



Annual Report of the Area Committees

2025–26

**Sunderland
City Council**

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Introduction

The Area Arrangements Annual Report for 2025–26 outlines the work delivered over the past year by the Coalfield, East, North, Washington and West Sunderland Area Committees and their partners. This activity continues to demonstrate the value and impact of effective partnership working at a local level.

This report reflects progress made during what was originally the final year of the 2023–26 Area Plans. In response to emerging priorities, and to ensure continuity and stability for communities and partners, the Area Plans have been extended for a further year and will now run through to 2026–27. The plans are underpinned by a strong evidence base and local insight, ensuring that agreed priorities reflect the needs of residents while contributing to the wider ambitions of the City Plan.

Area Committees play a key role in shaping, coordinating and supporting activity within their communities. Through targeted investment, project delivery and close collaboration with partner organisations and the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector, they enable initiatives that respond directly to local priorities. The contribution of organisations and groups across all five areas has supported the delivery of a wide range of services and activities, a selection of which is highlighted within this report.

During the year, £2,052,208 of Area Committee funding was allocated across the city. This investment supported local partners to secure an additional £873,866 in external funding, further enhancing provision

and extending the reach of community-based services. More detailed information on expenditure and outcomes is provided within the individual area summaries that follow.

The continued contribution of Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector organisations and partner agencies remains integral to the delivery of local priorities. These organisations provide vital support to residents of all ages, supported by strong and ongoing relationships with the five Area VCSE Networks linked to each Area Committee.

The report also recognises the ongoing work of the Area Arrangements team in supporting community groups, developing projects, administering grants and maintaining positive relationships with residents and partners. Over the course of the year, the team processed 378 grant payments to 193 VCSE organisations.

Area Committees and Supporting Communities

Area Committees in Sunderland are each made up of local councillors, who use local knowledge and evidence to identify priorities for action in the area for the benefit of the area's neighbourhoods and communities. They put Area Plans in place to support the delivery of the City Plan at a local level, with an area-specific focus relevant to the unique requirements of that area.

Each Area Plan is used to develop, fund and deliver initiatives and projects in collaboration with partners and VCSE organisations, to strengthen communities.

Sunderland City Council is committed to supporting and developing community resilience in the city. This aim for the city is delivered at a local level through the work of the Area Committees and their supporting Neighbourhood and Community Boards. The Area Committee Councillors from the area's wards work closely with council officers, service delivery partners and members of the Area Voluntary, Community and Enterprise Sector Network (VCSEN).

The role of the Area Committee is to:

- Identify the main priorities that reflect the biggest need in the area;
- Develop efficient and effective solutions to local area priorities as well as

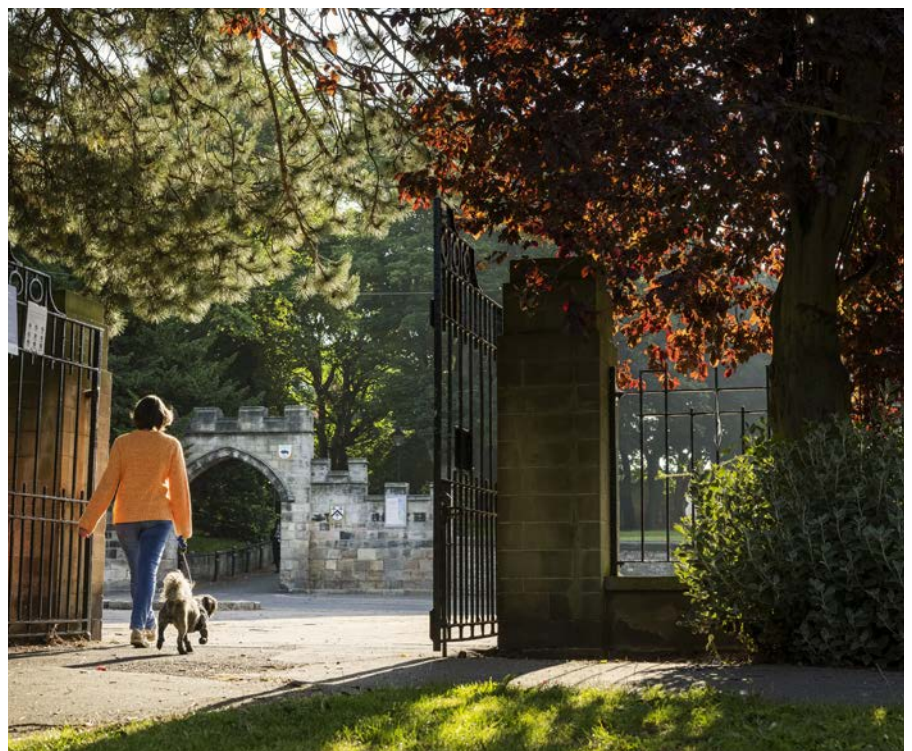
supporting city-wide issues; and

- Encourage local residents to become involved in decision making on matters which affect them.

