

A MAGAZINE FOR NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL TENANTS

# YOUR news

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YOU LEARN**

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**FRONT COVER IMAGE:**

Scott Jenkinson an apprentice with Northumberland County Council's housing team.

# FOREWORD

**John Riddle,  
Cabinet member  
for Planning, Housing  
and Resilience**



## SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE

**We all need a helping hand every now and again, whether it's help getting our finances on track, advice on improving employment prospects or help with improving the environment in which we live.**

As tenants of Northumberland County Council there are many opportunities available to you to not only upskill yourself, but also to make improvements to your estate to benefit the whole community.

This edition of Your News highlights the range of services and initiatives available to you to help you make a change for your future.

Over the last 12 months the council has launched a number of new initiatives which are helping tenants find new careers for themselves, learn new skills and make new friends within their community.

Projects like the Alnwick Learning Hive aim to give you access to services which can help transform your life for the better, whether it's learning basic computer skills or help with interview skills to ensure you secure the job of your future.

As a council we are also committed to offering an apprenticeship programme which is available to all no matter what your age or experience. Working either for the council, or with employers across

the area, we can support you through the formal training programme and hopefully into full-time employment.

We also know that in the next few months, as we get closer to the launch of Universal Credit in Northumberland, many of you will need help and support through the application process and our staff are on hand to offer advice and tips on how to prepare yourself financially.

But it's not just about what we can do to help you, but also how you can help us to ensure your community is a safe and inspiring place to be.

Simple things like keeping the exterior of your property clean and tidy can transform the look and feel of an estate. Joining a community group or initiative not only has a positive impact on an area but also on you as a person, giving you the opportunity to make new friends and learn new skills.

So why not make a change today, and take advantage of the many things going on in the place you live.

**YOURnews** will now only be available in your local library, leisure centre, community centre or in our sheltered accommodation. This follows our survey in the previous edition of **YOURnews**, where we received little support for continuing to post an edition direct through your door. Each edition is also available to view online at [www.northumberland.gov.uk/yournews](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/yournews)



# Alnwick Learning Hive LAUNCHED

The Alnwick Learning Hive has now been launched by the council in partnership with The Northern Learning Trust to provide local residents access to courses and facilities to improve their skills and knowledge and employment opportunities.



Launch of Alnwick Learning Hive with partners and representatives from the council.

Residents will be able to take advantage of free IT facilities, support with job search, preparation of CV's, completion of application forms, interview and basic IT skills and help with online benefit applications.

Weekly, drop-in sessions will be held at Alnwick Community Centre, Howling Lane, on Mondays and Wednesday from 9.30am-2.30pm.

The Learning Hive was developed after the council's Resident Involvement Team surveyed people in the area to find out what they felt would help improve the community. It has been funded through a £23,000 grant from procurement consultancy firm Prosper.

**WEEKLY DROP-IN  
SESSIONS**

**ALNWICK  
COMMUNITY CENTRE**  
Mondays and Wednesdays  
from 9.30am - 2.30pm



**For more information on the Learning Hive drop into the community centre for a chat or call 07960 609725.**

# Multi-Million pound HOUSING PROJECT

We are  
investing  
**£2.2m**  
into transforming  
more than 80  
homes at  
Allerhope

**A multi-million pound project to upgrade homes on a Cramlington estate is well underway.**

We are investing £2.2m into transforming more than 80 homes at Allerhope. The properties are all "Dorran" style homes, which was a non-traditional post-war style of construction, using concrete panels.

Often these properties have issues with insulation and the work will help to improve the energy efficiency of the homes. Additional strengthening will be added to the concrete panels to ensure the external walls can withstand the weight of new insulation and render. A mix of plain and brick effect render will be used on the external walls to give the properties a brighter appearance. New windows, soffits, fascias and roofline products are also included within the scheme.



*How the 'dorran style' homes look after the upgrade.*

The project, estimated to take two years, has already picked up a number of national awards for the pilot scheme. At the Energy Efficiency and Healthy Homes Awards, the

council received a highly commended in the Landlord of the Year category and commended in the Small Project of the Year (Under £250k) award.

# ANDY THE HANDYMAN!

**This service is available for any off jobs you need help with around your home and is FREE to elderly and vulnerable tenants.**

Our man on the ground Andy is kept busy with a range of jobs including hanging curtains, installing Key Safe locks or putting up pictures. He can also help move furniture if you are having work done on your home, as well as installing railings or bannisters to help with your mobility around your home.

