

South Tyneside

Brought to you by South Tyneside Council and our partners



Chief Executive, Martin Swales, and Lead Member for Children and Young People, Councillor Jim Foreman, at Jarrow School - an outstanding example of our investment in schools so far. Read more about Jarrow School inside.

Regeneration round up

South Shields Riverside



Artist's impression of the new Green Business Incubator supplied courtesy of +3 Architecture Limited. www.plus3.co.uk

The Council with help from the European Regional Development Programme, has pledged £5.6million to build a new business incubator at Eldon Street. The facility will provide managed workspace and business support for new and growing businesses, with a focus on the low carbon and 'green' sector. Hebburn firm Robertson North East will start construction in May.

Hebburn

Four Housing Group has started the construction of 71 affordable homes at School Street and in the town centre the demolition of Thistle Court and Glen Court will begin in March.

New Tyne Crossing



The New Tyne Crossing has entered an exciting phase. The new tunnel is now open and the original tunnel has closed for a full refurbishment. Once both are operational, the original tunnel will provide two lanes for northbound journeys, with the new tunnel offering two lanes for southbound traffic.

Find out more:
www.southtyneside.info/regeneration

Investing in our future

As we work through unprecedented financial challenges, partners in South Tyneside are committed to delivering services in new, more efficient ways whilst continuing to invest for the long-term.

This edition of 'South Tyneside' provides an update on just some of the new investments that will make the Borough a better place to live, work, visit and do business.

One of our largest investment programmes is in our schools, where £173million is helping transform our educational facilities.

Some parts of the country have missed out on Government funding to improve schools, however South Tyneside made sure it was at the forefront of the national programme by securing early investment.

This funding, along with the great improvements schools have made in raising standards is reaping rewards. Last year our students recorded the Borough's best ever GCSE and A level results.

The good news does not end there. Last week we secured £15million from the Government for two new special school buildings in Hebburn and South Shields.

The first project will see the Council replace Oakleigh Gardens and Greenfields Schools with a new 130-place special school, planned to open in 2012, on the site of Bedewell Primary School in Hebburn.

The second will provide new buildings for the secondary Alternative Education Service and Galsworthy Centre on a site in South Shields, and will open in 2013.

For more information on our schools investment, see pages 2 and 3.

This edition was funded by:



South Tyneside Council



Total Policing



Working in partnership with South Tyneside Council



South of Tyne and Wear

March 2011

Building School

Significant investment in South Tyneside's schools is raising aspirations, improving educational attainment and creating high quality community facilities.

South Tyneside has improved its schools beyond all recognition since 2006, replacing crumbling Victorian buildings with state-of-the-art 21st century learning centres of exceptional design and quality.

By 2013 three new special schools and four new primary schools will have been built and all of the Borough's nine secondary schools will have been rebuilt or remodelled.

The buildings are not only raising the aspirations of pupils, teachers, parents and governors, they are also providing first-class community facilities across the Borough.

Jarrow School, pictured on the front page, was the first 100% new build secondary school to be completed.

The £20million facilities are amongst the finest in the country, and are providing pupils with an inspirational learning environment to fulfill their potential.

Today's children and young people are tomorrow's future and these fantastic new schools are already contributing to our ambitious plans to regenerate South Tyneside and improve prosperity.



Harton Technology College and new Sixth Form

Building work is well under way on the refurbishment of the old Edwardian building. It is the second phase of the £25million project to remodel Harton Technology College and create a new 260-place Sixth Form facility.

The new block and Sixth Form opened on 6 September 2010, and the remainder of the school, including extensive sporting facilities, will be remodelled in 2011.

s for the Future

St. Joseph's RC Comprehensive School

A £23million programme is underway to replace 80% of St Joseph's RC Comprehensive School in Hebburn with new build accommodation. The remaining 20% will be remodelled.

This exciting project to provide state-of-the-art facilities for both the main school and the Sixth Form is due to be completed by December 2011.



Mortimer Community College

An investment of £12million has seen the creation of a new teaching and learning block at Mortimer. The school's modern and bright interior incorporates an open plan art and design area, technology barn with workshops and a two-level 'street' designed as an innovative teaching and social space.



Coming soon...

	Investment	Key dates
Harton Primary School	£9.5million new-build	To open March 2011
South Shields Community School	£20million new-build	To open September 2011
Forest View Primary School, Whiteleas	£5.2million new-build	To open September 2011
Stanhope Primary School	£4.5million new-build	To open September 2011
St Wilfrid's Roman Catholic College	£12million remodel	To be complete Spring 2012
Hebburn Comprehensive	£12million remodel	To be complete Spring 2012
New special school to replace Oakleigh Gardens and Greenfields special schools	£9.5million new-build	To be complete September 2012
New building for secondary Alternative Education Service and Galsworthy Centre School	£5.5million new-build	To be complete in 2013

For more information on our schools investment programme call (0191) 424 6597 or visit www.inspiredspaces.co.uk



South Tyneside is safer than ever

There has been a 17% reduction in crime in the past year thanks to the work of the 'Safer South Tyneside' partnership. The latest crime and customer satisfaction results show partners are tackling crime and anti-social behaviour, making the Borough a safer place to live, work, visit and do business.

