

Your community...

your say

Your guide to getting involved in the decisions that affect you, your local area and the whole city

The views of local people in Sunderland really do count - they influence decisions that affect everything from how we provide services, to the future of the whole city.

The City Council and its partners provide a range of a range of ways for local people to become involved and influence decisions about their local area and Sunderland.

This directory provides information and contact details of the different opportunities available to you. Whether you are interested in a particular issue, service or community in Sunderland there is a way for you to get involved and influence the decisions that are being made. We hope you will take up the challenge and really make a difference.



Paul Watson

Cllr Paul Watson

Leader of Sunderland City Council

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For general enquiries:

Tel: Freephone 0800 783 1710

Email: consultation@sunderland.gov.uk

Web: www.sunderland.gov.uk/getinvolved

Take part in surveys and other consultation

There are a range of opportunities for you to have your say through consultations that are taking place across the city.

This might include surveys, on-line consultations, events, meetings and exhibitions. Recent examples include a telephone survey about experiences and priorities in relation to crime and anti- social behaviour, a survey and meetings about what makes people feel proud of Sunderland and an online survey about what people value about green spaces.

Visit our consultation calendar to find out about consultations taking place and:

- register to receive alerts about consultations
- take part in consultations
- find out the results of past consultations.

The calendar can be found at:

www.sunderland.gov.uk/consultationcalendar

For more information:

Tel: Freephone: 0800 783 1710

Email: consultation@sunderland.gov.uk

Web: www.sunderland.gov.uk/getinvolved



Join Sunderland Council's residents' panel if you are selected

Community Spirit is Sunderland City Council's residents' panel, currently made up of around 1,400 residents of all ages and from all areas of Sunderland. Members of Community Spirit are invited to give their views on a range of important issues such as education, crime, health, the environment and transport. Membership involves completing questionnaires and the opportunity to attend discussion groups and events throughout the city.

Residents are randomly selected to join the panel for up to three years and a new group is selected each year. The panel is currently under-represented amongst 18-34 year olds, residents from a black and minority ethnic background and residents with a disability.

If you are from any of the above under-represented groups and are interested in joining the panel, please contact us on:

Tel: Freephone: 0800 783 1710
Email: communityspirit@sunderland.gov.uk
Web: www.sunderland.gov.uk/communityspirit



Get involved in looking at issues affecting the city

Scrutiny Committees are made up of councillors who look at how well the council and its partners provide services and how they can be improved for residents. If you live, work or study in Sunderland you can be involved by:

- suggesting suitable issues for the committee to look at
- making a contribution at the meetings
- taking part in consultations which are part of a scrutiny enquiry or review.

For more information:

Tel: 0191 561 1230

Email: overviewandscrutiny@sunderland.gov.uk

Web: www.sunderland.gov.uk/scrutinyandareas



Help influence decisions in your local area

Local Area Committees operate in each of the five areas of Sunderland. The Committees are made up of Councillors, council officers, local partners and representatives from the Voluntary and Community Sector Networks. They produce Local Area Plans, which aim to shape services to meet the needs of residents living in the local area. You can get involved in your local area committee by:

- attending area committee meetings
- putting questions to the committees to answer at their meetings
- taking part in consultations about local area plans.

To get involved or for further information:

Washington

(covering North, East, South, West and Central)

Chair: Cllr Bernie Scaplehorn

Area officer: Karon Purvis

Tel: 0191 561 2449

Email: karon.purvis@sunderland.gov.uk

North Sunderland

(covering Redhill, Castle, Southwick, Fulwell and St Peter's)

Chair: Cllr Richard Bell

Area officer: Julie Lynn

Tel: 0191 561 1932

Email: julie.lynn@sunderland.gov.uk

East Sunderland

(covering Hendon, Millfield, St Michael's, Ryhope and Doxford)

Chair: Cllr Ellen Ball

Area officer: Nicol Trueman

Tel: 0191 561 1162

Email: nicol.trueman@sunderland.gov.uk

West Sunderland

(covering St Anne's, Pallion, Sandhill, Barnes, St Chad's and Silksworth)