Each booking with the Handyman can be for up to two hours and he covers any area where the council owns homes.

If you are classified as any of the following you are eligible for this free service:

- ✔ If you are over 60 years old
- ✔ If you have a disability or severe health problems which prevent you from carrying out the work yourself
- ✔ If you are a single family parent with a disabled child

**So make sure you take advantage of this service and get a fully qualified, skilled handyman to help you with your DIY jobs.**



*To book a slot  
call our Customer  
Contact Centre on*

*01670 542424*

**NORTHUMBERLAND**  
Northumberland County Council

*Did you know...  
We offer a handyman  
service for elderly  
or vulnerable  
tenants?*

# GET READY FOR

# UC *Universal Credit*



## Universal Credit - An Update

You may have already seen the changes planned regarding Universal Credit announced in the Autumn budget but below are a few of the key points:

- ✓ The payment waiting time to receive the first payment has been cut from six weeks to five.
- ✓ A full month's advance payment can be accessed within five days of making a claim. The repayment of this advance has now been extended from six to 12 months.
- ✓ Any new Universal Credit claimant in receipt of housing benefit will continue to receive the support for the first 14 days when transferring to the new system.
- ✓ The Universal Credit Helpline **0345 600 0723** is now a FREE phone number.

## So what is Universal Credit?

It's a new benefit for new claimants, of working age, and will replace the following benefits:

- ✓ Housing Benefit
- ✓ Child Tax Benefit
- ✓ Working Tax Credit
- ✓ Income Support
- ✓ Job Seekers Allowance
- ✓ Income-related Employment and Support Allowance



## When is it being introduced?

The roll out of the full service will take place in Northumberland during November and December 2018. After this time all new applicants, single, couples, families who make a new benefit claim or current claimants with a change of circumstances will go onto Universal Credit.

Once the roll out for all new claimants is complete, all existing claimants will be moved over to Universal Credit however, we do not currently have a schedule for this.

## Will I still receive Housing Benefit, and therefore will my rent be paid directly to Northumberland County Council?

NO, you will no longer receive Housing Benefit, your rent or Housing Element will be paid directly to you on a monthly basis and you will need to take responsibility for paying your rent to us. Contact us to set up a direct debit.

## How will I get paid?

You'll get a single payment every month to cover your living costs. This will be paid directly into your bank, building society or credit union account.

If you make a joint claim as a couple, you'll get a single payment for both of you.

After your first Universal Credit payment, you'll be paid monthly, on the same date every month regardless of whether it is a four week or five week month.

If you pay rent or have a mortgage and you think a payment will be late because you're waiting to be paid, you should talk to your landlord or mortgage lender and explain.

If you think you won't have enough money to live on, you can ask for an advance payment of Universal Credit, by calling the helpline on **0800 328 5644**.



## What do I need to do now?

- ✓ Open a Bank account/savings account with a bank or credit union - Universal Credit will be paid direct into your bank account, building society or credit union account.
- ✓ Start saving now - it can take up to 8 weeks for your first payment to come through, if your rent is due in that time having savings would mean you are still able to pay on time. Remember failure to pay your rent can affect your tenancy.

**If you think you will struggle managing and budgeting your money, have physical or mental health problems that might prevent you paying your rent on time, or if you need help dealing with debt please contact us.**

**If you want to talk to us about what you're entitled to, whether you're going to be better off on Universal Credit, or any concerns you have, please call us for specialist advice on 01670 542424.**

# DON'T GET BITTEN BY A LOAN SHARK

**STOP LOAN SHARKS**  
Intervention . Support . Education

It can be quite tempting, when times are tough and you're struggling with finances, particularly after the expense of the festive season, to borrow from illegal money lenders - more commonly known as loan sharks.

With the full roll out of Universal Credit in Northumberland happening later this year, the temptation to seek financial help from illegal lenders may be even higher, but under no circumstances should you go to an unlicensed lender. If you do, you have not committed a crime, they have.

Loan sharks are often very friendly at first, but once payments are missed many will become intimidating, threatening or violent. They rarely set their terms out on payment, keeping their borrowers in the dark, but they are known to charge very high interest rates.