Did you know that in the past year:

- Overall crime fell by 17%
- Anti-social behaviour incidents reported to the Council fell by 43%
- Domestic burglary fell by 31%
- Violent crime fell by 14%
- Young offender numbers fell by 31%
- Convictions of persistent offenders fell by 41%
- Community Warden completed 13,000 patrols
- Offenders completed 15,000 Community Payback hours
- 628 Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators and 82 Community Crime Fighters helped make the Borough safe
- 198 CCTV cameras led to 894 arrests

Safer South Tyneside

Our partnership is called 'Safer South Tyneside' and is made up of representatives from the following agencies:

- Northumbria Police
- Northumbria Probation Trust
- South Tyneside Council
- South Tyneside Homes
- Tyne & Wear Fire and Rescue Service
- South of Tyne Primary Care Trust

Our aim is:

"To make South Tyneside a place where people feel safe because crime is the exception rather than the rule."

Help make South Tyneside safer

You can:

- **Become a Community Crime Fighter**
Call 424 7938
- **Attend your local Police and Communities Together (PACT) meeting**
Call 03456 043 043
- **Become a member of your local Neighbourhood Watch scheme**
Call 03456 043 043
- **Attend your local Community Area Forum**
Call 424 7256

You can check crime and anti-social behaviour statistics for your area by visiting www.police.uk

Investing in Decent Homes



69 year-old Irene Lown was over the moon with her home improvements.



Home tour... Councillor Iain Malcolm (far right) takes a look around an improved home with (left to right) Property Services Manager, Jason Crews; Housing Manager, Teresa Candlish; Team Leader, Steve Tulloch and Dorothy Harrison, from the local Residents' Association.



Hebburn couple Lynne and Alan Guy celebrate the completion of the work in their home with Tenant Liaison Officer, Janet Robe (far left).

Did you know?

Since 2006:

- Non decent homes have almost halved from 11,216 homes to 5,980
- 6,212 homes have benefited from internal works
- 8,740 new doors were fitted
- 4,847 homes have new windows
- 7,407 new heating systems installed
- 899 homes have a new or improved roof
- 4 sheltered accommodation units were renovated
- CO₂ emissions have reduced by 53%

The Government has announced that South Tyneside will receive a further £71 million of Decent Homes investment over the next four years.

Although the funding was not as much as the £122million requested, the Borough has received the sixth highest settlement in the country.

Only the higher performing organisations with a proven track record of improvement and value for money have been successful in gaining the additional money from Government.

In 2006, the Council set up South Tyneside Homes, the arms length management

organisation to manage and maintain homes on its behalf. It has now carried out improvement works to over 12,500 properties across the Borough. The work in South Tyneside not only achieves but actually exceeds the Decent Homes Standard and has improved the lives of thousands of tenants.

Peter Davidson, Chair of South Tyneside Homes, said: "The successful delivery of our ongoing Decent Homes Programme has been one of our greatest achievements. Since we were awarded the initial funding, we have

worked hard to make sure the money goes a long way by delivering efficiency savings and successfully obtaining external funding.

The recent allocation of £71 million is an important milestone for housing in South Tyneside and we are taking this opportunity to give careful consideration to how we can provide an improved housing service with less money than we had originally planned. We are committed to involving tenants in a review to further improve housing in our Borough in the longer term."

A future in fostering

There is a national shortage of around 10,000 foster carers in the UK. Here in South Tyneside we already have over 120 foster families but we are keen to recruit more and to match children and young people with families that can best meet their needs.

Fostering has always been at the back of Joan's mind, since a 'seed' was planted at just nine years old.

"I was watching TV with my mam and dad," recalls Joan "It was a 'Find me a Family' programme and I asked my mam if she would take care of a little disabled boy. She said she would love to but she had enough on her plate with me and my three brother and sisters. It was from then that I thought I would like to help children who needed a home. Quite a few years ago my friend's foster daughter used to spend a lot of time at my house and wanted to come and live with me. I was a single parent at the time, my eldest had left home, my middle son was about to fly the nest and my youngest was six, yet I went through the assessment process and was approved as a foster carer.

It's funny now that I thought I couldn't foster because I didn't have any special skills. All the children need is a safe home and someone to care for them. The training you get is excellent and really helps you develop skills of your own. Yes it's hard sometimes when the children have to leave because you do get attached to them, but after a little cry I get over it because I know they will be going on to an adoptive family or back to their birth parents. I take great pride that their time with us has been a happy time, which is a really special feeling and makes me look forward to my next placement."

Making a real difference - Joan has fostered eight children over seven years.



Fostering is her future - it could be yours

If you can spare a few days a month or more **YOU CAN** foster.

All kinds of people foster in many different ways:

- Pre-adoption
- Respite & emergency
- Short-term
- Mother & baby
- Young teenagers
- Long-term



www.southtyneside.info/fostering

0191 423 8500

fostering@southtyneside.gov.uk

Fostering myths

Often people rule themselves out before they know the facts – here are a few fostering myths:

"I work so I don't have the time to foster"

– WRONG - It does not have to be a full-time commitment. You can foster for as little as a few days a month.