Chair: Cllr Peter Gibson

Area officer: Richard Parry

Tel: 0191 561 1217

Email: richard.parry@sunderland.gov.uk

Coalfield

(covering Shiney Row, Copt Hill, Houghton and Hetton)

Chair: Cllr Dennis Richardson

Area officer: Pauline Hopper

Tel: 0191 561 7912

Email: pauline.hopper@sunderland.gov.uk

Area Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Networks

operate in the five areas of the city. Membership is open to all VCS organisations which operate in Sunderland. Three delegates from each VCS Network attend the Local Area Committees to help influence decisions in order to improve the quality of life in local communities.

To find out more contact one of the Area Community Co-ordinators:

Washington: John Rostron

Tel: 0191 219 3884

Email: john.rostron@sunderland.gov.uk

North: Community Development Team

Tel: 0191 561 4621

Email: community.development@sunderland.gov.uk

East: Vivienne Metcalfe

Tel: 0191 561 4577

Email: vivienne.metcalfe@sunderland.gov.uk

West: Angela Cousins

Tel: 0191 553 8865

Email: angela.cousins@sunderland.gov.uk

Coalfield: Susan Brown

Tel: 0191 561 6664

Email: susan.brown@sunderland.gov.uk



Influence decisions through a voluntary or community group

Sunderland has a vibrant voluntary and community sector made up of a wide variety of organisations from across the city.

This includes a number of **Community Associations** delivering services and activities catering to their local community needs. These Community Associations welcome new members attending their activities, becoming involved and informing them of activities that they would like to see in their local area.

For more information:

Tel: 0191 561 4621
Email: community.development@sunderland.gov.uk
Web: www.sunderland.gov.uk/communitydevelopment

Voluntary and Community Action Sunderland (VCAS)

supports the voluntary and community sector in Sunderland. The service provides and promotes opportunities for local groups and organisations to put forward their views on local, regional and national policies and decisions that affect them.

For more information:

Email: info@vcasunderland.org.uk
Web: www.vcasunderland.org.uk
Tel: 0191 565 1566 / 0845 600 9577

Sunderland Carers' Centre helps carers across the city to be involved in improving services for the people they care for as well as for themselves. Carers are invited to give their views to the Centre as individuals, through groups, specially arranged meetings or through our 'Consultations, Surveys and Campaigns' section on the website.

For more information:

Tel: 0191 567 3232
Email: info@sunderlandcarers.co.uk
Web: www.sunderlandcarers.co.uk

Independent Advisory Groups provide specific groups of people with a voice on issues that are relevant to them. They have the opportunity to feed their views into the Sunderland Partnership which is made up of major decision makers in the city.

Groups for disability, race, gender, faith, older people, younger people and lesbian, gay and bisexual people are established. Membership involves attending meetings, sharing your views and raising awareness of issues that are relevant to the group.

To find out more about these groups:

Tel: 0191 561 1313
Email: equality@sunderland.gov.uk

Volunteering

Help make a difference in Sunderland by giving some of your time through volunteering. In return you'll get to meet new people, learn new skills, gain life experience, have fun and be inspired.

Whatever your background and time commitments there is an opportunity to suit you:

- Support a local voluntary or community group by fundraising or organising activities
- Care for people who need your help
- Help out with events such as Sunderland International Airshow, Sunderland Festival
- Clear up your local area
- Celebrate and be creative e.g. street parties, public art, exhibitions
- Look after local wildlife
- Care for our heritage
- Deal with emergencies
- And more!

To find out more about volunteering please contact:

Volunteer Centre Sunderland

Tel: 0191 567 8902

Email: sunderlandvc@aol.com

Web: www.volunteersunderland.org.uk

Sunderland City Council

Tel: 0191 561 4621

Email: volunteering@sunderland.gov.uk

Web: www.sunderland.gov.uk/communitydevelopment



Get involved in policing and community safety issues

Police and Community Forums are open public meetings arranged by Northumbria Police Authority. The forums give you the opportunity to have your say on policing issues and get information from police officers on what the Police and Police Authority are doing to tackle crime. Attendees receive follow up letters after the meetings.

