

# People, Planet & Prosperity 2023

Delivering health, wealth and wellbeing for our region and beyond

**From Newcastle.  
For the world.**



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*Our redeveloped Stephenson Building will be the place for future engineers, researchers, designers, and visionaries to collaborate and tackle world challenges together. It will host three hubs for our research strengths in digital manufacturing, sustainable propulsion and biomedical engineering.*

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# Foreword

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**Newcastle is a world-class civic university, and as such we exist to advance education and research to help society tackle the many challenges facing us in today's world. As its Vice-Chancellor, and as incoming Chair of the Russell Group of research-intensive UK universities, I find myself spending more and more time contributing to regional and national conversations focused on why universities are crucial to the future growth and prosperity of our society.**

The role of universities as anchor institutions, driving the inclusive and sustainable economies in our cities and regions, is more important than ever before. The government's emphasis on innovation, productivity, growth and levelling up the country recognises the crucial role we play. It means that the work we do in our place is more relevant than ever before.

In post-industrial cities and regions like the North East, the government is looking at regionally-based innovation clusters in science and technology, the arts and humanities to create the new industries and the jobs needed to bring about inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

Universities are key to these innovation clusters, not only as providers of the R&D but also, critically, of the highly-educated graduates and the training and skills necessary to build and sustain the future workforce.

Our ability to benefit society is founded in our core functions of delivering world-class research and teaching. In a region where the cost of living crisis is hitting hard, and where there is a worrying pattern of growing regional health disparities, our commitment to

embedding social justice into our core functions is stronger than ever. We will shortly be appointing a new Dean of Social Justice, who will be tasked with ensuring that we bring about real and lasting change for our communities by working closely with our partners.

The strength of our relationships with our partners, from the local authorities, the NHS, business and industry, to our fellow HE and FE providers, the voluntary sector and cultural and creative arts practice, is the mainstay of our Engagement and Place Strategy.

I'm proud, therefore, to present this second annual People, Planet and Prosperity report celebrating our partnerships and our impact, here in the North East and beyond. When I reflect on all that we have achieved through these partnerships, it makes me immensely proud, too, to lead this great institution and grateful to be part of a region that I truly believe is unique in its commitment to co-operation and collaboration devoted to serving the best interests of its people.

**Professor Chris Day CBE  
Vice-Chancellor and President**



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# About Newcastle University

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**Newcastle University is one of the UK's great redbrick universities, founded in 1834 to address the economic, health and social issues of an industrial city.**

Today we are ranked among the top 140 universities in the world and we are home to a thriving international community of some 29,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students from over 140 countries worldwide studying at our vibrant campuses in Newcastle upon Tyne, Malaysia and Singapore.

A member of the Russell Group of the top 24 research-intensive universities in the UK, we were placed 15th in the UK for research power in the most recent Research Excellence Framework. We are committed to focusing our work on addressing some of the most profound challenges facing global society, through our established research excellence in Ageing and Health, Data, Culture and Creative Arts, Cities and Place and One Planet. Our world-class, multidisciplinary research is delivered through a growing portfolio of Newcastle University Centres of Research Excellence (NUCoREs).

Globally connected, our activity is guided by working in partnership across and between disciplinary boundaries and underpinned by our core values of social and environmental justice and equality, diversity and inclusion. We support the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals and in doing so ensure that the work we do is channelled towards building a fairer, stronger and more sustainable future for all.

## **Our economic contribution**

Independent research carried out in 2021 by Oxford Economics revealed that Newcastle University contributes more than £1 billion annually to British GDP. This figure reflects our role as a large employer and purchaser of local goods and services, as well as the contribution of our colleagues and students to economic spend and to the labour market. Almost £900 million of this figure directly benefits our region, with over £800 million concentrated in the Tyneside area.



## Responding to the needs of society

As a leading civic university, we exist to benefit society working with our partners and supporting our communities to bring about sustainable and inclusive economic growth. It is a commitment that lies at the heart of our aspiration to be a people-focused University that harnesses academic excellence, innovation and creativity to provide benefits to individuals, to organisations, and to society as a whole.