They do this in many ways, one of which is providing funding to take forward projects that deliver their identified priorities. Each of the Area Committees hold delegated budgets in the form of the Neighbourhood Fund and Community Chest. These budgets are allocated to support projects and initiatives that can demonstrate that their work will contribute to delivery of the Areas' identified priorities.

The focus of this locally delegated funding is as follows:

- Developing community capacity in localities, often involving volunteering to make things happen;
- Funding 'one off' projects where work would not otherwise be taken forward;
- Acting as a catalyst to lever funding from other sources; and
- Implementing specific local actions to deliver priorities.



Area Committees and VCSE Networks

Area Voluntary, Community and Enterprise Sector (VCSE) Networks operate in each of the five areas of the city - Coalfield, East, North, Washington and West.

The Networks aims are:

- To develop the capacity and influence of the VCSE across the city, through open communication and partnership working;
- To work together to build relationships within communities and between communities and local services and activities;
- To act as the recognised route of council engagement with the VCSE within each geographical area;
- To work together to develop and share good VCSE practice; and
- To provide up to three delegates to represent the sector at Sunderland City Council's Area Committees, influencing strategic policies and priorities that affect local communities and the VCSE. The delegates will represent the whole VCSE in their geographical area at the Area Committee rather than their own organisational interests.

The VCSE Networks support the development and delivery of the Area Plans in meeting community needs. They help to build the community's capacity to engage in the development and delivery of services through relevant Networks to ensure inclusivity. The value of the VCSE and the positive

impact made by the sector is demonstrated within quarterly reports presented to each Area Committee meeting.

Membership is open to all VCSE organisations which operate in Sunderland, and meetings also include representatives from any sector working (or volunteering) in the area. This can be representatives from public and statutory authorities such as the council, Police and Health Services or other organisations such as Gentoo, local schools and businesses who have a commitment to working with and supporting the VCSE. All organisations attending the VCSE Networks are encouraged and supported to work in a productive and positive way to benefit the community.

Meetings are held regularly, and Area Committees support the

networks by operating under a co-chairing arrangement involving the Area Committee Chair or Vice Chair and a Network delegate.

The Network representatives regularly consult with the Network to ensure that the agenda items reflect their requirements and also ensure that they take forward issues on behalf of the whole VCSE in the area to the Area Committees and reporting back therefore providing a two way flow of communication. This approach is welcomed by the Area Committee and assists them in the effective delivery of their Area Plan ensuring a partnership approach that meets the needs of all within local communities.





Coalfield Sunderland Annual Report 2025–26

The 2025–2026 Coalfield Annual Report provides an overview of key activities and achievements delivered in support of residents and communities across the Coalfield area.

This year marks the third year of delivery against the original three-year Area Plan (2023–2026). In response to emerging needs and local priorities, the plan has been extended to 2026/2027. This allows continued progress against established priorities while ensuring activity remains responsive to the needs of local communities.

Throughout the year, work has focused on delivering positive outcomes through strong partnership working, particularly with organisations in the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector. Their local knowledge, expertise and commitment have supported the development of projects and ensured funding is directed to areas of greatest need. This has led to a broad range of initiatives, including social

and wellbeing programmes and environmental improvements, benefiting residents of all ages while increasing community-led activity. Ongoing engagement continues to inform priorities and guide effective resource allocation.

The Coalfield area benefits from distinctive outdoor spaces that contribute to its green and attractive environment. Work has continued in partnership with council services, local organisations, volunteers and friends groups to maintain and enhance these areas, supporting community pride and helping ensure they remain clean, safe and welcoming.

Supporting children and young people remains a key priority. Activity has focused on providing positive opportunities that build confidence, develop skills and offer new experiences. During the year, 12 organisations delivered holiday activity programmes across all wards, contributing to positive outcomes for young people.

Community events continue to play an important role in bringing people together and celebrating local identity and diversity. In partnership with organisations across the public and voluntary sectors, support has been provided for well attended events including Coalfield Pride, Elemore Festival and Houghton Feast.

The continued contribution of partner organisations and council officers has enabled effective delivery of priorities, ensuring activity remains responsive to local needs. Ongoing engagement with Elected Members will support this work as it continues into the final year of the Area Plan.

This report highlights key achievements across the Coalfield area. As we move into 2026–2027, we remain committed to listening to communities and focusing on what matters most to residents.