The pressure of paying back a loan shark can cause huge anxiety and stress. But if you are worried about Universal Credit and the pressure this may have on your finances, help is at hand. If you have borrowed money from one you can report them anonymously to The Illegal Money Lending Team, on **0300 555 222**, who will investigate and prosecute loan sharks and support people affected by this crime.

Credit Unions are also another trusted way of getting loan or starting a savings account. Contact either:

**Northumberland Credit Union** -  
[www.ncul.co.uk](http://www.ncul.co.uk) 01670 503666  
or **Credit Union South East Northumberland (CUSEN)** -  
[www.cusen.co.uk](http://www.cusen.co.uk) 01670 797283



You can also speak to our Benefits Officers for tips and advice on how to manage Universal Credit, call 01670 542424, or Citizen's Advice Bureau on 0344 411 1444.





# TACKLING UNDER AGE DRINKING

*in your community*

**A Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) has been set up in Alnwick and Amble to help tackle under age alcohol use and the associated harms.**

Alcohol use in youngsters can cause problems with health, education, safety and anti-social behaviour.

To address these concerns, the CAP brings together a range of organisations such as, local schools, retailers, the council, youth services and the police, to work together to reduce the issue. Where possible the CAP is also seeking to access funding and resources to further improve the issue.

To gain an insight into the impact under age drinking is having on these communities, local residents and organisations have been surveyed by the CAP. Feedback from young people about their alcohol use, has been taken into account in the survey, as well as parents views about buying alcohol for young people.

The group is still looking for people to take part in the survey. So if you live in the Alnwick or Amble area and would like to add your comments to the residents' survey, you can access it online here: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/QW5JC56>.

If you do not have access to a computer but would still like to complete a survey, please contact Judith Davis, Community Safety Officer at Northumberland County Council, on **01670 623829**. Surveys are anonymous and you do not have to give your details.

Alcohol use in youngsters can cause problems with health, education, safety & anti-social behaviour.



**To find out more about the CAP contact Judith or email [capalnwick@gmail.com](mailto:capalnwick@gmail.com)**

# WORKING TO MAINTAIN YOUR HOME

**Every year our repairs and maintenance team work hard to make sure your homes are kept to a decent standard.**

This includes an annual external painting programme to maintain the exterior appearance of your property.

Last year we launched a new external programme which will see approximately 1,400 homes included every year.

In 2017 we have been focusing on properties in the Cramlington area and this year homes in the Seghill/Seaton Delaval area will be included in the planned programme.

Anyone whose home is part of this year's work will be contacted by the team and given a timeline for the work.

You may already have had preparatory work carried out on your home to repair window frames or timber frames before the work begins in April.

We appreciate your patience and support whilst we are working on your property. If you need to contact us about the work please call **01670 542424**.



# FIXING YOUR FENCING

**In 2017 we also completed a £70,000 project to repair fences at more than 400 homes.**

Using contractors Deerness Fencing we have been working across our housing stock to repair or replace damaged boundary fencing.

We will be reviewing the work programme for 2018/19 as part of our regular programme of fence maintenance.

