbeing results by demographic characteristics. The white on grey cells show where results are in the best third. The white on black cells show the worst third. The 166,000 respondents were asked to reply on a scale from 0 to 10. Below the table we look at how wellbeing varies between different segments of the population.

Wellbeing by demographics		Satisfied	Worthwhile	Happy	Anxious
National average (0-11)		7.5	7.7	7.4	2.9
Sex	Men	7.5	7.6	7.4	2.8
	Women	7.5	7.9	7.4	3.1
Age group	16-19	7.9	7.7	7.7	2.6
	20-24	7.6	7.6	7.3	2.8
	25-29	7.6	7.8	7.4	2.8
	30-34	7.6	7.8	7.4	2.9
	35-39	7.4	7.8	7.3	3.1
	40-44	7.3	7.7	7.2	3.2
	45-49	7.2	7.6	7.1	3.2
	50-54	7.2	7.6	7.1	3.3
	55-59	7.3	7.7	7.2	3.2
	60-64	7.6	7.9	7.6	2.9
	65-69	7.8	8	7.8	2.3
	70-74	7.8	8	7.8	2.7
	75-79	7.8	8	7.7	2.7
	80 & over	7.6	7.6	7.5	2.6
Ethnicity	White	7.5	7.8	7.4	2.9
	Gypsy, traveller	7	8	7.1	4
	Mixed	7.3	7.6	7.2	3
	Indian	7.5	7.8	7.6	3
	Pakistani	7.4	7.7	7.3	3.2
	Bangladeshi	7.4	7.7	7.7	2.9
	Chinese	7.5	7.5	7.5	2.8
	Other Asian	7.5	7.7	7.5	3.2
	Black	7	7.6	7.2	3.2
	Arab	7.2	7.5	6.9	3.6
	Other	7.4	7.6	7.3	3.1
S/reported health	Very good	8	8.1	7.9	2.4
	Good	7.6	7.8	7.4	2.9
	Fair	7	7.3	6.9	3.6
	Bad	5.8	6.4	5.8	4.5
	Very bad	4.7	5.4	4.7	5.4
Disability	Disabled	6.8	7.2	6.7	3.7
	Not disabled	7.7	7.9	7.6	2.7
Marital status	Married etc	7.8	8	7.7	2.8
	Cohabiting	7.6	7.8	7.4	2.9
	Same sex	7.6	7.8	7.4	2.9
	Single	7.2	7.4	7.1	3
	Widow	7.3	7.5	7.2	2.9
	Divorced/Sep	6.8	7.4	6.9	3.4
Economic activity	Employed	7.6	7.9	7.4	2.9
	Unemployed	6.7	7	6.9	3.3
	Econ Inactive	7.4	7.7	7.4	3
Reason Inactive	Student	7.7	7.7	7.5	3

	Looking after fam/home	7.5	8	7.5	2.9
	Temp sick	5.9	6.6	6	4.7
	Long term sick	5.5	6	5.7	4.7
	Discouraged	7	7.4	7	3.2
	Retired	7.8	7.9	7.7	2.3
	Other	7.5	7.7	7.5	2.9
Part or full-time	Full-time	7.6	7.8	7.4	2.8
	Part-time	7.7	8	7.5	2.9
Reason part-time	Student	7.8	7.9	7.5	2.9
	III/disabled	6.8	7.5	6.8	3.9
	Can't find full-time job	7.1	7.5	7.2	3.1
	Don't want full-time job	7.8	8.1	7.6	2.8

Sex: Most notable here is that for satisfaction, worthwhile and happy, women are more content than men, but when it comes to anxiety it is the other way around. This may be due to the different ways that men and women define and perceive the meaning of these words.

Age: There is a sharp contrast within the age ranges. Overwhelmingly the very young and the post 60 year olds have the best wellbeing, while the 45-54 year olds have the least. This probably reflects the difference in levels of responsibility in work and home environments.

Ethnicity: The white population is unsurprisingly neutral; white the black and Arab communities have the lowest contentment. There are some interesting apparent contradictions, which may be cultural. Gypsy and travellers for instance score low but still have a high rating for life being worthwhile. The Chinese by contrast see less worth but are happier and less anxious.

Self-reported health and disability: Only very good health delivers a good verdict on life and although being in bad or very bad health is unsurprising bad for wellbeing, the unexpected result is possibly the low scoring for those who describe their health as fair.

Marital status: Being married or in a civil partnership is overwhelmingly the best for wellbeing, and single or divorced the worst. The cohabiting and same sex results should be treating with caution because they are curiously combined in the statistics (I have disaggregated them here, but with the same score). The poor wellbeing of single people would suggest the same for the younger age ranges, but this doesn't appear to be the case. Perhaps the problem is a higher percentage of middle age people being single than in the past.