Coalfield Area Committee

Coalfield Area Priorities set out in the 2023–2027 Delivery Plan were outlined as follows:

- Can Do Project to develop skills of young people
- Develop digital skills of residents
- Support to residents to improve financial resilience
- A VAS and Road Safety programme
- A tree planting programme across the area
- Low carbon initiatives in the community
- Positive activities for young people during school holidays
- Youth clubs in each of the four wards
- A Coalfield Healthy and Active Teen (CHAT) programme
- Activities to reduce Social Isolation
- Social Prescribing Services
- Heritage Activities and Community Events
- Improvements to Parks and open spaces
- Proactive Coalfield Anti-social behaviour (ASB) project and tackling Motorcycle ASB
- Environmental improvements
- Support for VCSE organisations and Community Hubs
- Improvements to Community Assets

Coalfield Area key highlights

From our 2025–26 allocated budgets, we approved almost **£330,000** of area budget to deliver projects to meet identified priorities. Key highlights of the year, include:

Three major community events, Houghton Feast, Elemore Festival and Coalfield Pride attracted around 11,500 attendees, celebrating local culture and bringing communities together.

£70,995 was invested in holiday activity programmes, enabling 12 organisations to deliver 120 sessions for 642 children, offering a wide range of arts, cookery and outdoor activities.

Environmental initiatives such as Clean it Green delivered 400 clean-ups, removing 850 bags of waste and improving 15,000m² of public space.

Youth provision through Coalfield Youth Choices saw continued

growth, with 324 new participants and over 4,000 visits, offering safe activities and supporting wellbeing.

Projects such as Links with Nature have enhanced green spaces, improved biodiversity and strengthened community engagement, while supporting health and wellbeing, with a footfall of 916 residents engaging in activities that promote healthier lifestyles.

£65,185 was invested in funding, which supported 11 organisations to improve community facilities, including upgrades to buildings and key infrastructure.

Community programmes tackling loneliness reached 2,785 residents

through social, wellbeing and inclusive activities.

The CAN DO project enabled young people to lead five projects, investing **£3,750** in youth-led community initiatives.

Neighbourhood Funding supported 70 projects with over 30 partners and attracted **£61,700** in match funding.

£39,991 of Community Chest funding supported 48 local projects, including lunch clubs, community events and facility improvements.

Coalfield Area Committee our year in numbers

£325k 

Neighbourhood
funding awarded

66 

Projects developed and funded
via Neighbourhood Funding

2,628 

Individual children and young
people attended holiday clubs
and activities

139 

People moved
into employment

48 

VCSE organisations supported
with Community Chest funding

844 

Residents supported to
improve digital skills

2,785 

Number of residents accessing
social isolation activities

471 

Community clean ups carried
out as part of the Clean it,
Green it project

1,534 

Number of individuals
signposted

2,004 

Number of new children and
young people engaged in
holiday clubs and activities

1,110 

Residents given advice
and support to improve
financial wellbeing

3,000 

Volunteers participating
in environmental
improvement activities

Coalfield Area Committee our year in images





East Sunderland Annual Report 2025–2026

The 2025–2026 East Sunderland Annual Report provides an overview of key activities and achievements delivered across communities in the East of the city over the past 12 months.

Supporting children, young people and families has remained a key priority. Activity has included the continuation of funded youth sessions, the relaunch of the 'Fancy a Day Out' (FADO) holiday programme, and the introduction of small grants to support innovative, youth-led projects, enabling young people to shape their own activities.

In addition, funding has supported East-based charity Love Amelia to provide families with essential item packs.

Improving the local environment has also remained a focus. Ongoing support has been provided to the East Rangers, alongside improvements to the Stephenson Trail and delivery of targeted enhancements through the Ward Improvement Budget.

Activity continues to be informed by local need, with a focus on engaging residents and delivering projects that make

a positive and measurable difference within communities.

The contribution of council officers, partner organisations, and voluntary, community and social enterprise sector groups has been integral to the successful delivery of activity across the East area.

As delivery progresses into the extended final year of the Area Plan (2026–2027), work will continue to focus on responding to local priorities and supporting outcomes that benefit residents and communities.

East Area Committee

East Area Priorities set out in the 2023–27 Delivery Plan were outlined as follows:

- An evaluation of the Go Get Online project and consider future delivery
- Low carbon initiatives in the community
- Youth clubs in each of the five wards
- Information on what support the Youth Consortium require to build capacity and attract external funds
- An understanding of external funding opportunities for Youth Activities during school holidays and consider the gap in provision
- Projects that increase physical and wellbeing activities for young people and support healthier lifestyles and lessen the impact of the cost-of-living crisis
- Improve social prescribing
- Improve green spaces including fruit orchards and wildflowers
- Receive information on the Rangers projects and consider future delivery
- Receive information on the Enforcement project and consider future delivery
- Deliver the WOW features project
- Deliver improvements to community assets
- Deliver a Walk and Talk programme (Ward Improvement Budget)
- Support community assets to develop, grow and sustain
- Improve the Stephenson Trail
- Supported St Michael's and Ryhope Community Centre projects
- Receive updates on highways schemes and consider future options

East Area key highlights

From our 2025–26 allocated budgets, we approved over **£417,864** to deliver projects to meet identified priorities. Examples of funding awarded are:

Community Chest, awarded grants averaging **£980** to 51 groups, supporting various projects from sessions to improve Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing to Recycling and Pre-loved Initiatives.

