InformationNOW
Information for people in Newcastle upon Tyne

InformationNow News 22 May 2026

NEWS

InformationNOW

Did you know that the Recite Me toolbar allows users to customise how text appears on screen, including the option to change fonts? As well as changing the colour and size of the letters, you can change the actual font to something you find more comfortable to read. This can help improve readability by letting users select a style that suits their preferences or needs, whether that's a clearer typeface, increased spacing, or a font specifically designed to support dyslexia.

Visit www.informationnow.org.uk today and keep Newcastle connected.

Read more on InformationNow about Recite Me

Local Election Changes

The local elections on 7 May brought significant changes to the city. We said goodbye to a number of long-serving councillors and thank them for their contribution and service.

Newcastle City Council is now mostly split between three main parties. While it is too early to say what this will mean in practice, councillors of all parties play an important role in representing and supporting their communities.

With many new councillors in place, there may be an initial period of adjustment. In the meantime, Newcastle City Council will continue to deliver the services residents rely on.

Read more on InformationNow about Newcastle City Council

'One of Our Own' Mental Health Awareness Campaign

Earlier this month, we teamed up with Newcastle United to launch the new 'One of Our Own' campaign, as part of Mental Health Awareness Week 2026.

We positioned 11 black-and-white benches in communities and parks around Newcastle. Each bench features prompts designed to turn casual ‘terrace talk’ into meaningful conversations around wellbeing.

In a region where suicide is the leading cause of death for men under 50, these benches serve a vital purpose: breaking the silence.

You can learn more about the campaign here.

Read more on InformationNow about local mental health support

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SPOTLIGHT ON

What Do You Think of Adult Social Care?

Closes 1 July 2026

Healthwatch Newcastle want to make local health and care services better for you. To do this, they want to find out how you experience these services, so that they can make positive change based on what you tell them. They’d like to know what services are working well, as well as where improvements might be needed.

Share your views by filling out the survey here.

Read more on InformationNow about Healthwatch Newcastle

Carers Week

8 June to 14 June 2026

Carers Week 2026 (8 – 15 June) is an annual campaign recognising and raising awareness of unpaid carers. There are around 5.8 million unpaid carers in the UK. A carer looks after someone who could not manage without their support – this could be because of an illness, disability, mental health problem or addiction.

This year, the theme is ‘Building Carer Friendly Communities’. This will highlight the impact of carer-friendly communities can have in making a difference to the lives of carers everywhere.

There is lots of support available for carers, including Newcastle Carers, Carers UK and Carers Trust.

To get involved, or read more about Carers Week, go to: www.newcastlecarers.org.uk/carers-week2026

Many people, including your colleagues, could be carers. In fact, one in seven employees in the workplace are carers. Newcastle Carers have a toolkit that can help you show your support for carers in the workplace this Carers Week. You can download the toolkit here.

Read more on InformationNow about support for carers

Free Energy Bills Support

If you're struggling with energy bills, did you know that you can get free, end-to-end support?

The HEAT service is available for anyone in England, Scotland or Wales experiencing energy-related difficulties, with a particular focus on supporting the most vulnerable households, including those that:

- Are struggling with energy costs or fuel debt
- Are unemployed or on low incomes
- Are at risk of going off supply
- Need support to stabilise their situation
- Are over 65 or have disabilities or health conditions requiring higher energy use

There are lots of different ways that they can support you. They include:

- Personalised support, with a dedicated energy mentor providing 1-to-1 help
- Fuel vouchers or food vouchers (if eligible) for those at risk or off supply
- Negotiation with energy suppliers to reduce debt and agree manageable repayment plans
- Help to resolve incorrect, complex or disputed energy bills
- Support to keep households on energy supply
- Practical advice and support to reduce energy use, cut waste and keep bills as low as possible
- Help applying for financial support and energy schemes
- Supporting households from crisis to a more stable situation

You can find out more or request a call back here.

Call them for free on 0800 092 9002.

Read more on InformantionNow about The Wise Group

OPPORTUNITIES

Free Telecoms Training Course

26 May to 17 June 2026, John Buddle Work Village, Newcastle

Aim2Learn are offering the chance to learn a trade for free with a fully-funded diploma in Professional Competence for IT & Telecoms Professionals qualification.

