

Better Together

Updated 2019-2022

Working together to build strong and sustainable partnerships that make North Tyneside a better place to live, work and visit.



The Council, CCG and the Voluntary and Community Sector in North Tyneside

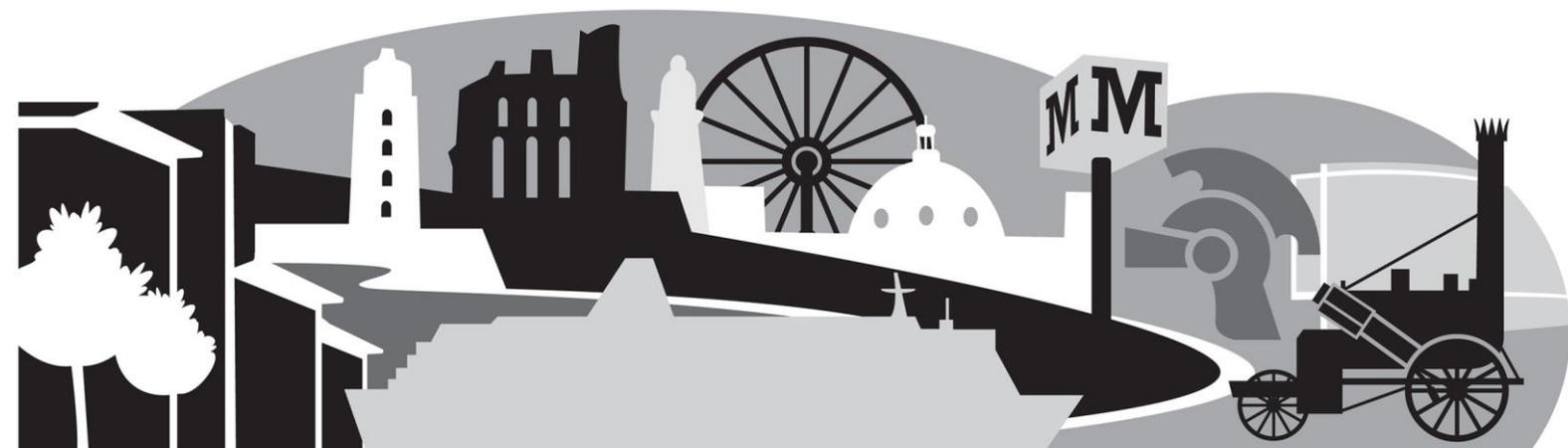
Summary

This strategy sets out how North Tyneside Council, North Tyneside CCG and the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) will work together to build strong and sustainable partnerships that makes North Tyneside a better place to live, work and visit.

It is not unusual to hear VCS organisations talking about the positive relationships they have with North Tyneside Council. Since the original publication of the Better Together strategy, approved by the NTSP in 2015, a number of positive outcomes have been achieved to increase capacity within the VCS, improve engagement between the two sectors and involve VCS organisations in decision making.

We aim to build on this progress by widening the strategy to include North Tyneside Clinical Commissioning Group (NT CCG) and Voluntary Organisations Development Agency (VODA) towards achieving the following outcomes over the next three years:

- increasing the capacity of VCS organisations to adapt and thrive in times of diminishing resources and increasing demand
- supporting residents to play a more active role in managing their own health and wellbeing, as well as the health and wellbeing of their local communities
- ensuring every resident has the opportunity to contribute to their community through volunteering and social action
- supporting systems that facilitate positive engagement and collaborative working between all partners
- supporting the VCS to have a strong and meaningful role in influencing policy by speaking up on behalf of the people they represent.