An allocation of **£125,000** has been made to sustain year-round youth provision (50 weeks per year) for young people aged 11+ across all five wards in the east area. This year (to date), 486 new children and young people have attended these sessions (footfall 7,206).

Love Amelia, an east area-based charity, supporting children and families experiencing poverty, has been provided with **£21,196** to provide packs of essential items to over 400 children and families.

The Neighbourhood Funding has attracted over **£123,112** in match funding.

£105,226 was awarded to six groups to extend the East Rangers project to encourage volunteering and environmental improvements in each ward across the East. In 2025–26 alone, the project engaged 536 volunteers; carried out 3,405 volunteer hours of environmental works; and collected over 3,000 bags of litter.

13 groups of young people led 'Can Do' projects which received a small grant. Projects supported include musical Instruments to be played by the young people; silent disco equipment; and a 'History of Hendon' girls' group project.

£64,455 was aligned to support a further phase of the Fancy a Day Out holiday activity programme for the 2025–26 academic year.

Councillors distributed **£74,987** to ward-based projects through their Ward Improvement Budget, schemes included: highways improvements; outdoor play equipment; improvements to parks; Christmas lights; and Anti-Social Behaviour infrastructure measures.

A **£10,000** contribution has been made to support the installation of the East Area Playzone at Barley Mow Park Hendon. This is a multi-used games facility.

East Area Committee our year in numbers

£417k 

Neighbourhood Funding
awarded to 69 projects

£50k 

Community Chest funding
awarded to 51 groups

60 

VCSE groups/projects
received an area grant

13 

Number of small grants given
out to young people-led projects

1,461 

Volunteers involved in
area activities

12K 

Hours of in-kind support
provided by volunteers

811 

Litter picks/community
clean-ups carried out

3,498 

Bags of waste cleared from
neighbourhoods by East
Rangers and volunteers

142 

Motorcycle disorder
patrols carried out

835 

Number of activities
delivered for children and
young people

2,079 

Number of NEW children
and young people taking part
in activity

19K 

Number of children and
young people (footfall)
benefiting from projects

East Area Committee our year in images





North Sunderland Annual Report 2025–2026

The 2025–2026 North Sunderland Annual Report provides an overview of key activities and achievements delivered for residents and communities across the North of the city.

This year marks the third year of delivery against the original three-year Area Plan (2023–2026). In response to local priorities and the need for continued engagement with residents and partners, the plan has been extended for a further year and will now run through to 2026–2027. This extension supports ongoing engagement and enables continued focus on the issues that matter most to local communities.

Through strong partnership working with VCSE organisations, council

services and other partners, a wide range of services, activities and events have been delivered across Sunderland North. Targeted investment has supported activity in areas of greatest need, contributing to positive outcomes for residents. The commitment, expertise and local knowledge of partner organisations have been integral to this delivery.

During the year, Ranger projects have been introduced in several areas, supporting environmental improvements, maintaining clean and safe spaces, and encouraging community involvement. Investment has also been directed towards essential improvement works within community centres, recognising their importance as valued local

assets that support a wide range of community activity.

Supporting children and young people remains a key priority. Funding has been allocated to deliver youth provision over a three-year period, alongside investment in improvements to play areas to enhance opportunities for children and families. Work has also continued in partnership with organisations supporting residents most in need, contributing to wider efforts to address poverty and inequality.

The contribution of council officers, partner organisations, and voluntary and community groups has been integral to the successful delivery of activity across the North area.

North Area Committee

North Area Priorities set out in the 2023–27 Delivery Plan were outlined as follows:

- Ward Based Raising Aspiration Projects
- Communication Project
- Benefit Advice/Guidance for Residents focusing on Digital Inclusion
- Low Carbon Initiatives
- Provision of a wide range of Youth Activities
- North Quarry Run
- Play Zone Project
- Health and Wellbeing
- Wildlife, Walking, Cycling and Running Destinations
- Social Prescribing Services and Activities
- Heritage and Culture
- Events
- Regeneration of Thompson Park
- Support to VCS & Community Hubs
- Redevelopment of Downhill Wheeled Sports Park Site
- Roker & Seaburn Washing Facilities
- Projects which address Motorcycle Disorder

North Area key highlights

From our 2025–26 allocated budgets, we approved over **£583,815** to deliver projects to meet identified priorities. Examples include:

£49,867 of Community Chest funding was awarded to local groups delivering a total of 52 community projects. Awards have included funding towards diving equipment for archaeology in the River Wear; funding for the Summer Streets festival; school holiday programmes; as well as funding for vital equipment and training. The average grant was **£959**.