The diagram below represents our Engagement and Place Strategy and the mechanisms through which we ensure that societal benefit is embedded in our core activities of research and education and in our operations.

We do this by delivering programmes to support health, wellbeing and social justice, cultural richness, inclusive education and lifelong learning, global to local connections, and evidence-based policy making.

We know we cannot do this alone. Only by working with our partners locally, nationally and internationally will we succeed in understanding need, learn from one another and co-create the solutions that will deliver mutual benefit.





# Our Engagement and Place Strategy



**Newcastle University-led research and innovation is shaping the economy of the future. In the wake of the announcement of a Devolution Deal for the region, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Engagement and Place, Professor Jane Robinson, sheds light on how our activities are supporting inclusive economic growth, boosting skills and influencing policy.**

At the very end of 2022, the government announced a landmark devolution deal for the North East. The announcement was the result of successful cross-regional working and collaboration, and it signalled a clear commitment to Levelling Up from the government.

With an expanded combined authority, a new elected Mayor and the promise of a £4.2 billion deal, there is a real opportunity now for us to build on and further develop the existing collaborations with partners in the public and private sectors and local communities that are the focus of our Engagement and Place Strategy.

The deal is broad-ranging and includes funding for sustainable transport, an investment plan to drive inclusive economic growth, net zero and adult education and skills, with a strong focus on

addressing inequalities. These areas align closely with our research and expertise and support our commitment to making sure the jobs of the future are accessible to everyone.

Our ambition is to continue to build on the success of Newcastle Helix, the site we have developed in partnership with Newcastle City Council and Legal & General, in attracting companies to set up in the region. The Biosphere, a purpose-built laboratory and office building for science innovation, research, development and commercialisation is already fully occupied by life sciences spin-out companies.

The region's capacity for knowledge-driven economic development is such that, in 2022, the North East topped the list of UK regions for new job creation from inward investment, according to annual statistics from the Department for International Trade.

Importantly, the region's five universities are working together more closely. A recent report, *Innovating Together – Universities in the North East (InTUNE)*, revealed that between us, we support more than 34,000 jobs and contribute £2.2 billion annually to the North East economy. The report also highlighted our collective contribution to the innovation and business growth agenda in the region, our potential to drive forward the government's Levelling Up agenda and our positive impact on the health, wellbeing and resilience of communities across the region.



## Delivering Impact

Working in collaboration with our partners is critical to the delivery of the three pillars of our Engagement and Place Strategy – **Inclusive Economic Growth, Lifelong Learning and Skills** and **Policy Impact**. Set out below are some examples of how, through our research, education and engagement, we are supporting inclusive economic growth, shaping brighter futures and championing social justice.