# £8.5M INVESTED IN HOME IMPROVEMENTS

**The council invested £8.5m last year to carry out essential home improvements.**

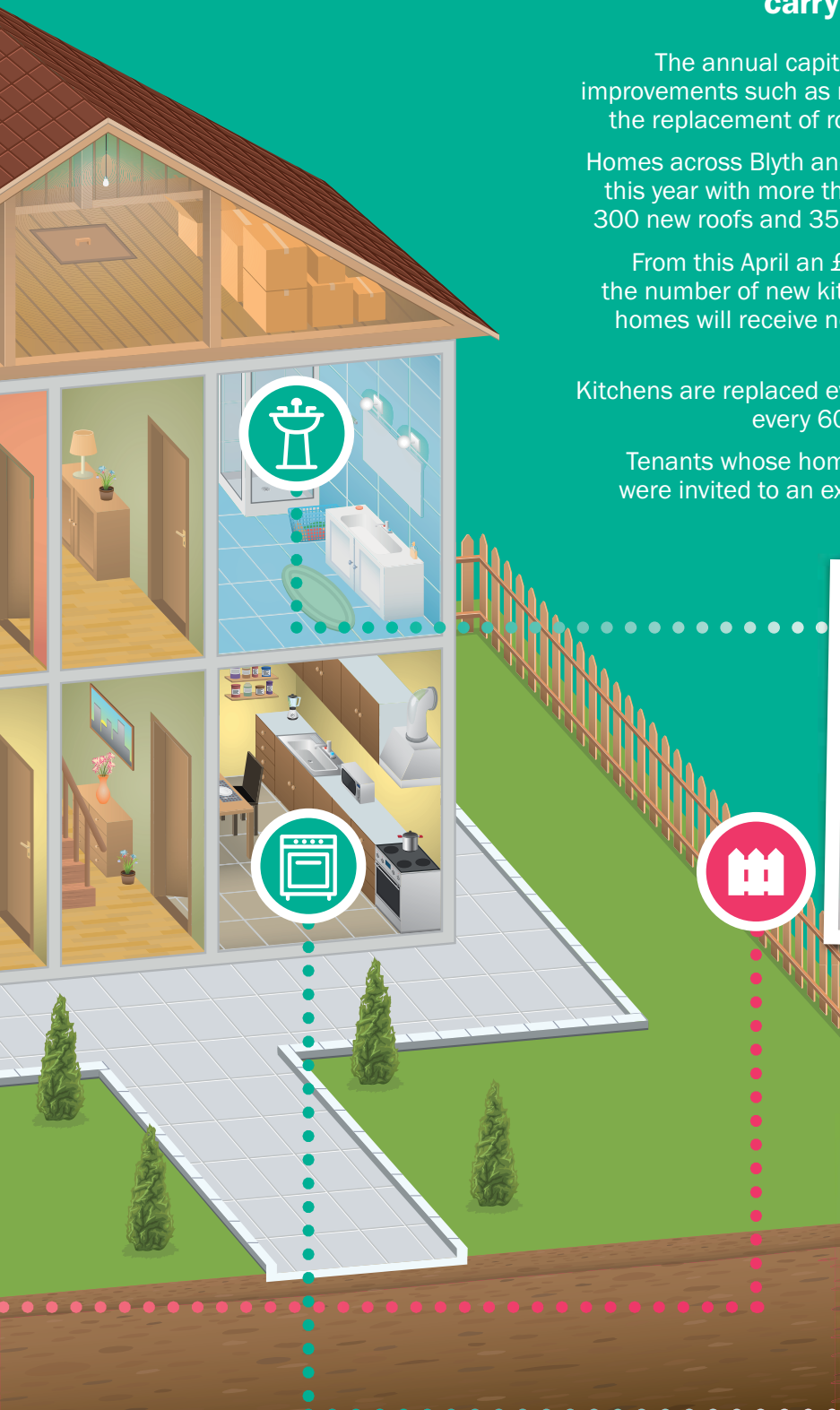
The annual capital works programme carries out major planned improvements such as new kitchens, bathrooms and heating systems, the replacement of roofs, doors and windows and electrical rewires.

Homes across Blyth and Alnwick have benefitted from the improvements this year with more than 600 homes receiving new heating systems, 300 new roofs and 350 new kitchens and bathrooms being installed.

From this April an £80m, eight-year investment plan will start with the number of new kitchens fitted per year double to 450. Up to 200 homes will receive new bathrooms every year and 400 new heating systems will be installed.

Kitchens are replaced every 20 years, bathrooms every 25 years, roofs every 60 years and windows and doors every 30 years.

Tenants whose homes are included in this year's work programme were invited to an exhibition in February to make choices regarding their new kitchen and bathroom suites.



# MOVING HOUSE



**Are you thinking of moving home, ending your tenancy or transferring to another one of our properties?**

**Then there are a number of things you must do and processes that we must carry out...**

**See our handy checklist over the page to help make sure your move goes smoothly.**

If you are moving home and ending your tenancy with us or transferring to another one of our properties there are a number of things you must do and processes that we must carry out, to make sure the property is returned in a suitable condition and you do not incur any additional charges.

## PRE-TERMINATION INSPECTION

When you notify us of your intention to leave one of our Housing Officers will arrange a pre-termination inspection with you.

This internal and external inspection is to identify any repairs, that are your responsibility, that need to be carried out before you leave the property.