Economic activity: Being unemployed has an expected impact on wellbeing, and at first glance being economically inactive seems neutral. However the reasons reveal a split between study, home responsibility and being retired, (good), and sickness or discouragement (bad). There is not much difference between full or part-time working, both being fairly good. Again the reasons for part-time working reveal a split between being a student or not wanting a full-time job (good) and being ill or not being able to find a full-time job (bad).

These results suggest a reason why wellbeing is lower than the national average in Tyne & Wear and the North East. Levels of poor health, unemployment and the availability of

full-time jobs is worse, and all of these are factors that pull the results down. The possible focus of interventions include:

- Tackling the various health issues that are identified earlier in this theme.
- Providing more employability support, especially for disabled people and those with mild health issues.
- Find out what respondents mean by discouragement and address the results.
- Provide better care for the very ill, who as well as not being able to work can also suffer from isolation.

Mental health

The North East displays some of the highest rates of mental illness in England, and high death rates from suicide and injuries of undetermined intent in both males and females aged 15 and over. The rate for males (20.4 per 100,000) is significantly higher than the England average (16.4 per 100,000). The North East also has high rates of hospital admission for self-harm and for drug overdose. Public expenditure cuts seem to be reducing provision, and this has the potential to become a major concern.

Sexual health

The table below shows the most recent diagnosis rate for 4 sexually transmitted diseases. The figures are per 100,000 except for HIV which is per 1000:

	Syphilis	Gonorrhoea	Chlamydia	HIV
National	7.8	63.3	375	2.1
Newcastle	11.5	93.1	638	1.9
Gateshead	9.5	78.5	372	1.3
North Tyneside	4	38.1	375	.9
South Tyneside	2.7	52.5	552	.6
Sunderland	6.2	88	386	.7

Source: Public Health England

Although rates of HIV infection are as yet relatively low, the figures give little cause for complacency as to whether the safe sex message is getting through. On the other hand, there is something to celebrate in the continued progress towards reducing under-16 conception rates:

Under-16 conceptions rate per 1000			
	2009	2013	% Change
National	7.3	4.8	-34.2%
Tyne & Wear	11.4	7.8	-31.6%
Newcastle	8.1	6.6	-18.5%
Gateshead	9.0	8.7	-3.3%
South Tyneside	13.5	8.9	-34.1%
North Tyneside	12.6	6.0	-52.4%
Sunderland	13.9	8.8	-36.7%

Source: ONS

There has been a steady decline in teen pregnancies across the country, and this has also been true of Tyne & Wear. North Tyneside was the best and Gateshead the worst. Newcastle's fall was quite modest, but it was the lowest in the sub-region to start with and

still is. We should be pleased with this progress but some concentration of effort is needed particularly in Gateshead, but also generally because the overall rates are still high

Healthy eating

Fruit and vegetable consumption statistics have been updated regionally, but not locally. Regional figures show that for every year between 2001 and 2011 the North East was worst in the country for consumption of 5 pieces of fruit or vegetables a day.

Year	National	North East	North East as % of national
2001	23.2%	17.6%	75.9%
2011	21%	26%	80.8%

Source: Public Health England

There has been a small improvement over the ten years, however in 2006 it was 81.3% - better than 2011. At least for the region as a whole, and most likely for Tyne & Wear, the problem of low consumption remains.

As we said in 2013: *There is a very strong case for community activity here and the involvement of local groups. There is also a strong link to activities around local food and community gardens under the Environment theme, as well as activities promoting exercise and involvement in sport.*

Alcohol and tobacco

Alcohol deaths for both men and women are higher than average across Tyne & Wear against national averages of 13.6/100,000 and 6.04/100,000 respectively:

	T&W	Newcastle	Gateshead	S. Tyneside	N.Tyneside	Sunderland
Male per 100,000	22	24.2	22.9	17.1	20.1	22.9
Percentile – low is bad	4.3	4.0	6.1	20.6	10.7	5.8
Female per 100,000	9.9	8.6	7.4	10.9	14.5	9
Percentile – low is bad	6.4	15.6	22.7	5.2	1.5	13.2

Source: ONS

There is an interesting contrast between Gateshead and South Tyneside. In Gateshead male deaths are much higher than female deaths, and in South Tyneside it is the other way around. It is not clear why this is and could be worth further investigation. The high rate of female deaths in North Tyneside is also a concern.

As in 2013: *Licensing and policing have a key role to play, but civil society groups, working in partnership with the public sector, are also vital for success. Most important are the organisations that work with the most vulnerable to alcohol abuse (homeless, offenders, young people, families, drug users).*

Tyne & Wear's Vital Signs 2013 stated that the national average for smoking was 21.2%. The latest update saw it drop to 18.5%. Although the rates have also fallen for Tyne & Wear, particularly in Sunderland, it has not been enough to take the sub-region out of the worst 10%.