Inclusive Economic Growth	<b>Innovation Accelerators and Strategic Sites</b> We are leading the way in developing the knowledge, skills and advanced manufacturing that will be key to <b>unlocking the green economy</b> . In the West End of Newcastle, we are building the UK's first <b>Health Innovation Neighbourhood</b> , connecting our research in healthy ageing to enable people to live longer, healthier lives.	<b>Business Engagement and Growth</b> Our Arrow programme, which supports North East SMEs to develop their <b>capacity and capability</b> , and Northern Accelerator, a collaboration between Newcastle, Durham, Northumbria, Sunderland, Teesside and York Universities set up to commercialise research, are <b>stimulating innovation</b> and <b>strengthening the region's economy</b> .	<b>Enhancing Quality of Life</b> Our <b>Great North Museum: Hancock, Hatton Gallery</b> and newly established <b>Farrell Centre</b> , provide a front door to our research and education. We utilise our expertise in <b>Sport, Active Wellbeing and Health</b> to create collaborations between local and regional partners, businesses and organisations, including Newcastle United Football Foundation.
	<b>Inclusive Education</b> Our <b>Access and Participation Plan</b> demonstrates our commitment to widening participation at Newcastle University, providing <b>equality of opportunity</b> across the entire student lifecycle. It reflects our <b>commitment to the region</b> , working in partnership with local authorities, enterprise partnerships, as well as schools, colleges, universities and other educational trusts and partnerships.	<b>Student Employability</b> Our START UP programme supports students and graduates to <b>transform new ideas</b> into social, cultural and financial value for others. Thanks to our student-graduate start-ups, we are first in the North East based on turnover, investment and active social enterprises, and <b>10th in the UK for employment</b> .	<b>Skills Pathways</b> Our <b>Lifelong Learning and Apprenticeship Hub (LLAH)</b> is a newly formed hub to develop CPD, Lifelong Learning and Apprenticeship provision across the University. We have increased delivery of <b>Degree Apprenticeships</b> in key sectors such as data analytics and cyber security working with over 100 employers.
	<b>Social Justice Programme</b> Our Social Justice Advisory Group includes 15 community organisations working across nine themes and provides a space for academics and practitioners to explore how <b>our research can address societal challenges</b> . We are a founding member and strategic partner of Tyne & Wear Citizens, the local chapter of Citizens UK, who organise to <b>tackle injustices in our local communities</b> .	<b>Strategic Policy Engagement</b> We have established <b>Insights North East</b> , connecting academic research and policymakers and we host the <b>National Policy and Evidence Centre for Creative Industries</b> . Our <b>strategic policy engagement</b> work is also helping policymakers to design fit-for-purpose, <b>sustainable policy solutions</b> in response to profound global challenges.	<b>Global Place-Based Partnerships</b> We continue to develop our <b>strategic place-based collaboration</b> with Pittsburgh University, launching plans for a <b>global place-based network</b> , including developing student mobility opportunities based on engagement. With our international partners, we work together to deliver education, experiences and research that encourage our students to embrace a <b>global outlook</b> .



# Inclusive Economic Growth

The North East of England topped the list of UK regions for new job creation from inward investment, according to annual statistics from the Department for International Trade published in June 2022. Companies are drawn to the region by access to the University's research and innovation expertise, and critically, to its pool of highly-skilled graduates.

## Innovation Accelerators and Strategic Sites

With Newcastle City Council and Legal & General, we are developing Helix, Newcastle's landmark £350 million innovation district. The UK's largest urban development outside London, Helix is home to the University's Urban Sciences Building and our three National Innovation Centres in Ageing, Data and Rural Enterprise.

Helix has enabled the creation of more than 2,300 jobs across 60 different organisations, including 11 University spin-out companies. Access to talented graduates is a key factor for companies who have recently located on the site, such as WombleBondDickinson and emerging biotechnology company, Iksuda Therapeutics.

Based on the success of Helix, we are leading the development of the UK's first Health Innovation Neighbourhood, on the site of the former General Hospital in Newcastle's West End. Building on more than 20 years of investment and world-leading research, it will bring together leading academics, industry, public sector organisations and local communities to create a global exemplar for healthy ageing, enabling people to live better, longer, healthier lives. Combining research, lifelong learning, a sense of community and sustainable placemaking, the new neighbourhood will provide inter-generational living in a sustainable and integrated urban environment.

*Our vision for a Health Innovation Neighbourhood (This image is not representative of the proposed developments, but rather shows the aspirations for the site.)*





## Business Engagement and Growth

Newcastle University works closely with regional industry where our collaboration is a pivotal part of our strategy to engage for economic benefit. This strategy supports business growth, encourages inward investment and increases regional productivity. By collaborating with industry, we can develop and deliver business innovation as well as identifying and fulfilling current and future skills needs.

Our Arrow programme provides support for North East SMEs to develop the capacity and ability to innovate, with a focus on developing new products and processes. Over the last four years, Arrow has helped more than 150 regional SMEs innovate by connecting them with expertise from across the University, strengthening the local economy along the way. Following the success of the initial programme, we are now developing Arrow 2.0 in collaboration with Durham, Northumbria & Sunderland Universities.