The course is for people who are:

- Looking for a new career opportunity
- Interested in practical, hands-on work
- Seeking routes into employment
- Interested in the telecoms industry.

You don’t need any former experience. The course offers a supportive learning environment and is designed to prepare learners who want to go into the IT and telecommunications sector.

The course is open to asylum seekers, 6 months plus active campaign/appealed.

To find out more about eligibility and enrolling, contact Liam Watts at liam.watts@aim2learn.org, or by calling 07301 088639.

Read more about Aim2Learn

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

HINENC Digital Inclusion Forum

8 June 2026, 1.30pm to 3.00pm, online

Health Innovation North East and North Cumbria (HINENC) has been supporting the efforts to create a regional digital inclusion forum, and working with partners across the region to co-develop what this might look like. Their next forum brings together existing and future members to continue the discussion and identify best practices that can be shared across the region.

Their next session is taking place Monday 8th June 2026 from 1.30 to 3.00pm.

If you would like to contribute to this session, please contact leanne.maitland@healthinnovationnenc.org.uk. Please indicate if you have additional needs when you email, and they’ll do their best to help you.

Read more on InformationNOW about about Health Innovation North East and North Cumbria

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Help Redevelop Living Well Demonstration Space

Disability North are redeveloping their demonstration area – a place where people can come to look at and try out different support aids, adaptations, equipment and technology.

To help them shape development, they’re gathering feedback from people who use this type of equipment, practitioners who give advice or do assessments, and people who care for or support someone who uses equipment. If this sounds like you, they’d be glad to hear from you.

You can take part in the survey by following this link.

Read more on InformationNow about Disability North

Women and Girls' Safety When Travelling

Open until 29 May 2026

North East Mayor, Kim McGuinness, and Represent Women are running a piece of research to better understand how women and girls experience safety when moving around the North East. The survey aims to capture the lived experience behind how and when women and girls travel, in order to inform future improvements.

The survey is open now and will run until Friday 29 May.

You can support their work by completing this questionnaire.

Read more on InformationNow about Represent Women

Hearing of Older Adults in the North East

29 May to 30 May 2026, Newcastle University

Are you interested in the language and accents of the North-East of England? If you are aged 65+ and were raised in Tyneside, Wearside, County Durham or Northumberland, you can take part in a PhD research project exploring the speech, accents and hearing of older people in the region.

This project will look at how speech changes across our lives to help us reconstruct how North-East England may have sounded in the past.

Taking part involves visiting Newcastle University Linguistics Laboratory for a half-day visit to do a range of tasks and record a short audio interview.

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided! If you are interested, you can contact the researcher (Scarlett L Hart) via email at S.L.Hart2@newcastle.ac.uk for further details.

Further information can be found here.

Read more on InformationNow about Newcastle University

Your Views on Food and Culture in Newcastle

Open until 29 May 2026

Newcastle City Council would like to hear the views and perspectives of Newcastle residents and partners on food and food culture in Newcastle.

We want to talk to Newcastle residents, as well as voluntary organisations and system partners to help recommission the Food Newcastle partnership. What people and organisations tell us will

help us ‘sense?check’ the strategic direction of Food Newcastle, clarify expectations about what it does, and to ensure our recommissioning decisions are informed by partners, organisations, and residents’ perspectives on food in Newcastle.

There is a survey you can fill out to help us capture your insights. We’d like to hear from as many people as possible so that a wide range of views and experiences are taken into account.

You will find the survey here.

You can also get a printed copy of the questionnaire or get the information in different formats by contacting Victoria.dargue@newcastle.gov.uk and arinzechukwu.chukwurah@newcastle.gov.uk.

If you are interested, please fill out the survey before 29 May.

You can find out more about the Food Newcastle partnership here.

Read more on InformationNow about Food Newcastle

Lit & Phil Survey

Closes 31 July 2026

To kickstart the Development Phase of their National Heritage Lottery Fund project, the Lit & Phil want to learn more about who engages with them, how you use their space, and what your needs and experiences have been. They also want to know who doesn’t engage with the Lit & Phil, and why, so they can do more to welcome all.