By encouraging healthier lifestyles, and an associated decrease in tobacco use, community and voluntary organisations could contribute much to reducing deaths from smoking related illnesses. This is particularly true in deprived areas. Research suggests that socio-economic deprivation is associated with an increased risk of developing lung

cancer. In 2008, 14.3% of males and 13.2% of females in affluent areas developed lung cancer compared to 25.2% of males and 26.3% of females in the most deprived areas (National Cancer Intelligence Centre, 2013).

Local economy

Grade C

Overview

The North East Independent Economic Review (2013) represented a concerted effort to bring together a range of stakeholders to assess the state of the North East economy, providing a basis on which the North East Local Economic Partnership (NELEP) has developed "More and Better Jobs. A Strategic Economic Plan for the North East" (March 2014).

The review identified major challenges in reconfiguring the North East economy. Key tasks identified in the plan were growing the private sector as an engine for job creation and increasing productivity in particular by addressing a skills deficit within the workforce. There are several questions that this strategy raises for those with an interest in community philanthropy and civil society organisations:

1. What can the Third Sector do to ensure that all communities in Tyne & Wear are able to contribute to, and benefit from, private sector growth and cope with the consequences of a shrinking public sector?
2. How can philanthropy contribute to help improve the skills base of the Tyne & Wear workforce, and so to raising productivity?
3. What is the wider role of the community and voluntary sector in underpinning the offer that Tyne & Wear is able to make to inward investors not just in relation to business but in relation to the quality of life on offer in the sub-region?

One of the anomalies in our Vital Signs poll is that work features as a top priority with 23% of votes, whilst Local Economy is far lower with 7%. It is possible this reflects assumptions about how far philanthropists, community and voluntary agencies and social enterprises can achieve significant impact. Both in this report and in Vital Signs we have sought to challenge these by highlighting work that is making a real difference in developing individual potential; encouraging aspiration; supporting improved educational and work skills attainment; supporting local economies; improving communities' quality of life and contributing to our vibrant local culture.

Private sector jobs growth and public sector decline

The table below shows the number of employees (in thousands) in the public and private sectors by district. Falls in employment are shaded grey and rises in black.

Area	2013 Public	2013 Private	2014 Public	2014 Private	Net gain /loss
Newcastle	50.4	127.4	49.3	131.3	+2.8
Gateshead	18.2	71.2	18.1	76.3	+5
N. Tyneside	12.8	57.2	13.9	62.1	+6
South Tyneside	12.4	33.2	11.8	33.6	-2
Sunderland	28.7	84.8	27.2	92	+5.7
T&W	122.5	373.9	120.4	395.3	+19.3

Source: ONS

Gross Value Added (GVA)

This measures the productivity of the average job in an area as a value in £s. The UK average is £54,000.

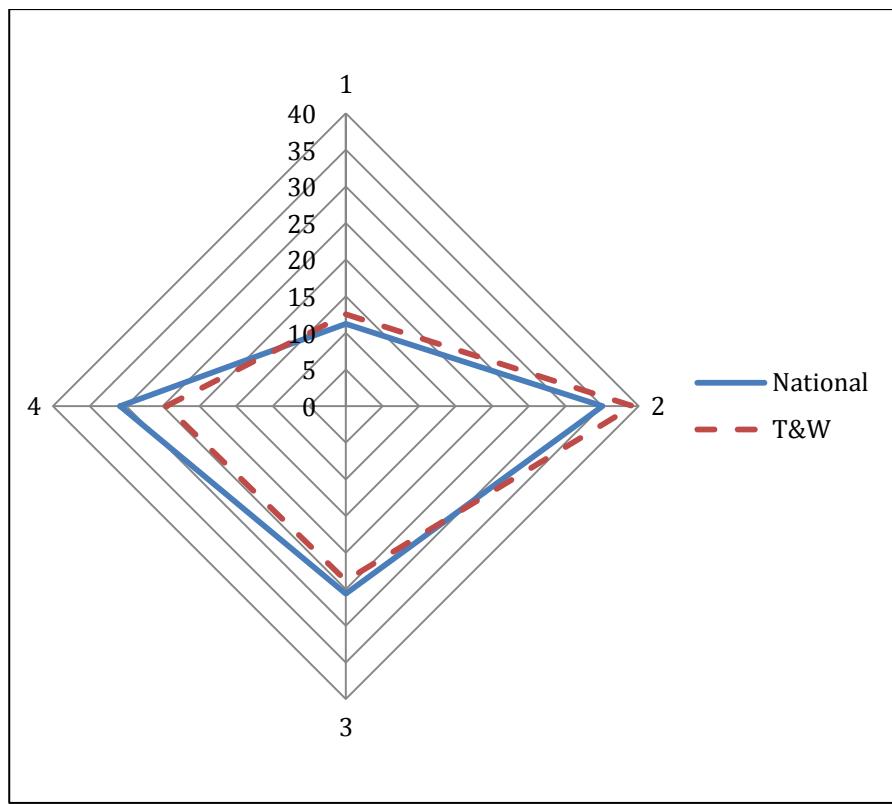
GVA per job (000s)			
	GVA – 1000s	Percentile (low/100 is good)	% change 2001-2013
UK	54.0		+58.8
Tyne & Wear	45.6	80.0	+49.8
Newcastle	45.7	64.5	+46.0
Gateshead	47.0	56.3	+56.3
South Tyneside	43.6	74.5	+61.5
North Tyneside	45.9	63.4	+63.9
Sunderland	46.3	61.6	+44.4