Sunderland Altogether Youth Consortium was awarded **£300,000** for a three year programme of comprehensive youth activities. This should reach over 900 children and young people.

Two three year Ranger projects, covering Castle & Redhill, and Fulwell wards have been awarded **£150,000** to improve and maintain their respective areas. Already, these projects have improved over 1,700m² of greenspace, and cleared nearly 60 bags of waste

£10,000 was awarded to Friends of Fulwell War Memorial, to finalise the installation of the War Memorial. This now provides a place of quiet reflection in honour of fallen servicemen and women.

A total of **£41,012** was allocated to various Christmas projects across the area, bringing the magic of Christmas to hundreds of residents.

Two play areas in the North, Roker Park and Rotherfield Road, will benefit from over **£65,000** of funding to replace old equipment and maintain a high quality play area.

Love, Amelia helps families and children across the city by providing vital equipment and essential items.

£20,000 has been awarded to support 400 families and children in poverty in the North

£49,759 has been allocated to Community Centres and venues across the area to fund vital repairs

and improvements, allowing the centres to remain open and continue serving their communities.

Awarding Neighbourhood Funding has allowed VCSE organisations to benefit from over **£200,000** in match funding, further enhancing the investment in the North area.

North Area Committee our year in numbers

£534k 

Neighbourhood funding
awarded to 20 projects during
2025-26

£50k 

Was awarded to 52 projects
via Community Chest, with
an average grant of £959 to
support neighbourhood projects

445 

Litter Picks across
the North

1,660 

Young People engaged in youth
activities - footfall

8,421m²

Greenspace Area Improved
Across the North

2,739 

Volunteer hours delivered across
all Neighbourhood Funded and
Community Chest Projects

13K 

Attended community events
across the North

2,910 

Adults enjoying a healthier
lifestyle as a result of projects

6 

Community Centres receiving
vital improvements

76 

NEW volunteers taking part
in community initiatives

4,000 

Local Residents signposted to
VCSE organisations for advice,
guidance and support

£200K 

Match funding received by
VCSE organisations as a result
of Area Committee funding

North Area Committee our year in images





Washington Annual Report 2025–26

The 2025–2026 Washington Annual Report provides an overview of key activities and achievements delivered in support of residents and communities across the Washington area.

During 2025–2026, the third year of delivery against the Washington Area Plan (2023–2026) was completed. In response to local priorities and ongoing engagement with residents and partners, the plan has been extended for a further year and will now run through to 2026–2027. This extension enables continued focus on agreed priorities and supports sustained delivery of activity aligned to local need.

Activity throughout the year has been underpinned by strong partnership working, particularly with the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector, ensuring that resources are targeted where they can have the greatest impact. VCSE organisations have played a key role in delivering a wide range of initiatives, including social engagement and health and wellbeing activities. Their local insight continues to inform priorities and support effective decision-making around funding and delivery.

During the year, over £403,000 of Area Committee funding was approved to support projects

aligned to identified priorities, enabling the delivery of a range of services, activities and interventions across the Washington area.

The contribution of council officers, partner organisations, and voluntary and community groups has been integral to the successful delivery of activity across Washington.

As delivery progresses into the extended final year of the Area Plan (2026–2027), activity will continue to focus on responding to local priorities and supporting positive outcomes for residents and communities.

Washington Area Committee

Washington Area Priorities set out in the 2023-27 Delivery Plan were outlined as follows:

- A plantation and tree management programme
- Washington Clean and Green project
- Support for VCSE organisations and community hubs
- A Heritage and Culture programme
- A road safety and VAS programme
- Celebrations for Washington 60
- Recognition of Washington volunteers
- A feasibility study for the vision of Fatfield Riverside development
- A programme of outreach and diversionary youth provision
- Neighbourhood management and enforcement
- Investment in parks and play areas
- Positive activities for young people during school holidays
- Improved access to allotments and community gardens
- Supporting people into work and developing skills of young people
- Providing individual welfare and financial support

Washington Area key highlights

From our available budgets, over **£403,832** was approved to deliver projects to meet identified priorities. Examples include:

£50,000 of Community Chest funding supported 64 groups, providing an average grant of £780 for activities such as VE Day celebrations, new uniforms, equipment, and community events.

£99,997 funded the Washington Events Programme, delivering major events including the Christmas lights switch-on and summer carnival, attracting more than 13,000 attendees.

The Creative You project engaged 191 young people in workshops such as filmmaking, art, crafts and writing.