They are looking for members, volunteers, visitors and non-visitors to take part in one of two surveys.

One survey for members and volunteers can be found here.

For non-members, visitors or non-visitors, follow this link.

You can then be entered into a prize draw to win either a full year of Lit & Phil membership or entry into a Lit & Phil event of your choice for two people.

The draw will take place after the survey closes on 31 July 2026.

Read more on InformationNow about the Lit and Phil

REPORTS AND RESOURCES

Q&A with the Mayor and Carers

Carers from local organisations speak with North Easy Mayor Kim McGuinness about issues affecting them

As part of the Mayor Meets programme, Mayor Kim McGuinness recently spent an evening at Newcastle Carers Centre to hold a Q&A session. Unpaid carers had the chance to present a question to the Mayor, focusing on key issues currently affecting them and their caring roles.

The topics covered included: young carers in education, support, wellbeing, transport, welfare, work, and more.

You can watch a recording of the full session to hear Mayor Kim McGuinness' responses to carers' questions.

Read more on InformationNow about support for carers

Unpaid Carers and Employment

A new report based on Carers UK research from 2025–26 examines the 'tipping point' at which unpaid carers feel they need to give up work in order to care. It explores the key drivers for the tipping point, both within the workplace, and across health and social care systems. It also considers the policies and practice that can prevent the tipping
point from being reached.

Take a look at the report and its findings here.

Take a look at the report and its findings here.

Read more on InformationNow about Carers UK

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dementia Friendly Sing and Socialise

Every Friday, 11.00am to 12.00pm, St George's Church, Jesmond

Come along to join a a dementia-friendly singing session at St George's Church in Jesmond . No experience needed, just turn up! Wheelchair access available.

St George's café is open beforehand every Friday 10.00am to 12.00pm, so you can pop in for a cup of tea or coffee beforehand.

Read more on InformatonNow about St George's Church

'Asylum: A Long and Painful Process' Exhibition

Monday 1 June 2026, 6.30pm to 8.00pm, Newcastle Cathedral

As we enter June, the month of Refugee Week, Newcastle Cathedral are hosting an evening showing an exhibition created by artist Sadia Sikandar – herself a refugee – with the charity Walking With. The exhibition explores the experiences of people seeking sanctuary in the North East.

The evening will also feature live music from Heaton Voices and solo performers.

Booking is encouraged to help Cathedral staff and clergy ensure there's enough seating and refreshments for everyone.

Find out more about the event here.

Read more on InformationNow about Newcastle Cathedral

Digital Inclusion Lunch and Learn

Tuesday 2 June 2026, 12.00pm to 1.00pm, online

The Connected Voice Digital Inclusion Network is a Newcastle and Gateshead network aimed at sharing opportunities, information, good practice, and tools to improve digital inclusion for all. There will be one virtual 'lunch and learn' session on the first Tuesday of each month. Each lunch and learn session will feature a guest speaker.

Everyone is welcome to attend. This is a virtual session delivered on Teams.

To join, or for any questions about Newcastle Digital Inclusion in Health and Social Care Project Manager, Stella, on stella@simbo@connectedvoice.org.uk.

Read more on InformationNow about ConnectedVoice

Celebrate Newcastle Volunteers' Week

Volunteers' Week 2026 is running Monday 1 June to 7 June. This initiative recognises the efforts of current and past volunteers, and celebrates the spirit of volunteering that enriches our communities each year.

Newcastle Cathedral is hosting two events to help you find out about local volunteering opportunities, and to celebrate the efforts of volunteers across our city.

Newcastle Volunteer Opportunities Fair

Tuesday 2 June 2026, 10.00 to 1.30pm, Newcastle Cathedral

Are you looking for a meaningful way to get involved in your community?

This Volunteers' Week, Newcastle Cathedral is hosting a volunteer fair featuring more than 30 local organisations, all looking for volunteers across a wide range of roles.