"I am too old to foster"

– WRONG - There is no upper age limit. As long as you are able to care for a child's need then you can foster.

"I am single so I cant foster"

– WRONG – We have foster carers from all backgrounds. You can foster if you are single, cohabitating or a couple.

"I don't own my home so I can't foster"

– WRONG - Whether you rent or own your home, all you need is enough room to care for a child in a safe environment.

"I can't foster because I don't have a spare bedroom"

– WRONG - This does not rule you out. You can foster children of the same sex or similar age to your own children living at home.

Show support for our fostering community in South Tyneside - visit www.southtyneside.info/fostering and click the 'I care about fostering' button to show that you care.



Smoking quitters offered helping hand



Freed from smoking with free NRT: Gillian Gilleece with Stop Smoking Advisor Gillian Nicol.

NHS South of Tyne and Wear has extended its free Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) offer until 31 March, meaning that South Tyneside smokers can get a whole range of NRT for free when they sign up to quit with the help of the NHS Stop Smoking Service.

The forms of NRT which are free under the scheme include nicotine gum, nicotine lozenges, microtabs, nicotine patches, inhalators and nasal spray – offering quitters a potential saving of up to £86.40.

Marietta Evans, Director of Public Health for South Tyneside at NHS South of Tyne and Wear and South Tyneside Council, said: "With the help of NHS Stop Smoking Services, located in pharmacies, doctors' surgeries and other venues across South Tyneside, you are four times more likely to quit than trying to do it with willpower alone. Partner this with free NRT, which can double your chances of quitting, and you have a winning combination."

One person who has so far benefited from free NRT is Gillian Gilleece, of Brisbane Avenue, South Shields.

The 66-year-old stubbed out her 50-year smoking habit with the help of nicotine patches and inhalators and support from the Stop Smoking Service at Edinburgh Road Pharmacy, Jarrow.

Gillian, a retired shop worker, said: "Everyone I know never thought I would quit smoking – not in a million years. I'd smoked for 50 years and it was like part of who I was. But I've done it and despite it being my fifth time quitting, this time I know it's for good. There's no way I'll have another cigarette – no chance."

To take advantage of the free NRT offer, find your local Stop Smoking Service by texting **SMOKE FREE** and your postcode to 60003 or visiting www.sotw.nhs.uk where you can also view terms and conditions.

**Diarrhoea.
Runny nose.
Painful cough.
Headache.**



For advice on common illnesses and the best medicines to treat them, use a **pharmacy**

Health award success

South Tyneside health staff enjoyed success at a recent awards ceremony, which celebrates excellence in primary care and the efforts made by health professionals to improve service design and delivery.

In the NHS Alliance's Acorn Awards, the salaried dental service was runner-up in the Local Health Improvement category, for the development of a service in South Tyneside, to meet the oral health care needs of children with disabilities.

Special care dentist Julie Fitzgerald worked particularly closely with NHS South of Tyne and Wear Community Health Services' Children's Learning Disabilities' team, including Caroline Robertson, clinical nurse lead, to improve dental care and oral health for children with disabilities in South Tyneside. This resulted in specific training in oral care for community nursery nurse Leanne Angus. Well done to all involved.



Professor Chris Drinkwater, president of the NHS Alliance, with special care dentist Julie Fitzgerald (centre) and community nursery nurse Leanne Angus.

Working together to make South of Tyne and Wear healthy for you.
Gateshead Primary Care Trust • South Tyneside Primary Care Trust • Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust

What's on



Get active!

Getting fit and healthy can make you feel fantastic and there's no better place to do it than at one of our three fantastic leisure facilities:

TEMPLE PARK CENTRE | MONKTON STADIUM | HEBBURN SWIMMING POOL

With a range of exercise options including gyms, fitness classes, swimming and sporting activities there is something to suit all ages, abilities and preferences.

There's also a good choice of membership options to suit your pocket and lifestyle, so making that healthy start shouldn't cost a fortune!



To find out more pop into one of the centres, call **(0191) 456 9119** or visit www.southtyneside.info/active

WIN A PLATINUM PASS FOR 1 YEAR

To help you make that healthy start we're offering one lucky reader the chance to win a one year Platinum Pass that gives free entry to all gyms at three centres, free swimming plus many other benefits (terms and conditions apply).

To enter the free prize draw send your name, address and contact telephone number by 8 April 2011:
email: tourism@southtyneside.gov.uk or
FREEPOST: Tourism, FREEPOST, NEA 5963, South Shields, NE33 1BR



South Tyneside International Magic Festival

World-class magic and illusion featuring some of the finest magicians from around the globe.

Highlights at The Customs House

Two spectacular evening gala shows featuring some of the finest illusionists, mind readers and magicians from around the world.

Friday 11 & Saturday 12 March 2011, 8pm

Tickets £13 and £12 concession for each night



To book tickets call the Customs House on (0191) 454 1234 or visit www.customshouse.co.uk

Find out more at www.southtyneside.info/magicfestival or call (0191) 424 7986.



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