Neighbourhood Funding of **£99,461** supported 12 organisations to provide school holiday activities across all wards, including sports like swimming, trampolining and football.

Oxclose and District Young People's Project received **£45,500** to support 16-19-year-olds, with 19 participants completing a 20-week programme and progressing into education, training or employment.

Washington Clean & Green contributed over 19,000 volunteer hours to environmental improvements, tackling litter and fly-tipping while building skills.

£17,000 was awarded to the Washington Individual Support Project, helping 184 residents in crisis with welfare, housing, debt and benefits advice.

Tyne & Wear Fire and Rescue Service delivered nine school programmes with 94% attendance.

Washington Heritage Partnership has continued their amazing work celebrating the heritage and history

of Washington. Eight cultural, heritage, and community events were delivered, with 336 visitors attending. A total of 107 volunteers supported activities.

A **£10,000** contribution supported the new multi-use Playzone at Usworth Park.

Neighbourhood Funding investment of **£50,024** improved community safety through enforcement and partnership work, including 466 actions tackling ASB and environmental crime, alongside increased patrols and joint interventions.

A **£75,000** ward improvement budget supported eight projects, including parking improvements, lighting upgrades, road resurfacing, signage and enhancements to local spaces.

Washington Area Committee our year in numbers

£403k 

Neighbourhood funding was awarded to 24 projects

£50k 

Community Chest was awarded to 64 local groups

690 

Enforcement actions carried out

15,160 

Residents participated in local events and celebrations.

2,137 

Individual children and young people benefited from positive holiday activities

703 

Young people benefitted from the NEET (Not in Employment Education or Training programme)

146 

Cultural and heritage events delivered

58 

Individuals supported to become more financially resilient

75 

Finance or welfare advice sessions delivered in local venues

418 

New people accessing digital support

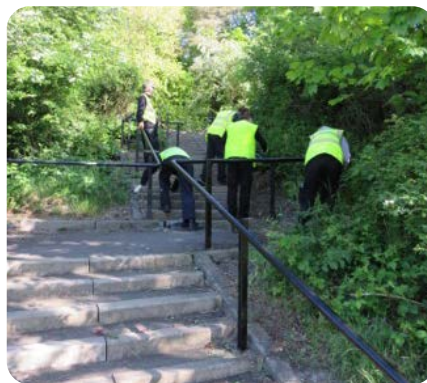
17 

Young people benefited from financial awareness programmes

277 

Community clean ups and litter picks

Washington Area Committee our year in images





West Sunderland Annual Report 2025–26

The 2025–2026 West Sunderland Annual Report provides an overview of progress made and key achievements delivered for residents and communities across the West area over the past year.

This period marks the completion of the third year of delivery under the original three-year Area Plan (2023–2026). In response to local priorities and the need to maintain momentum, the plan has been extended for a further year and will now run through to 2026–2027. This extension supports continued focus on agreed priorities and sustained delivery of activity aligned to local need.

Activity has been delivered through strong partnership working with council services, partner organisations and the

voluntary, community and social enterprise sector, enabling a range of initiatives that support positive outcomes for residents.

Key achievements during the year include:

- Delivery of a three-day event in Barnes Park, engaging 677 pupils from local primary schools and attracting approximately 8,000 residents.
- Provision of 818 youth sessions, supporting young people from across the area.
- Investment in improvements at 15 locations to enhance green spaces, contributing to safer and more welcoming environments.
- Targeted activity to address anti-social behaviour (ASB) and

environmental enforcement issues, resulting in 834 actions.

- Delivery of 439 litter picks and community clean-up activities, supporting local environmental quality.

The contribution of council officers, partner organisations, and voluntary and community groups has been integral to the successful delivery of activity across the West area.

This report highlights a selection of achievements from the past year. As delivery progresses into the extended final year of the Area Plan (2026–2027), activity will continue to focus on responding to local priorities and ensuring that the needs and views of residents and communities remain central to delivery.

West Area Committee

West Area Priorities set out in the 2023–27 Delivery Plan were outlined as follows:

- Tackle Anti-Social Behaviour and Environmental Enforcement
- A project to tackle school parking
- Environmental improvements and improved green spaces
- Improved community assets
- An improved social prescribing offer
- Improved youth activities including cultural and enrichment activities and raised aspirations.
- Improved access to digital support
- A map of defibrillators across the West
- Initiatives to support mental health and wellbeing in young people and to reduce child poverty and child obesity
- Additional Heritage Walks
- Help the VCSE to grow their capacity and grow more community groups
- Improved access to Welfare Right support

West Area key highlights

From our 2025–26 allocated budgets, we approved over **£469,000** to deliver projects to meet identified priorities. Examples of funding awarded are:

57 groups received Community Chest grants totalling **£60,000**, with grants averaging **£1,052**, supporting various projects from sessions to improve Mental Health and Wellbeing to Safer School Parking Initiatives.