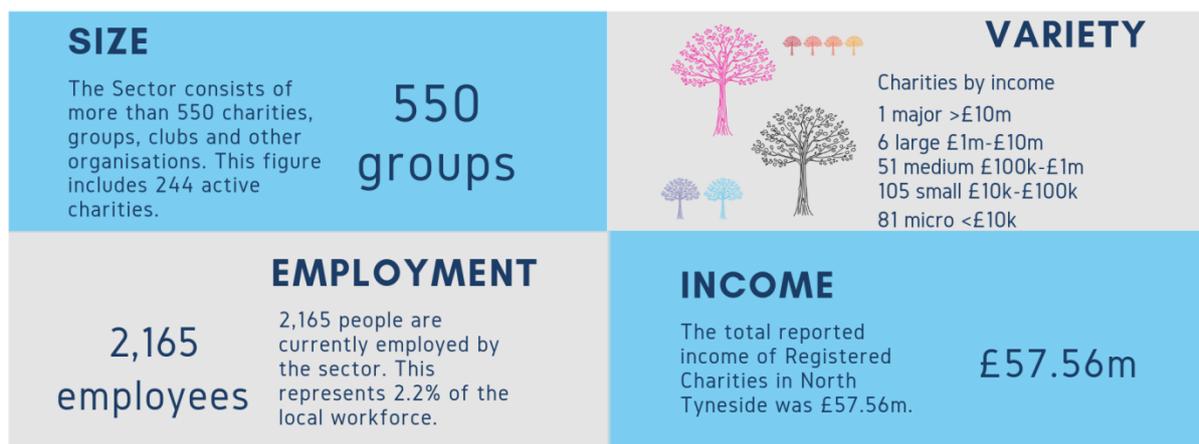
The Voluntary and Community Sector in North Tyneside

A vibrant Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) helps make North Tyneside a great place to live, work and visit. VCS organisations work with some of our most marginalised communities, providing services that are responsive, innovative and user-led. The work of VCS organisations makes a significant contribution to key priorities such as health and wellbeing, democracy, the environment, employability and tackling loneliness.

The VCS in North Tyneside covers everything from volunteer-led groups such as Collingwood Bowling Club to large international charities such as Depaul Trust.

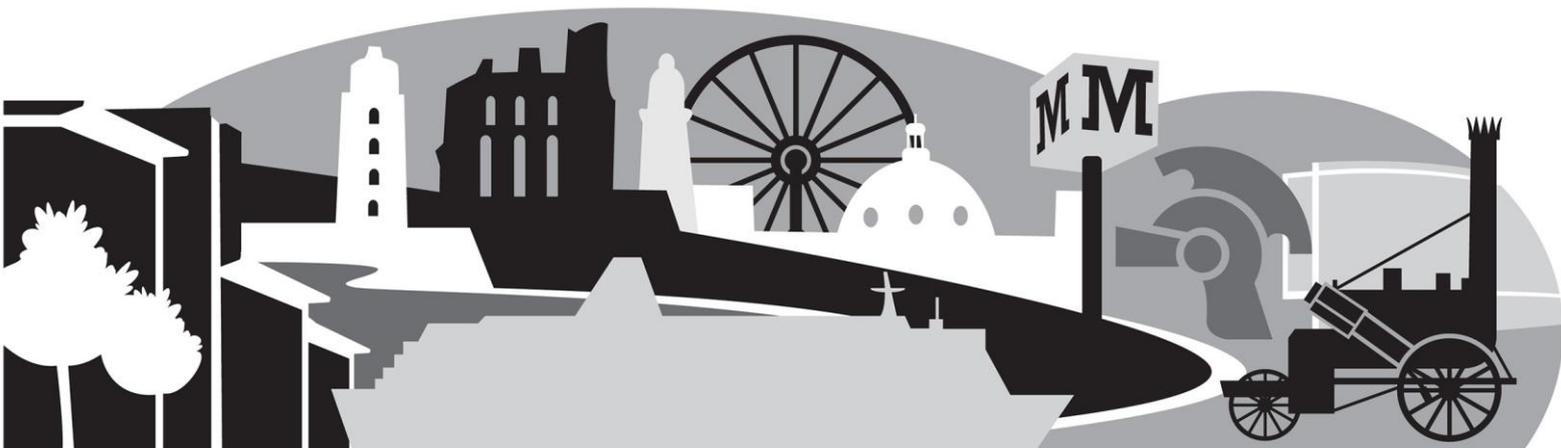
The VCS in North Tyneside consists of more than 550 groups, clubs, charities and other organisations, with a combined income of over £57m per year. 2165 people are employed by the sector, representing 2.2% of the local workforce.

THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR IN NORTH TYNESIDE 2017-2018



VODA is the local infrastructure organisation for the VCS in North Tyneside delivering five key services to help maximise the impact of volunteers and VCS organisations across the borough:

- free core services such as funding advice and volunteer brokerage
- delivery of volunteering and social action programmes
- payroll and accountancy services
- ensuring the VCS is involved in key decision-making forums
- facilitating mutually beneficial cross-sector partnerships



Context

Our North Tyneside Plan 2018 to 2021

The Our North Tyneside Plan sets out our bold ambitions for making North Tyneside an even greater place to live, work and visit by 2021.

It focuses on our three key themes – people, place and economy – and has 16 priorities for delivering positive opportunities for everyone in the borough over the next three years.

The plan is also focused on ensuring the council works better for residents by improving how we do things and offering residents opportunities to volunteer, be more independent and do more for their local communities.

<https://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/category/1241/our-north-tyneside-plan-2018-2021>

North of Tyne Combined Authority

The new North of Tyne Combined Authority gives an opportunity to work with partners across three local authority areas, sharing best practice and looking for new ways of working across the whole of the North of Tyne.

NHS Long Term Plan

The NHS Plan sets out a new model for delivering healthcare that not just responds to current pressures and increased demand but aims to prevent as much illness as possible. The Plan recognises that the NHS needs to break down traditional barriers and be far more differentiated and broad in its support offer. Key messages that can be applied locally and adopted as part of the Better Together Framework include:

- Boosting out of hospital care and commission services which can enable people to take more control of their health and wellbeing with more personalised care when needed.
- The introduction of Primary Care Networks with GP practices working together within local population clusters with enhanced community teams including social care and the voluntary sector. The Primary Care Model will be further enriched with the introduction of Link Workers to complement the Social Prescribing Offer.

North Tyneside CCG will continue to commission, partner with and champion the Voluntary and Community Sector and Community Interest Companies who provide



services to the local population particularly around those who are vulnerable and where health inequalities exist.

What does this mean for how North Tyneside Council, the CCG and the Voluntary and Community Sector will work together?

Collectively the Council, CCG and VCS have access to a wide range of skills, knowledge and resources. We also share some common values and purpose. By working together we can build strong and sustainable partnerships that take advantage of emerging opportunities and make North Tyneside a better place to live, work and visit.

The success of this partnership relies on a commitment to the following principles:

