InformationNOW
Information for people in Newcastle upon Tyne

Get involved in your community

Many people want to be more involved in their local community, volunteer for something they are passionate about or get involved in a group to speak up about issues. This article gives some ideas on how to get involved in research, share your experiences to improve services, share your skills with or speak up for your your community This may be called activism, involvement, engagement, co-production or collaboration.

Academic and research opportunities

VOICE (Valuing Our Intellectual Capital and Experience) at Newcastle University, involves members of the public in research. Members work with academics to improve the focus, quality, relevance and impact of research, to make a positive difference to people's lives.

National Institute for Health Research Clinical Research Network North East and North Cumbria welcome people to get involved in health research. You can visit the **NIHR local network site for opportunities to take part in health research.** You could also donate a blood sample to the NIHR BioResource and get matched into research studies based on variations in your DNA, health and lifestyle information, your age, gender or ethnicity.

The Fuse Public Involvement and Engagement Group (PIEG) welcome members of the public, service users, carers, patients, families and local communities to get involved in research activities. You don't need any specific knowledge or previous experience, just an interest in public health research and some time to commit to sharing your thoughts and ideas. To get involved you can register your interest using their online form here

The Elders Council Research and Impact Group is for members who are interested in research and how it impacts older people in Newcastle, it involves working with partners such as the Healthy Ageing Policy Research Unit. If you are interested you can call 0191 2082701.

Communities

ACORN Community Union is a mass membership organisation (community union) and network of low-income people organising action for communities. Their community action is aimed at companies, councils, and parliament.

BeTrans offer opportunities where you can share experiences and views to raise awareness and educate organisations about supporting trans people.

Dwellbeing Shieldfield is a community group and co-operative for people of all ages and backgrounds living working or studying in Shieldfield. They host projects, research, social

activities and events in Shieldfield. This includes youth programmes, community archives, community chefs, community gardens, neighbourhood care walkarounds and more.

Elders Council of Newcastle is a membership organisation for people aged 50 and over in Newcastle upon Tyne. They meet to address the issues that are important to older people across the city.

Haref work with ethnically marginalised communities to identify their key issues around health and improve the health information available to them

Lifting Neighbourhoods Together support people living in Walker and Byker in developing community led groups and activities.

The North East LGBT Federation works to unite LGBT people, groups, organisations and communities across the North East to act together as one voice for the North East LGBTQ+ communities.

Tyne and Wear Citizens assembly is a community action group. They work together to discuss issues that matter to you, to improve the local community. You can join them to share your ideas and work on a plan of action. The group is made up of people from local churches, mosques, schools, charities, trade union branches and a university. Together, they focus on injustices in local communities and campaign for local action.

Cancer

Northern Cancer Voices are a group of volunteers and health professionals from the North of England that give their views on cancer services.

Community consultations and engagements

Lets Talk Newcastle is Newcastle Councils official consultation and public engagement platform for Newcastle. You can register for an account on the website and have your say on consultations in Newcastle ranging from transport and roads to services and green spaces.

You can also look for public consultation and engagement events happening in person or online in Newcastle on InformationNOW

Dementia

DEEP – Dementia Engagement and Empowerment Project is a network that connects groups of people with dementia together to share their voice and experiences, get involved in research, consultations and projects.

Dementia Voice is ran by Alzheimers Society and offers opportunities to people affected by dementia to use their personal experiences to help shape services, research, publications and other work. As well as working with local and national staff from Alzheimers Society, you could also be sharing your views and experiences with local councils, museums, art galleries, NHS, banks and shops. They run local or regional and national Dementia Voice groups as well as a

three nations (England, Northern Ireland and Wales) working group

Disability

Skills for People have groups for people with learning disabilities and their families to get involved in research and campaigns to improve services for people with learning disabilities. Their Geordie Voices group is a campaign and support group of self-advocates, made up of people with learning disabilities and autistic people, from the North East of England. They also have a Geordie Mums group that is a support and involvement group that shares experiences of what its like to be a mum with learning disabilities. to midwives and social workers.