The forums are held throughout the year in the Sunderland area and take place in community venues. The forums are advertised widely through the local press and media, website, leaflets and posters.

For more information:

Contact: Northumbria Police Authority
Tel: 0191 433 2091
Email: enquiries.npa@ggateshead.gov.uk
Web: www.northumbria-police-authority.org

Partners and Communities Together (PACT) meetings are held regularly in local areas across Sunderland. They enable local residents to have an input into local policing issues and find out what police officers and partner agencies have been doing in the local area. Representatives from other organisations are invited when specific issues arise.

For more information about PACT meetings in your area and how to contact your local team:

Tel: 03456 043 043 ext 69191
Web: www.northumbria.police.uk

Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service is committed to achieving its vision of 'Creating the Safest Community' by delivering fire prevention advice and emergency response to all members of the community within Sunderland.

Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service is seeking to continuously improve its services and is interested in your views in order to shape its future plans.

For more information about how you can get involved:

Tel: 0191 444 1543
Web: www.twfire.gov.uk/consultation

Improve your local environment

Sunderland City Council's Planning and Environmental Service encourages local people and organisations to get involved in planning the future of the city. The emerging Local Development Plans will include aspects such as future development of housing and employment sites, new roads and the protection of the environment.

To register to receive draft documents and invitations to meetings and events:

Tel: 0191 561 1574

Email: planningpolicy@sunderland.gov.uk

Web: www.sunderland.gov.uk/ldf

The council also encourages people to get involved in the consideration of planning applications. You can view and comment on them using the website below or at the Civic Centre, and you can also discuss your own proposals before submitting by contacting:

Tel: 0191 520 5506

Email: dc@sunderland.gov.uk

Web: www.sunderland.gov.uk/online-applications

'Friends of Parks' groups operate across Sunderland and may include volunteers who have an interest in their local park, local Police Community teams and the wider community. Friends groups meet regularly to discuss operational issues and give local people a greater say in what happens in their local park. The council values the input park users can make to the development of their local park.

If you are interested in joining or setting up a Friends group for your local park:

Tel: 0191 561 3939

Email: parks@sunderland.gov.uk



Help to inform health and well-being

Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust has a dedicated public involvement manager and there is a range of opportunities for local people to get involved in changing how local health services are provided.

Local Engagement Boards are public meetings held by the Trust every three months at community venues throughout Sunderland. These meetings give members of the public, community groups and local organisations the opportunity to share their views on specific issues relating to health and local health services.

For more information:

Tel: 0191 529 7138
Email: Julie.whitehouse@sotw.nhs.uk
Web: www.getinvolved.sotw.nhs.uk

South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust is responsible for providing a wide range of community health services in Sunderland, Gateshead and South Tyneside. Residents of Sunderland can become a member of the Trust which can involve:

- receiving information on health care services
- electing the Council of Governors
- becoming a member of the Council of Governors
- taking part in focus groups on particular topics.

For more information about membership and how you can join, please contact:

Tel: 0191 202 4121
Email: chris.morgan@stft.nhs.uk
Web: www.stft.nhs.uk/for-members

It is expected that from 2013, a new group made up of **Sunderland GPs** will be responsible for making sure that local health care services are appropriate and high-quality. The group is starting to look at the best way to involve the public, patients and carers in decisions about these services.

For more information:

Tel: 0191 529 7135
Email: michael.anderson@sotw.nhs.uk

Sunderland's Local Involvement Network (LINK) enables people to influence health and social care services. LINK's encourage and support local people and groups to get involved in how local health and social care services are planned and run. They listen to people's needs and experiences of services.

For more information:

Tel: 0191 565 9045
Email: enquiries@sunderlandlink.org.uk
Web: www.sunderlandlink.org.uk

City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust have set up a **Foundation Community**, made up of members of the public, patients and staff. Members have a direct influence on how local NHS services are developed and provided.