The Northern Accelerator programme, a collaboration between Newcastle, Durham, Northumbria, Sunderland, Teesside and York Universities offers end-to-end support for spin-out companies. It has developed a targeted approach to company creation, and delivers awareness raising and capacity building, through to seed investment funding.

Our START UP support, offered by the Careers Service, helps current students and recent graduates to explore their ideas and create opportunities to grow their own business or social enterprise.



## Enhancing Quality of Life

Having opportunities to take part in cultural activities and sport is well known to have a positive impact on our wellbeing as well as raising aspirations and attainment among children and young adults.

Inspired by the vision of renowned architect and Newcastle graduate, Sir Terry Farrell CBE, our brand new centre for cities and architecture, the Farrell Centre, opened to the public in April 2023.

Part research hub, part public gallery and community space, its mission is to widen the debate around the future of architecture and planning, ensuring that everyone has a voice in this critical debate. The Centre's first exhibition, More with Less, offered four compelling new visions for architecture in the face of the climate emergency.



Through our long-standing partnership with Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums, every year we welcome many thousands of visitors of all ages to the Great North Museum: Hancock and the Hatton Gallery to enjoy the permanent collections and touring exhibitions.

We also support the region's cultural and creative industries by facilitating Wor Culture, a forum for artists and practitioners to discuss relevant issues and opportunities and to contribute to shaping the future of the sector.

Elsewhere, we're using our expertise and knowledge in sport, active wellbeing and health to launch a new project working with public and community organisations to provide student-led health checks, nutrition workshops and dental check-ups for at risk groups. The Newcastle University Community Engagement and Wellbeing Project will build on existing partnerships with Newcastle United, Newcastle Falcons, the Into University Centre, and the Newcastle Sports Injury Clinic, among others.

## Leading the charge for Net Zero

**Achieving net zero carbon emissions can only be delivered by moving away from using fossil fuels and replacing them with cleaner, renewable forms of energy to meet our needs for transport, industry and daily living.**

The North East is increasingly becoming established as one of the key centres for electrification in the UK. The region is the largest producer of electric vehicles (EV) in the country; the UK's first two battery gigafactories are set to be located here and the world's largest off-shore wind farm is being developed on Dogger Bank, off the North East coast. Together, these assets are driving the establishment of a whole new industrial ecosystem from the Tyne to the Humber.

The University is playing a key role in positioning the region as an electrification innovation cluster with the potential to attract inward investment and create tens of thousands of new high-value jobs, making the North East a key provider of technological solutions over the coming decades.

We lead the National Driving the Electric Revolution Industrialisation Centre (DER-IC) programme and operate one of four UK-based DER-IC facilities. We are also home to the Faraday Institution's only regional office (Faraday Institution North East – FINE) which in turn leads the North East Battery Alliance (NEBA), a consortium of companies based in the region with a common interest in battery technology.

Skills provision is crucial to the North East's potential to be the epicentre of the UK's future green economy. The University has created the Institute of Electrification and Sustainable Advanced Manufacturing (IESAM), a partnership between the region's universities and further education colleges and the North East Institute of Technology, funded by Innovate UK. IESAM provides a common curriculum for electrification skills aimed at students, apprentices, schoolteachers and college lecturers.

IESAM is the first of its kind to address industry needs by developing a flexible, high-quality PEMD training pipeline in the North East.

We are also working with Education Partnership North East, Newcastle College Group and ORE Catapult on a skills needs analysis on green energy, funded by the North of Tyne Combined Authority.

In partnership with Northern Gas Networks and Northern Powergrid, we have established InTEGReL, an industrial testbed with digital twinning through Siemens Mindsphere on Newcastle Helix, to deliver breakthroughs in the decarbonisation of heat, energy storage and transport.