SCOPE Community Engagement Programme is for disabled people aged 18 and over and families, parents and unpaid carers of disabled children. You can join the community engagement group to share your views and experience on campaigns, services and support training designed and developed by local people. The group meets once a month. You can register your interest to join using their online form here, or contact the North East co-ordinator: Ree Young on ree.young@scope.org.uk

Environment and nature

Climate Action Newcastle have monthly member meet ups in person and online.

GreenPeace Newcastle have monthly member meet ups at Newcastle Recovery College

Threads in the Ground welcome volunteers and people with lived experience to support their climate change and nature based projects. Their Hereditary footprint project is aimed at people from or living in ex-mining communities. You can get supported to host a 'warm grain gathering' which is a community meal with a climate change or sustainable food topic to discuss.

There are many **Friends of parks and green spaces** groups for Newcastle, where you can get involved supporting your local green space:

Friends of Heaton and Armstrong Parks

Exhibition and Brandling Parks Trust

Friends of Gosforth Central Park

Friends of Paddy Freeman's Park

Friends of Havannah

Friends of Iris Brickfield

Friends of Jesmond Dene

The Friends of Leazes Park

Friends of Denton Dene

Newburn Volunteer Rangers

Friends of Nuns Moor Park

Friends of Sugley Dene

Friends of Summerhill

Friends of Throckley and Walbottle Dene

Friends of Walker Park

Urban Green Park Action is an involvement group for people interested in Newcastles parks, green spaces and local issues related to them. You may be interested in a particular park or a key issue like biodiversity, safety or conservation.

Health Services Patient feedback

Your views are important and can help to improve health services. Read more about how to **have your say about health services.**

Subscribe to InfoNOW News which features opportunities to get involved in local research studies, consultation

---

Health & long term conditions

Community Champions are a network of people who live, work or study in Newcastle and share public health and social messages in their communities. .Champions get free training and regular updates from the public health team. They are also invited to regular meetings with council officers to share concerns their communities may have and come up with creative ways to share key community and health messages.

Research+Me is a digital registry of people who might be interested in taking part in research. They look for people living with **conditions** such as type 2 diabetes, irritable bowel syndrome, heart disease, asthma, Obesity, depression and bipolar disorder; and welcome those who have other or no health conditions too. You can register your interest for research opportunities by using their online form

---

Helping refugees and asylum seekers to get involved

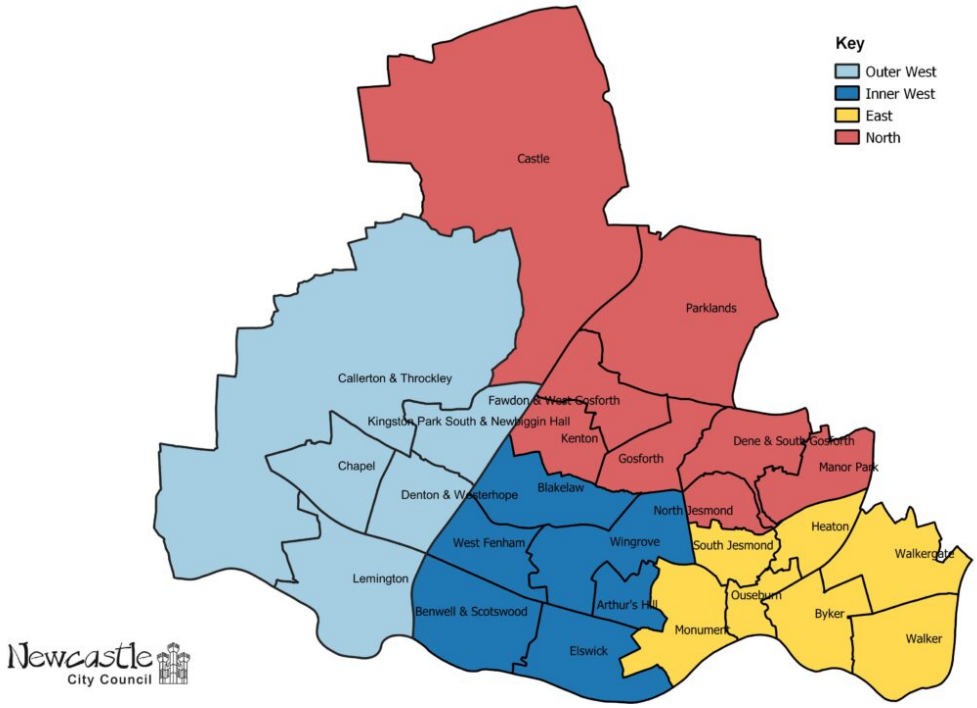
There are lots of ways that you can help refugees and asylum seekers settle into communities in Newcastle. This could be giving your time and skills as a volunteer or hosting a refugee in your home.