For further information and how to join the Foundation Community:

Tel: 0191 569 9110
Email: corporate.affairs@chsft.nhs.uk
Web: www.sunderland.nhs.uk/chs

You're Welcome is a programme which enables young people to evaluate health services to see if they are young person friendly. Young people are invited to become verifiers to see whether services meet the standards set.

For more information:

Tel: 0191 529 7191
Email: laura.cassidy@sotw.nhs.uk

Sunderland City Council's Health, Housing and Adult Services has a number of ways for people who use social care services, their carers and other interested people to help develop and improve their services. For example, groups meet to talk about developments in Home Support, Day Opportunities, Direct Payments and Individual Budgets. You can be involved through meetings, focus groups or by taking part in surveys.

For more information:

Tel: 0191 566 1876
Email: Philippa.Corner@sunderland.gov.uk

The Sunderland Community Sports Network is a way in which local people can become more involved in improving the quality of services associated with sport, wellness, physical activity, aquatics and play & urban games. Involvement is through meetings, focus groups or customer surveys.

If you would like to have your say on how the leisure service is shaped:

Tel: 0191 520 5555
Email: enquiries@sunderland.gov.uk



Inform the future of housing

The Housing Forum is responsible for improving the quality, choice and range of housing in Sunderland. The Forum aims to help inform how the council develops housing and the future direction of how housing services are delivered in Sunderland. Anyone who is a member of a local residents group is welcome to join the forum.

For more information:

Tel: 0191 561 2440

Email: housing@sunderland.gov.uk

Web: www.sunderland.gov.uk/housing

Sunderland Homeless Forum (SHF) provides people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless the chance to improve the services that are available by completing surveys, by attending forum meetings or providing feedback to the services directly.

If you would like more information about how to be involved, please contact:

Tel: 0191 561 2440

Email: housing@sunderland.gov.uk

Web: www.sunderland.gov.uk/shf

The Private Landlord Forum enables landlords to share their views at forum meetings about any changes to legal and other requirements they have to meet. The forum is a partnership between the Council and landlords and is open to all private landlords across the city.

For more information:

Tel: 0191 561 1240

Email: liz.mcevoy@sunderland.gov.uk

Web: www.sunderland.gov.uk/housing

Gentoo has a wide range of opportunities for local people to get involved and help improve their local neighbourhood, community and Gentoo services. Some examples are:

- **Customer panels** enable customers to become involved in helping make sure services are of a high quality and meet their needs. Customers can attend regular meetings or take part by receiving information in the post or on-line.
- **Local panels:** There is a local customer panel in each of the Gentoo management areas. Customers can get involved and give feedback on local issues and services. Each panel has its own annual budget and customers decide how this is spent to benefit their community.
- **Residents associations** are where a group of people work together to improve the quality of life for everyone living in particular local area. Gentoo works with new and existing groups in their neighbourhoods and supports them to make a real difference to their local areas. Gentoo also supports the work of the Sunderland Residents' Federation.

To find out how to become involved:

Tel: 0191 525 5000

Email: citeam@gentooogroup.com

Web: www.gentooosunderland.com/be_involved



Help to improve services and facilities for children and young people

Sunderland Youth Parliament (SYP) is a group of young people that aim to represent the voices of young people in Sunderland. They produce their own newsletters which can be found at www.letsgosunderland.com/urbanbeat.

To find out how to join and for more information:

Tel: 0191 561 7400 / 07917183469

Email: childrens.services.info@sunderland.gov.uk

Young Asian Voices is a multi-cultural youth project which works with young people from different communities in the city. The project engages young people in decision making, links with other groups such as Sunderland Youth Parliament and runs weekly youth sessions and holiday programmes.

For more information:

Tel: 0191 553 7717

Email: youngasianvoices@hotmail.com

City Equals is a group representing the voice of young people with learning disabilities/difficulties (LDD) living in Sunderland. Members attend regular meetings and promote issues specific to young people with LDD.