Come along to:

- Meet local charities and community groups
- Find a cause you're passionate about
- Discover flexible volunteering opportunities
- Make a real difference

The fair is free to attend and no booking is required. This event is coordinated in partnership with Connected Voice and Volunteer Centre Newcastle.

You can find more details here.

Volunteers' Week Celebration Service

Tuesday 2 June 2026, 2.00pm to 4.00pm, Newcastle Cathedral

Visit Newcastle Cathedral for a warm and welcoming Volunteers' Celebration Service at 2pm. Everyone is welcome — whether you already volunteer, are interested in getting involved, or simply want to give thanks for the incredible contribution volunteers make to our communities.

During the service, you'll hear inspiring stories from volunteers and the people and organisations they support, celebrating the diversity and shared purpose that volunteering brings across our local area.

Attendance is free, but it is kindly requested that you RSVP so cathedral staff can plan seating and refreshments.

More information about the event can be found here.

Read more on InformationNow about Connected Voice and Volunteer Centre Newcastle

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TechNExt Fesitval

15 June to 19 June 2026, Various locations

TechNExt is back for 2026! This festival celebrates the North East's thriving technology sector. Bringing together over 3,000 attendees, the festival features events held across the region to spotlight the best tech businesses and talent the North East has to offer.

Attendees will include:

- North East businesses
- Academic institutions
- National business looking to invest in the North East
- Individuals looking to move into the North East tech sector
- Public sector – local authorities and national government
- Funders and support organisations
- Interested members of the community
- Young people interested in tech

All programmed events that are community designed and led will be free to attend and be based on a first come first served basis until capacity is met. There will be a ticket price for some curated events.

Find out more information about the festival here.

National History Society of Northumbria Events

In early June, the National History Society of Northumbria (NHSN) are offering two upcoming nature walks spotlighting local wildlife.

Ouse Burn Way: Search for the Kingfisher

Monday 1 June 2026, 10.00am to 12.00pm

Join local birder Matthew Harrison for a walk searching for the elusive Kingfishers of Jesmond Dene.

This walk is appropriate for both complete beginners and advanced birders. Some likely species for this walk include: Kingfisher, Grey Wagtail, Goldcrest, Ring-Necked Parakeet.

You can find further details about the walk here.

Gosforth's Wild Web: Wildlife Walk at Wallsend Burn

Wednesday 3 June, 1.00pm to 3.00pm

Join this guided walk around Wallsend Burn and Willington Gut, home to the only remaining middle saltmarsh community on the River Tyne.

You'll explore the many varied green spaces along the burn in search of birds, insects and other wildlife found in this unique environment.

You'll also record your sightings as part of Gosforth's Wild Web, helping to build a better understanding of the wildlife found across the area.

Further information about the guided walk can be found here.

Read more on InformationNow about NHSN

NEW AND UPDATED ON INFONOW

English for All

This month English for All announced that it has closed and ceased all activities.

Running for over 15 years, and becoming an official charity in 2019, English for All has supported many English language learners in Newcastle. They thank their dedicated team of volunteers, and their students, for their participation throughout.

Support to learn English as a second language (ESOL) is still available in Newcastle.

Read more on InformationNow about ESOL

Education Partnership North East

Education Partnership North East is a collaboration between Northumberland College, Hartlepool Sixth Form, and Sunderland College.

Recently, they announced that they have now updated their offer of fully funded Virtual Learning courses, and they are now available to adults who are aged 19+, lived in the UK for more than 3 years and not on an apprenticeship. Asylum seekers and Refugees require to have lived in the UK for 6 months and have the relevant eligibility to work.

Delivered entirely online by Education Partnership North East an Ofsted Outstanding training provider, these programmes are designed to equip learners with practical, job-relevant skills while offering the flexibility to fit around work, family, and personal commitments.

Read more on InformationNow about Education Partnership North East

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NEWS InformationNOW A lot of work is happening behind the scenes as we continue to work on the InformationNow refresh. Once again, we'd like to thank everyone who provided feedback – your ideas and ...
InformationNow News 9 October 2026
NEWS Autumn Neighbourhood Networks A big thank you to all who attended the latest round of Newcastle Neighbourhood Networks events! It was great to see so many there representing the local services and organisat...