*Representatives from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy visit InTEGReL to learn about the potential of hydrogen into home energy systems as part of the transition to net zero.*





# Lifelong Learning and Skills

**The work we do in partnership with schools, colleges and employers is raising aspirations and widening participation in higher education among under-represented groups and ensuring our students are equipped with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in the world of work.**

## Student employability

Newcastle University graduates have one of the best records for graduate employability in the UK. The quality of our degrees, our focus on transferable skills and our reputation with employers puts us in the top 20 universities for graduate career prospects in the UK.

Our teams of careers consultants and information advisers within our award-winning Careers Service help our students to explore options and access careers information so that they can gain a head start in the challenging job market.

As part of our widening participation supported entry programme, we offer panel sessions with graduates and employers, careers fairs and webinars with a focus on specific career paths.

Internships, placement years and work shadowing give students the chance to apply their knowledge, skills and academic thinking to real business situations. Employers benefit directly from the new knowledge and perspectives students bring to their placements, while our students are able to develop valuable employability skills and networking opportunities.

In 2022, we celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Flying Start degree programme, in partnership with PwC and the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales. To date, more than 1,000 students have taken advantage of this remarkable programme that enables students to become qualified Chartered Accountants within a year of graduating, and more than 600 Flying Start students have gone on to start their careers with PwC.





## Inclusive Education

The North East traditionally has the lowest rates of educational attainment and progression to higher education in the country.

At Newcastle, we have been committed to widening participation and equality of opportunity not only in our region, but across the UK, for over 20 years. Our aim is to encourage and support the brightest and best students to succeed, regardless of background, helping them to progress to highly-skilled jobs or further study.

Our own award-winning access programme, PARTNERS, is one of the most well-established supported entry routes to higher education of its kind. Since it was established in 2000, the PARTNERS programme has enabled more than 8,000 students to study at Newcastle University.

Through the North East Uni Connect Programme, we work closely in partnership with universities and colleges in the region to support not just young people, but also their parents, carers, teachers and advisers. Uni Connect aims to remove the academic, financial and cultural barriers to higher education to ensure that all young people, irrespective of circumstance, have the information, skills and support they need to achieve their ambitions.

Since 2009, we have led Realising Opportunities, an award-winning national fair access scheme involving 14 research-intensive universities that aims to encourage talented students to apply to leading institutions. To date, more than 11,000 students have taken part in the scheme. We also lead the North East Raising Aspiration Partnership (NERAP), a long-standing collaboration of the five universities in the region who fund and collaborate on outreach activity for under-16s. NERAP supports joint visits to schools to highlight the higher education opportunities in the region, and specific targeted work to support care experienced students and young carers.

At the beginning of 2023, NERAP became the first regional Higher Education partnership to collaboratively sign up to the Care Leaver Covenant, a national inclusion programme that supports care leavers aged 16-25 to live independently. The agreement means that the five institutions have committed to providing all care-experienced students with consistent access to support throughout their university journey.







## Responding to skills shortages

**Professor René Koglbauer, Dean of Lifelong Learning and Professional Practice, is working with the Lifelong Education Commission, influencing future policy on skills provision.**

The face of UK industry is changing rapidly, not only in response to critical issues like net zero and the digital revolution, but also as a direct result of advances in technology and manufacturing, thanks to our excellence in R&D and innovation.

It's a transition that has the potential to create jobs and prosperity, particularly here in the North East, but if we are to take advantage of these opportunities we urgently need to work to address the skills shortage to provide the skilled workforce employers need.

In Autumn 2022, we launched the Institute of Electrification and Sustainable Advanced Manufacturing (IESAM). Through this project, the University brings together the North East Institute of Technology and other regional education providers, including the regional universities and Newcastle College Group (NCG).

The Institute will address industry needs by developing a flexible, high-quality Power Electronics, Machines and Drives (PEMD) training pipeline from Level 3 to Level 7. The Institute's curriculum team will be creating PEMD content to enrich T-levels, Higher Technical Qualifications and Apprenticeship programmes. This regional offer will be aligned to the National Electrification Skills Framework.