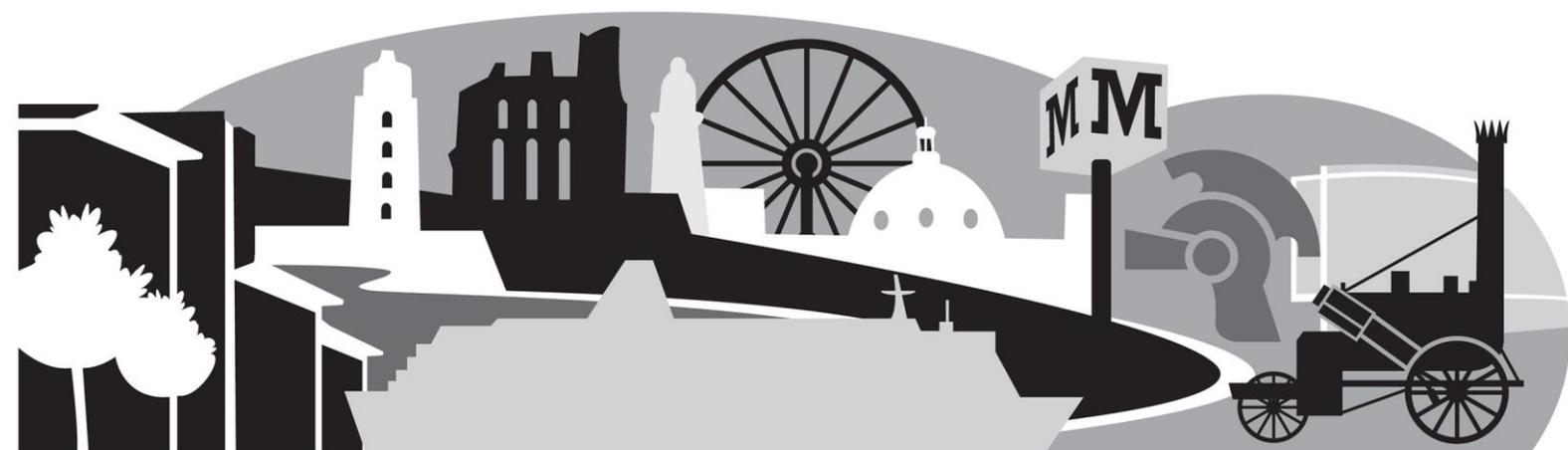
Equality and Accessibility: All partners will ensure that their customers, employees and volunteers are treated with dignity and respect and will endeavour to ensure that their services are accessible to, and meet the needs of, their current and future customers.

Collaboration and Community Cohesion: All partners will seek opportunities to work better together, making best use of available resources and avoiding duplication. This includes exploring innovative approaches to established and emerging issues that proactively address the causes of problems. Partners will also promote collaboration and build bridges between different groups to support community cohesion.

Honesty, Respect and Independence: All partners will treat one another with generosity of spirit, respect, openness, honesty and transparency and will work to build trust between organisations, whilst respecting the need for confidentiality. The formal independence of all partners is recognised and encouraged as a strength.

Social Value: All partners will commit to the importance of Social Value as a way of maximising the impact of resources and money invested in the borough.

Volunteering: All partners recognise the value of volunteering as an important expression of citizenship and an essential part of civil renewal. Volunteering builds skills and experience that enhances employability, promotes social inclusion and contributes to the building of community networks and participation; high levels of volunteering are therefore an indication of healthy and active communities.



What have we done so far?

Over the past four years since the initial Better Together strategy was agreed (2015), we have made some significant progress.

Increased capacity within the VCS by:

- Reviewing the use of council buildings and increasing the number that are managed by VCS organisations including Family Gateway and the Linskill and North Tyneside Community Development Trust
- Updating the Community Discount Policy so that organisations that lease buildings from the Council are clearer about how they can get a discount in their rent
- Focusing work in our most deprived communities, overseen by a partnership board (Riverside and Chirton; Wallsend and Howdon), and sharing responsibility for action with VCS partners
- Running a wide range of development sessions and sharing demographic data
- Introducing a Social Values policy that aims to award 10% of any scores in all procurement exercises to Social Value
- Running a Local Community Capacity Grant scheme so that Ward Members can make an annual contribution of £200 into a VCS organisation in their ward

Improved liaison, involvement and engagement with the VCS by:

- Holding quarterly “Working with the Community and Voluntary Sector” sessions
- Appointing a Senior Manager to be the key liaison link between the Council and VCS
- Including information about the VCS in the Our North Tyneside magazine

Involving the VCS in decision making by:

- Inviting a representative of the Voluntary Sector Chief Officers Group to attend Cabinet meetings
- Holding a session for Chief Officers on how the Council makes decisions
- Holding annual consultation sessions with the VCS on the Council Budget proposals



What will we do next?