Source: ONS

The sub-region and district are all well below average with Gateshead nearest to it. However all areas increased substantially over the 10 years from 2001-2013.

Occupational skill levels

There are 4 levels: L1. Elementary (e.g. cleaner) L2. Administrative/secretarial – care and leisure – sales – machine/process operatives. L3. Skilled technical – associate professional and technical – skilled trades and 4. Managerial and professional. The chart below is based on data released in 2015 and shows the % of the workforce employed at each level within Tyne & Wear and the country as a whole:



Source: ONS

Clearly these statistics reflect the level at which jobs are available as much as the capacity of the individuals undertaking them. This is a concern as any lack of opportunities at Level 4 could result either in individuals working at levels below that for which they are qualified or drive outward migration. In any event there is a substantial proportion of the workforce working at levels 2 and 3 in Tyne & Wear, so the question may be one of equipping them with the skills required for the type of jobs the area needs.

Businesses

NELEP's concern about the relative size of the private sector in the North East is reflected in Tyne & Wear which has the lowest businesses to population ratio in the country.

Businesses per 1000 Population (2014) National average is 51.4				
Area	Rank	Out of	Measure	Percentile
Tyne & Wear	53	53	33.5	100
South Tyneside	378	380	28.	99.5
Sunderland	377	380	28.5	99.2
North Tyneside	365	380	32.4	96.6
Gateshead	327	380	36.7	86.1
Newcastle	300	380	39.6	78.9

Source: ONS

Delving deeper it is clear that Tyne & Wear is near the top in large businesses whilst very low in micro, small and medium businesses. This strongly suggests a greater effort towards SME's and start-ups. The table below shows the % of enterprises by number of employees. Those where the % is equal to or above the national average are shown in grey:

% of enterprises by number of employees							
# employees	National	T&W	Newcastle	Gateshead	S Tyneside	N Tyneside	Sunderland
250-1000	0.4	0.8	1.0	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.9
50-249	2.9	4.2	4.6	4.2	4	2.9	4.7
10-49	14	18.8	19	20.8	17.7	16.5	19.4
<= 9	82.7	76.2	75.4	74.5	77.8	80	75

Source: ONS

Size is noticeably skewed in Tyne & Wear towards larger and away from smaller businesses. The sub-region is top out of 53 and Newcastle 6th of 380 districts for businesses with over 250 employees. Even for the 50-249 range Tyne & Wear is second. In fact the sub-region is first or second for all businesses over 10 employees. For 9 or less the situation is completely reversed both geographical levels being at the bottom or close to it.

Local enterprise

Small businesses can be the life blood of local communities, as anyone who has seen the impact of boarded up shops can attest. More than ¾ of 11-18 year olds say they would like to start their own business, and nationally 400,000 over 50's plan to do the same. Self-employment has risen in Tyne & Wear from a low base. The only problem is that it has also risen across the country, and by more. It is possible that Tyne & Wear will fall further behind.

For many in Tyne & Wear the prospect of self-employment is a daunting one, especially given communities' traditional dependence on large employers. Moreover the statistics on

start-ups in Tyne & Wear are not encouraging: the survival rate at 12 months is the 8th lowest of 53 for Tyne & Wear and in the bottom 20% for Newcastle and Gateshead. For 24 months Tyne & Wear is in the bottom quarter and all but North Tyneside is below the district national average. For 36 months Tyne & Wear is 9th lowest, Sunderland and Gateshead in the bottom 20% and Newcastle and South Tyneside in the bottom 30%.

The social enterprise movement – focused on businesses with a social or environmental mission - is one route into self-employment that could help foster the area's latent entrepreneurial spirit. Philanthropy - in both cash and kind - can play a significant role in supporting its development as the Community Foundation's Community Ventures initiative has shown. In Vital Signs we explore this theme in more detail, using a case study from East Newcastle. As Neil McInroy of the Centre for Local Economic Strategies notes there: *philanthropy can provide a deep and catalytic boost to the local economy in our poorer communities.*

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