In collaboration with employers, we have further developed our suite of apprenticeships to ensure that our offer meets employers' demands and apprentices' needs. This has led to a new blended delivery model and to launching the Level 5 Organisational Development Manager apprenticeship. In line with our vision for electrification, we are developing a Level 6 Product Design and Development Engineer apprenticeship with two pathways focusing on PEMD and batteries.

The region's NHS Trusts and Health Education North East are proactively involved in the development of the Level 7 Research Scientist apprenticeship, and we have developed a suite of continuing professional development programmes in Green Energy and Green Transport for our partner FE colleges.

Our work with the Lifelong Education Commission is looking at skills and the role of regional education partnerships. With Northumbria University, NCG and Education Partnership North East, we are working with regional and national stakeholders to identify areas of expertise and potential gaps in health and social care education and training. We are also contributing to the Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIPs), which will direct future investment into skills and adult education.

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# Policy Impact

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**Providing research-based, solutions-focused evidence to support policy development ensures that we are having a positive impact on a local, national and global scale. Connecting our expertise with elected representatives, policymakers and civil servants with responsibility for developing policy is an integral part of our civic mission and supports our commitment to social justice.**

## Social Justice Programme

Our commitment to social justice is embedded in our research and education, our global activities and the work we do with our partners. Our Social Justice Advisory Group brings together practitioners from the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise, academic and professional services colleagues and students working in collaboration to create a fairer and more just society.

As an accredited Living Wage Employer we ensure we pay a fair wage both to our employees and regular contractors who operate on our premises. In 2021, with Tyne and Wear Citizens, our successful campaign and support of the living wage movement was recognised with a Champions award from the Living Wage Foundation.

As a values-based organisation, we are committed to being actively anti-racist. In November 2022, we were awarded a Race Equality Charter Bronze Award by Advance HE. This award recognises our work towards tackling race inequality in higher education.

We are a University of Sanctuary with a long-standing commitment to providing a welcoming place of safety for people fleeing violence and persecution. We also offer a number of Sanctuary scholarships to enable students from asylum-seeker and refugee backgrounds to progress to higher-level study.

In response to the crisis in Ukraine, our Community Sanctuary Network has recruited volunteers to host and support those who have been forcibly displaced. As part of the Universities UK International (UUKi) and Research England's UK-Ukraine University Twinning Initiative, we have partnered with the National University of Water and Environmental Engineering in Ukraine, to support long-term research and educational collaboration.

We are supporting the West End Children's Community as part of a local collaboration to tackle the effects of poverty for children, young people and families. As a founding member and strategic partner of Tyne & Wear Citizens, the local chapter of Citizens UK, we aim to develop reciprocal, non-partisan working relationships with decision-makers across Newcastle and Gateshead. Training in community organising is provided free to colleagues and students, and it is embedded in our teaching, helping to create systemic change.





## Strategic policy engagement

In response to profound national and global challenges, our academic experts are helping policymakers to design fit-for-purpose, sustainable policy solutions where our areas of research excellence align closely with government priorities. We are directly shaping UK policy around energy security, health inequalities, national data frameworks, addressing the skills shortage and future transport and mobility.

In March 2023, we were announced as the new host of the Creative Industries Policy and Evidence Centre (PEC), in partnership with the Royal Society of Arts. Funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), the Centre provides independent research and impactful policy recommendations for the UK's creative industries. It will seek to address industry and government priorities and advance research into the longer-term challenges and opportunities facing the sector.

The PEC will draw on our significant place-based policy expertise, developing partnerships with our Insights North East and Creative Fuse teams to inform policy for the creative industries over the next five years and beyond.

## Global Place-Based Partnerships

We work together with our partners to deliver education, experiences and research that truly embrace a global outlook.

We have more than 230 student exchange partner institutions in over 40 countries, allowing our students to study abroad as part of their degree, helping them to develop important global skills including intercultural awareness, tolerance and problem-solving. In return, we are able to welcome incoming exchange students from our partners, enhancing the diversity of our student community.