You can read more about Helping refugee and asylum seekers to get involved in communities.

Neighbourhoods

Newcastle Neighbourhoods run quarterly network events for local groups and organisations to get to know each other. These sessions give you the opportunity to explore how we can work together, with our communities, to help them to flourish.

The events take place in the 4 Neighbourhoods: North, Inner West, Outer West and East of Newcastle. Anyone who works or volunteers in the health, social care, voluntary, community, housing, sport, leisure, uniformed services and social enterprise sectors are welcome to attend. Email the Team for more information.



The Communities team at Newcastle City Council

- run ward events for residents and local organisations
- manage ward budgets and ward grants to the community
- support transfer public community buildings to interested community groups, charities and local organisations, known as community asset transfer.

Byker Village Tenants and Residents Association (TARA) work closely with Byker Community Trust and the Police to make their area of the estate a clean and safe place to live.

The Jesmond Residents Association (JRA) are a local resident association with members from schools, churches, choirs and music groups, sports organisations, voluntary and charity organisations. They hold twice monthly open forum meetings for residents to discuss local issues, events, community notices and other business. They support and help organise the Jesmond Community festival

---

Older people

Elders Council is the older people's forum in Newcastle. They hold events and focus groups where older voices are heard. They take part in research and develop creative and community projects for older people in Newcastle. It's free to join for people over the age of 50 who live in Newcastle.

VOICE involves older people in research. Members work with academics to improve the focus, quality, relevance and impact of research, to make a positive difference to people's lives. Members can take part in lifelong learning and become research active citizens. While helping to shape social and technological innovation.

Platform 60 is a website and online community forum for older people across the UK. Members are older campaigners, volunteers, community activists and others from a range of different organisations. Platform 60 allows people working or campaigning for Older people to share ideas, good practice and get feedback from people with similar experiences or goals. Platform 60 is developed and run by older people for older people.

Read more about older people's forums in Newcastle

Parents and carers

Newcastle Parent Carer Forum is a group of parents and carers of children and young people with disabilities who work alongside Local Authorities, Education, Health and other service providers to ensure that the services they plan, commission, deliver and monitor meet the needs of children and families

The Newcastle Maternity Voices Partnership is for women who have recently, or are about to give birth at Newcastle Royal Victoria Infirmary. They work with midwives and senior health staff to develop and improve maternity services in Newcastle.

Parkinsons

North East and Cumbria Research interest group (NEC-RIG) brings together people from across the North East and Cumbria td help them take part in Parkinson's research

You can also read more about Donating your body to science to help research.

Volunteering

One of the easiest ways to get involved in your community is to volunteer at a local charity or venue.