Neighbourhood Funding supported 32 projects across the year totalling **£469,663**, whilst also attracting **£126,953** in match funding.

Youth provision remained a priority, with **£166,550** of Neighbourhood Funding supporting open sessions, targeted ASB work and outreach across all six wards. In total, 818 free sessions were delivered for young people aged 10–19.

Targeted ASB sessions and outreach supported at-risk young people, diverting activity from hotspots while building confidence and reducing isolation. Sessions were

increasingly co-designed by young people, with over 900 volunteer hours contributed.

Neighbourhood Funding of **£120,000** supported Clean and Green initiatives and Ranger services, delivering 299 clean-ups, improving public spaces, and tackling issues such as graffiti and vegetation, with 1,894 volunteer hours contributing to community pride

Neighbourhood Funding strengthened community safety through high-visibility enforcement and partnership work, including 714 actions tackling ASB and environmental crime, increased patrols, and joint interventions improving reassurance and reducing repeat incidents.

Additional work to tackle motorcycle disorder led to 120 enforcement actions, including 48 vehicle

seizures, alongside targeted patrols to improve safety in parks and green spaces.

£116,185 of Neighbourhood Funding supported highway and infrastructure improvements, including safer parking near schools, resurfacing, and upgrades such as fencing, lighting and CCTV, improving safety and accessibility.

Community events and learning activities were supported with **£55,212** of Community Chest and Neighbourhood Funding, including a large multi-day event at Barnes Park and a range of school, cultural, and inclusive programmes.

West Area Committee our year in numbers

£470k 

Neighbourhood funding approved to 32 projects

£60k 

Community Chest grant was awarded to 57 groups

146 

Number of new volunteers

15,207 

Young people engaged in youth activities - footfall

8k 

Attended the West Area Event in Barnes Park 2025

4,863 

Number of hours delivered by volunteers across all Neighbourhood Funded and Community Chest Projects

834 

Number of enforcement actions

7,456m² 

Amount of highways, cycle, pathways and greenspaces improved

15 

Spaces made safer by environmental improvements

457 

Children and Young People were provided with transport to visit SafetyWorks! TWFRS Education Centre

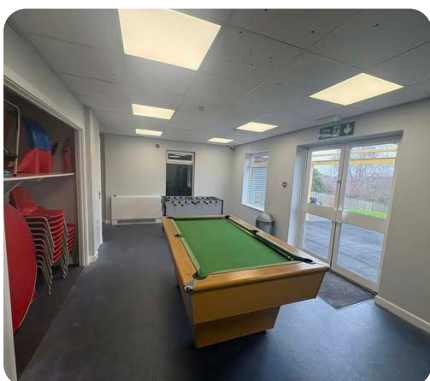
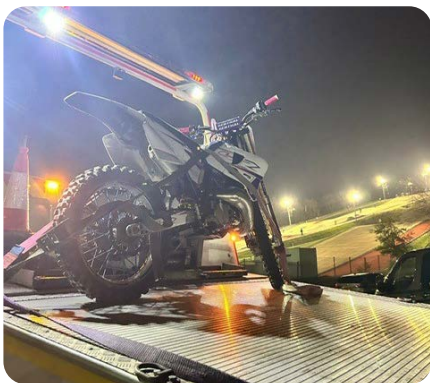
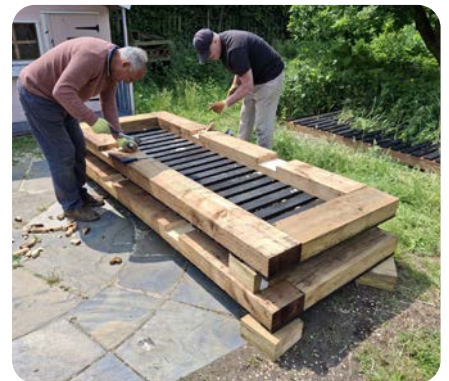
2,401 

People attended Small local Community Events across the West Area

3,219 

children across the West have benefited from enriching new activities and equipment

West Area Committee our year in images



The year ahead

Over the coming year, Area Committees will review progress to date, ensuring that priorities remain relevant and responsive to the evolving needs of local residents and communities. This work supports the delivery of Sunderland City Council's Stronger Communities Strategy, which emphasises building resilient, inclusive communities through collaboration, local empowerment, and early intervention.