Alongside exchanges, our students benefit from a range of international placement opportunities. Through our strategic partnership with the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience, students actively promote social justice and a universal culture of human rights. They work to empower marginalised communities, counter hate speech and violent extremism, and preserve the memory of victims of human rights violations.

Through our ongoing partnership with the University of Pittsburgh we are launching plans for a global place-based network and developing collaborative initiatives and student project-based learning focused on our strategic sites and community engagement.

*Speakers at a University-led reception in the Houses of Parliament, March 2023; From l-r; The Lord Callanan, Minister for Energy Efficiency and Green Finance; Chi Onwurah, MP for Newcastle upon Tyne Central & Shadow Minister for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy; Professor Phil Blythe, former Chief Scientific Adviser at the Department for Transport; Professor Chris Day; and The Lord Shipley OBE.*



## Insights North East

In partnership with the NHS, North of Tyne Combined Authority, Newcastle City Council and Northumbria University, we have established Insights North East. INE will forge links between academics and policymakers to address community needs in the region. By closing the gap between research and policy design and implementation, it will deliver better outcomes to benefit the region's people, economy and environment.

## Place-based policymaking

INE aims to build a shared understanding of the knowledge and data within each partner organisation and develop new ways of connecting and interrogating that knowledge base so that regional policymakers can better address the needs of local communities.

By building the capacity to make these connections across the region, INE will provide the evidence

to guide effective decision-making on issues that involve billions of pounds of public spending.

INE is structured around three policy challenges that align with the expertise in the two universities and the priorities of policymakers in the region: improving health and wellbeing, a just transition to net zero, and delivering inclusive growth. Matching place-based policymaking requires input and ownership from a range of stakeholders and local decision-makers, aggregating their knowledge, capabilities and expertise so that key policy responses align with the circumstances and context of a specific place.

With support and funding from Research England's Development Fund, INE will be a demonstrator illustrating how anchor institutions can collaborate to maximise the potential for university research to inform place-based policymaking and practice, ensuring that future research agendas are demand-led and shaped by the needs of their regions and communities.





# Celebrating Student Impact

**Newcastle University attracts students from across the UK and around the world. This thriving international community of some 29,000 people makes a huge contribution to the social, cultural and economic life of our city and region, through their involvement with local charities and voluntary organisations, and by establishing their own businesses here in the North East.**

The annual Pride of Newcastle University Awards recognising students' achievements and their contribution to life on campus and the wider community are a highlight of the University year. In 2022, award-winners included Brush Up, an oral-health community outreach group who engage with schools and Sure Start; N.E.S.T. (North East Solidarity and Teaching) which supports refugees and asylum seekers across the region; and the Newcastle University Medicine Malaysia (NUMed) Islamic Society for their contribution to student life.

As part of a community-based research module, our second- and third-year Politics students work with a range of local charities and voluntary organisations. They gain experience of leading real research projects that address a genuine gap in the knowledge of policymakers and practitioners working in the North East of England.

With Newcastle-based charity Street Paws, which provides free, accessible vet care and support services to homeless people and their pets across the UK, our students carried out research to identify and better understand the issues that restrict homeless pet owners from being able to access hostels and other accommodation. Another group worked with Wearside Women in Need (WWiN), which provides accessible community-based services to women and children at risk of or experiencing abuse. The project looked at the implications of unregulated refuges for families escaping domestic violence, uncovering some stark findings that are of wide concern in the Housing Sector.

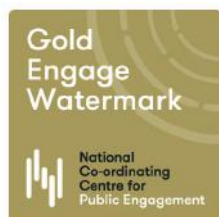


*The Pride of Newcastle University Awards recognise our students' outstanding contributions through extra-curricular activity.*

Student entrepreneurship is thriving at Newcastle, supported by the START UP team in our award-winning Careers Service. Data published in 2022 revealed that there are 204 START UP supported businesses trading with a combined annual turnover of over £155 million. Between them, they've raised over £19 million in investment and created over 1,140 full-time equivalent jobs. More than half of the companies created are still based in the North East, while two thirds of our start-up businesses have survived for more than three years.