Volunteer centre Newcastle can help you get started as a volunteer with a wide range of volunteer roles, training and support. Their Volunteer Passport scheme means you go through one application and training process. Then you can volunteer for a wide range of different roles and organisations in Newcastle

You could become a Good Neighbour project Newcastle volunteer to help people in the community who are socially isolated or need some one-off help with a task

Read more about volunteering on InformationNOW

Ward areas and voting

Newcastle upon Tyne has 26 Electoral wards. A ward is a local government area, mostly used for elections.

Arthur's Hill, Benwell and Scotswood, Blakelaw, Byker, Callerton and Throckley, Chapel, Castle, Dene and South, Gosforth, Denton and Westerhope, Elswick, Fawdon and West Gosforth, Gosforth, Heaton, Kenton, Kingston Park South and Newbiggin Hall, Lemington, Manor Park, Monument, Jesmond (North and South), Ouseburn, Parklands, Walker, Walkergate, West Fenham, Wingrove

If you want to find your local ward for the area you live in you can use the My Neighbourhood Tool and search using your postcode to find out:

- Who represents you and councillor details
- Ward Committee Meetings
- Electoral information and polling stations

You can also use the Find a Councillor tool and search by name, political party or ward. Here you can find the details for when your local councillor holds a Ward Surgery. A ward surgery is your opportunity to meet with your local ward councillor to discuss any issues you may wish to raise.

Read more about Voting

Young people

Locality Youth Voice is for 11 to 18 year olds who live, work or study in Newcastle. young people represent their local areas, the issues for young people and then help develop an action plan to tackle these issues. It is part of the Voice and Influence Team within the Children, Education and Skills Directorate at Newcastle City Council. The groups are based upon which part of the city you live in: the East, Inner West, Outer West or the North. **For any further questions and how to get involved, please email voice@newcastle.gov.uk**

Last updated: May 21, 2025

Useful Organisations

Alzheimer's Society Newcastle

Email: newcastle@alzheimers.org.uk

Website: https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/find-support-near-you

Telephone: 0191 298 3989

Valuing Our Intellectual Capital and Experience (VOICE)

Email: voice@ncl.ac.uk

Website: http://www.voice-global.org/

Telephone: 0191 208 1288

Address: VOICE, NE4 5PL

Connected Voice Haref

Email: haref@connectedvoice.org.uk

Website: https://connectedvoice.org.uk/services/haref

Telephone: 0191 235 7022

Address: One Strawberry Lane, NE1 4BX

Newcastle Neighbourhoods

Email: NewcastleNeighbourhoods@newcastle.gov.uk

Website: https://new.newcastle.gov.uk/budget-policies-performance-data/policies/adult-social-care-policies-reports/newcastle-neighbourhoods-community-wellbeing-project

Health Champion Network

Email: communitychampions@newcastle.gov.uk

Website: https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/community-champions

Telephone: 0191 211 5055

Address: Newcastle Civic Centre, NE1 8QH

Threads in the ground

Address: Room 120, NE1 8ST

Elders Council of Newcastle (Older People's Forum)

Email: info@elderscouncil.org.uk

Website: www.elderscouncil.org.uk

Telephone: 0191 208 2701

Address: The Elders Council of Newcastle, NE4 5PL

Tyne and Wear Citizens

Email: claire.rodgerson@citizensuk.org

Website: https://www.citizensuk.org/chapters/tyne-and-wear/

Scope

Email: helpline@scope.org.uk

Website: https://www.scope.org.uk/

Address: Here East Press Centre, E15 2GW

Skills for People

Email: information@skillsforpeople.org.uk

Website: www.skillsforpeople.org.uk

Telephone: 0191 281 8737

Address: 4 Glendale Terrace, NE6 1PB

Platform 60

Website: https://platform60.org.uk/

Dwellbeing Shieldfield

Email: info@dwellbeingshieldfield.org.uk

Website: https://www.dwellbeingshieldfield.org.uk/

Telephone: 07593769129

Address: 26 Wretham Place, NE2 1XU

Related Articles

Advocacy support to get your voice heard

How you can help refugees and asylum seekers

Volunteering

Having your say about health and care services