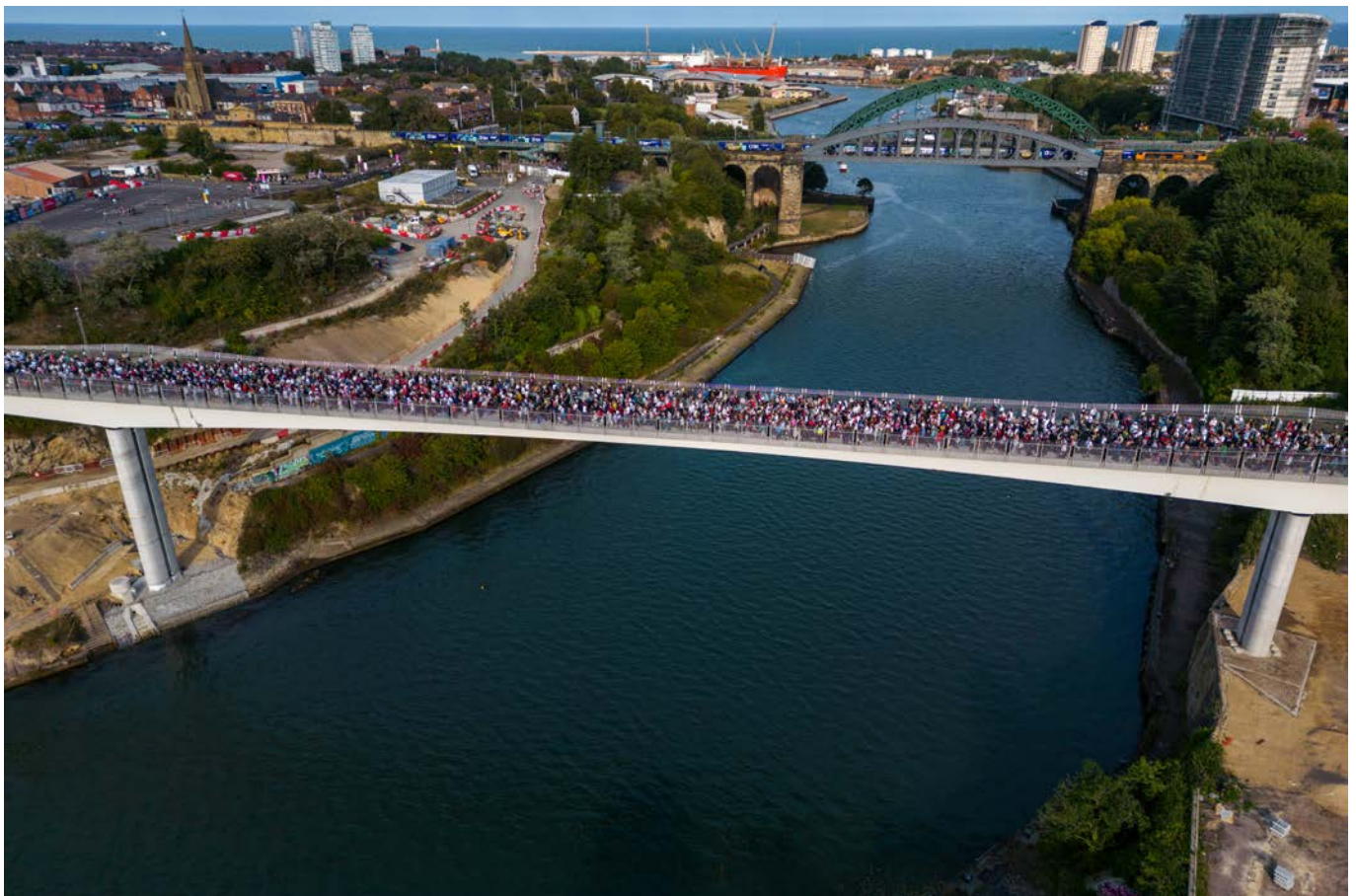
Alongside this, focus will be placed on planning and delivering the final year of the Area Plan priorities, maintaining close collaboration with service leads, partners, and voluntary, community, and social enterprise sector (VCSE) organisations.

We recognise the importance of remaining adaptable in the face of ongoing challenges, with area budgets aligned where appropriate to respond effectively. Strong communication will continue to be central to our approach, alongside our ongoing commitment to partnership working with the VCSE. Recent experiences have reinforced the vital contribution these organisations make within neighbourhoods, providing facilities, services, and valuable local insight that support the delivery of Area Committee priorities.

The 2023-2027 Area Committee Plans will be reviewed and updated in line with the City Plan, helping to shape future

priorities and inform the development of the next Area Plans. Delivery of projects will continue in partnership with VCSE networks, local communities, Area Neighbourhood and Community Boards, and Area Committees.

As 2026 -2027 marks the final year of the current Area Plans the Area Arrangements Team will work closely with Area Committees, officers, partners and residents to develop Area Plans and priorities for 2027-2030. Those plans will be based on resident insight and data that will inform need at a very local level and based on new ward and Area Committee Boundaries.



Area Committees 2026–27