To find how to join and for more information:

Tel: 0191 561 7401

Email: childrens.services.info@sunderland.gov.uk

Change Council; Young People in Care Changing Lives is a group representing the voices of children and young people who are in care in Sunderland. Membership involves young people working with senior staff to improve and develop services that affect their lives including monthly meetings and training staff.

To find how to join and for more information:

Tel: 0191 566 1628

Email: childrens.services.info@sunderland.gov.uk

Sunderland Voluntary Sector Youth Forum supports voluntary and community sector groups who work with young people in the city. The forum provides and promotes opportunities for these groups and the young people they represent to have their say on a wide range of issues such as health, poverty and social media.

For further information:

Tel: 0191 565 5144

Email: tracey.morgan@svsysf.org

Web: www.svsyf.org

The Citywide Parents Group enables parents of children aged between 0-12, to shape services and facilities provided in Children's Centres across the city.

The group meets on a monthly basis to discuss current issues. You can find out more about this and other opportunities to get involved by contacting your local Children's Centre Community Involvement Worker.

For more information:

Tel: 0191 520 5505
E-mail: fis@sunderland.gov.uk

Sunderland, Washington & Coalfields Parent Carer Council (SWCPCC) is a voluntary group of parent carers, who work together to influence and improve services for children with disabilities, special and/or additional needs. Parent carers can be involved by attending conferences/workshops, fun events and informal coffee mornings to support each other, socialise and share their views.

For more information:

Tel: 0191 417 5322
Email: swcpcc@googlemail.com
Web: www.swcpcc.org.uk

National Takeover Day gives children and young people the chance to work with adults for the day and be involved in decision-making. Children benefit from the opportunity to experience the world of work and make their voices heard, while adults and organisations gain a fresh perspective on what they do.

For more information:

Tel: 0191 561 7430
Email: childrens.services.info@sunderland.gov.uk



Inform the running of schools

School governors work alongside headteachers to make key decisions vital to the successful running of the school.

Governors play an important role in improving school standards and responsibilities include attending regular meetings, helping to draw up the school development plan, agreeing the school's budget and monitoring performance.

For more information:

Contact: Governor Support Team

Tel: 0191 561 2626

Email: governor@sunderland.gov.uk

Web: www.sunderland.gov.uk/schoolgovernors

School councils encourage children and young people to become more actively involved in the development of their school. Over the years, school councils have been consulted on various issues such as the appointment of staff, changes to uniform, tackling bullying, the school environment and charity fund raising.

Ask at your school for further information on your school council.



Help to improve services and facilities for people aged 50+

50+ Forums operate across the city to enable the voice of individuals to be heard. Issues range from health and social care to transport and social exclusion. Anyone aged 50+ is welcome to come along. The issues raised are considered in all policies, new developments and new services across the city. Results of actions are communicated back to the Forums.

For more information:

Tel: 0191 514 8321
Email: goodneighbour@ageuksunderland.org.uk
Visit: Age UK Sunderland, Bradbury Centre,
Stockton Road, Sunderland SR2 7AQ
Web: www.ageuksunderland.org.uk

Your local Councillor and MP

There are 75 elected **Councillors** in Sunderland who are there to represent your views. Councillors hold ward surgeries specifically to talk to local residents.

There are three **Members of Parliament (MPs)** for Sunderland and they represent the views of their constituents in the House of Commons. MPs should be contacted regarding central government policies.

For further information:

Tel: 0191 561 1330
Email: member.services@sunderland.gov.uk
Web: www.sunderland.gov.uk/contactyourcouncillor
www.sunderland.gov.uk/politicians

**If you would like a copy of this booklet in an alternative language,
large text, braille or audio format, please telephone 0191 520 5555.**

This booklet is printed using vegetable-based inks on post-consumer waste recycled paper. Please recycle in your Kerb-it box or at your nearest paper bank. For more information on kerbside collections or details of your nearest paper recycling facility visit www.sunderland.gov.uk/recycling.

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