# Engagement in action

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**We are proud to hold a Gold Watermark from the National Co-ordinating Centre for Public Engagement (NCCPE) in recognition of our outstanding work with our partners and communities. Our annual Engagement and Place Awards celebrate the many great examples of innovative collaboration led by our colleagues and students that ensure the benefits of our teaching and research go**

**far beyond the University. Our 2022 award winners ranged from a local arts project in east Newcastle to a community land management project in Tanzania.**

## **MyCareBudget**

MyCareBudget is a wiki which provides resources for anyone who employs Personal Assistants (PAs) or carers. Founded on engagement and collaboration, it is designed by people with lived experience of running their own Personal Health Budgets. MyCareBudget was co-designed with a community of people who run a care budget either for themselves, their children, or a close relative.

With over 3,000 members and still growing, MyCareBudget has gained more than 200 users each month since its launch and has made a positive impact on the lives of disabled citizens and their families.

## **Multiverse Lab**

Since its launch in Autumn 2020, Multiverse Lab has reached 3,145 people across the North East and Cumbria. This innovative public engagement project asks people, "What is the health or social care breakthrough you hope to see in your lifetime?".

Multiverse Lab's aim is to shape the future of health and social care research and to make communities' voices heard, including those under-represented in public engagement. By using physical and digital methods, it collects people's responses to create a 'lab of many voices.' Some 10 academic partners have committed to using these voices to shape how they do research.

## **Audio Universe**

Audio Universe is a multi-disciplinary project that aims to increase scientific discovery and make astronomy more inclusive and accessible by allowing blind and partially sighted children and adults to 'hear' the Universe.

Launched in 2021, the project demonstrates innovative and creative research and engagement and has gained press and media coverage around the world. The project has received interest from science centres around the world.

## **Agri systems**

Small-holder farming is the major livelihood activity of rural households in Sub-Saharan Africa. The majority live below the poverty line and have faced food insecurity at certain times of the year with high yield gaps on rain-fed farms exacerbating challenges farmers face. There are significant uncertainties surrounding attainable crop yields, drivers of relative crop yields and the environmental costs of solutions to closing yield gaps.

This research project collects and analyses ecological and socio-economic data from Tanzania to help enhance livelihoods in developing countries. Working with in-country partners and co-investigators to address these uncertainties, the project team are investigating the potential of agroforestry for integrated land management.



## Dwellbeing Shieldfield

Dwellbeing Shieldfield is a welcoming, artistic and inclusive community benefit society. It is a cooperative of Shieldfield residents and community members of all ages and backgrounds. Through projects, research and events they share life together, support neighbours and celebrate a rich and diverse community. The aim is for community members to play an active role in shaping life in Shieldfield.

By sharing knowledge about the issues and challenges that affect the neighbourhood, the project team are looking for alternative models for organising, learning and solidarity. They endeavour to move Shieldfield (and similar neighbourhoods) towards self-reliance, resilience and interdependence.

## Creative Fuse North East

Creative Fuse North East brings together the combined strengths, assets and networks of the five North East universities to support the region's creative, cultural and digital industries by providing expertise to help business and freelancers working in the region's cultural sector to grow and develop.

In doing so, it helps them to respond to new opportunities and become more sustainable, driving the potential for the region's businesses to make better use of their creativity and innovation potential. In its first phase, between 2016 and 2019, Creative Fuse supported over 300 businesses and practitioners.

**Across the institution,** our Faculties and Schools deliver a wealth of engagement activity. Soapbox Science is a novel public outreach platform for promoting women and non-binary scientists and the science they do. Our Street Law project involves students acting as 'Street Law Ambassadors' providing young people with information about their rights, and our STEM Outreach Team offers a range of classroom workshops and on-campus events.

Our Street Scientists are science buskers who bring science to life for the public through interactive demonstrations. The Go Volunteer programme, run by our Students' Union, and the ncl+ Awards scheme also provide exciting opportunities for our students to get involved in community engagement.