We will develop a refreshed Action Plan towards achieving the following outcomes over the next three years:

- increasing the capacity of VCS organisations to adapt and thrive in times of diminishing resources and increasing demand
- supporting residents to play a more active role in managing their own health and wellbeing, as well as the health and wellbeing of their local communities
- ensuring every resident has the opportunity to contribute to their community through volunteering and social action
- supporting systems that facilitate positive engagement and collaborative working between all partners
- supporting the VCS to have a strong and meaningful role in influencing policy by speaking up on behalf of the people they represent

Progress against the Action Plan will be monitored and evaluated by representatives from North Tyneside Council, North Tyneside CCG, VODA and the VCS Chief Officers Group.

If you have any queries, comments or observations about this work please contact:

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Annex A: The Voluntary and Community Sector

The structure of the Voluntary and Community Sector is complex with about 20 different categories of organisation. These include “general charities”, faith groups, credit unions, co-operatives, housing associations, sports clubs, etc. Traditionally faith groups make up a significant proportion of the sector, including many organisations running with the support of churches, such as youth clubs, mother and toddler groups, and luncheon clubs. There are often no clear definitions and blurred boundaries are not uncommon. Generally, community groups have a self-serving interest. Such groups include residents associations and estate action groups, local societies such as history groups and camera clubs, and groups that look after people that fall into a very specific category, such as people suffering from a particular medical condition and who live within a certain area. However, it is not uncommon to find community groups undertaking charitable acts that benefit the wider community, such as fundraising to help an individual or charity. Community groups often have a set of rules by which they operate, which members are obliged to obey, but this is not always the case.

Registered charities

Being a charity in law has key consequences for the organisation, its funds and assets and the people involved in the organisation. Charitable status gives responsibilities to the trustees and the charity is subject to charitable law and regulations. A charity exists solely for the public benefit rather than private gain and is bound by its charitable purposes. If the association’s aims are wholly charitable, then it is considered to be a charitable unincorporated association. Registered charities have a clearly defined governance document which describes the charity’s remit.

The four main charitable forms are:

Unincorporated Charitable Association

Is the same as a non-charitable unincorporated association, except that its aims are legally charitable and its work is demonstrably for public benefit. Once the annual income of the organisation is more than £5,000, you are required to register with the Charity Commission. This involves submitting information to them each year. An unincorporated organisation has no separate legal identity (or personality). So, the assets of an unincorporated charity are vested in the charity trustees or the members of the charity. This means that the charity trustees (and in some cases, the members) are personally liable for the debts and liabilities of their charity.



Charitable Trust A charitable trust is a specific kind of unincorporated association, set up to administer money or property (or both), and usually registered with the Charity Commission. Many trusts administer charitable bequests.

Charitable Incorporated Organisation (C.I.O.)

A CIO is a relatively new form of incorporated organisation, designed specifically for charities. It enables the charity to have a limited liability structure without having to have company status. It is solely regulated by the Charity Commission and allows the charity to own land in their own name, control substantial funds or assets, enter into contracts, for example by employing staff or engage in charitable activities involving financial risks. Members of CIO may have either no liability or (like a company) limited liability for its debt.

Charitable Company Limited By Guarantee

A Company Limited by Guarantee is a type of company that does not have a share capital or shareholders and is usually formed to manage a charity or not for profit organisation. Rather than having shareholders a limited by Guarantee Company will have guarantors (or trustees), such individuals enjoy limited liability status.

A registered charity may decide to become a CLG as well to limit liability, especially if the organisation has increased risks such as taking on staff, large contracts or a lease. By becoming a company the legal personality becomes that of the organisation rather than the individual.

Social enterprises are organisations that trade to tackle social problems, improve communities, people's life chances, or the environment. These may include charities that operate along commercial lines, but with all the profit being put back into the enterprise rather than distributed among owners and shareholders. Some social enterprises become Community Interest Companies (CICs) and must give certain undertakings as to the use and distribution of their resources and assets.