**REMEMBER**  
... it is **YOUR**  
responsibility to  
carry out any  
necessary  
repairs



If any repairs are found a further inspection would be carried out approximately five days later, failure to carry out any identified repairs to a specific standard, would lead to you being charged for this. If you were transferring to another of our properties then the transfer will be stopped and you will not be offered any further property until the repairs are carried out.



# YOUR HANDY CHECKLIST OF THINGS TO DO WHEN GIVING US YOUR NOTICE TO LEAVE

*Here is a list of things you need to do and what to look out for:*

- If you intend to end your tenancy you must give us four weeks written notice.
- You must return all keys for the property no later than **12 noon** on the last day of your tenancy.
- You must leave the property by the date the tenancy ends and not leave anyone else in the property after you leave. If you do we may need to take legal steps to have them removed. And we will charge you our costs for doing this.
- You must pay all your rent and other charges up to the date your tenancy ends.
- You must remove all of your possessions: animals, rubbish and private papers when you leave. We accept no responsibility for any belongings and we will dispose of any we find.
- You must make sure all fixtures and fittings you have installed, and which you are leaving in the home, are in good working order.
- If you are removing fixtures and fittings, which you have fitted, you must replace them with the original fittings before you leave.
- Any greenhouse, shed or kennel or other structure must be removed and the land returned to its previous condition, to our satisfaction.



# Could you benefit from **Wheels to Work?**

People who want to start a new job but don't have the transport to get there could be on the road to a brighter future with the help of Northumberland County Council's Wheels to Work scheme.

Wheels to Work, a scooter loan scheme, helps people who live or work in Northumberland to access employment when they have no other way of getting there.

The council funded hire scheme offers electric scooters for between £17-22 per week to those aged 16 and over who have a confirmed placement in work or as an apprentice.

Training, safety equipment, insurance breakdown cover and the taxing and servicing of the scooter are all provided.



Since the scheme started in 2013  
**350 people have benefited from the hire of the scooters**

To find out more about Wheels To Work, email [w2w@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:w2w@northumberland.gov.uk) call 01670 620136

## If lack of transport is hampering your job search why not try **Wheels 2 Work?**

Wheels 2 Work offers low cost scooter and electric bike loan to people who live or work in Northumberland.

Fees include training, equipment, maintenance and insurance.

They are available to anyone aged 16 or over, with secure employment or an apprenticeship and a valid provisional or full driving licence.



For full Ts and Cs and more details, contact David or Kay on 01670 620 136, 07974 388 651 or email [w2w@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:w2w@northumberland.gov.uk)

# EATING WELL *for life*

We all know the way to healthy and happy lifestyle is about eating well, drinking sensibly and keeping active.



But what changes and steps do you need to take to achieve the best results? Here Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust Health Trainer Adam McGill gives us some tips and advice to maintain a healthy weight.

My top tips are:

- ♥ **Eat regular meals** - This will help burn calories faster and reduces the temptation to snack on foods high in fat and sugar.
- ♥ **Eat plenty of fruit and veg** - They are low in calories and fat, and high in fibre – three essential ingredients for successful weight loss.
- ♥ **Get more active** - This is key to losing weight and keeping it off, providing numerous health benefits.
- ♥ **Eat high-fibre foods** - They can help keep feeling full, perfect for losing weight. Fibre is found in fruit and veg, oats, wholegrain bread, brown rice and pasta, and beans, peas and lentils.
- ♥ **Cut down on alcohol** - A standard glass of wine can contain as many calories as a piece of chocolate!

For a range of wellbeing advice and support including managing stress, eating well, sensible drinking and keeping active contact the Northumberland Integrated Wellbeing service provided by Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust on 01670 623096 or visit [www.northumbria.nhs.uk/our-services/healthy-living](http://www.northumbria.nhs.uk/our-services/healthy-living)

## DON'T PUT OFF THE FLU VACCINATION - it's FREE because you need it

People at most risk from flu are being urged to make sure they get vaccinated against the virus.

Pregnant women, people aged 65 years or over, adults and children with long term health conditions are known to be at risk. Flu also affects those with weakened immune systems such as neurological disorders, liver, lung or renal disease, heart problems or diabetes.

A nasal spray vaccine is being offered to children aged 2- 8 years old in a bid to slow down the spread of the virus. Young children's close contact with each other means they are more likely to transmit the virus to other more vulnerable groups, including older people.

**If you are eligible for the flu vaccine get it now – it's FREE because you need it.**



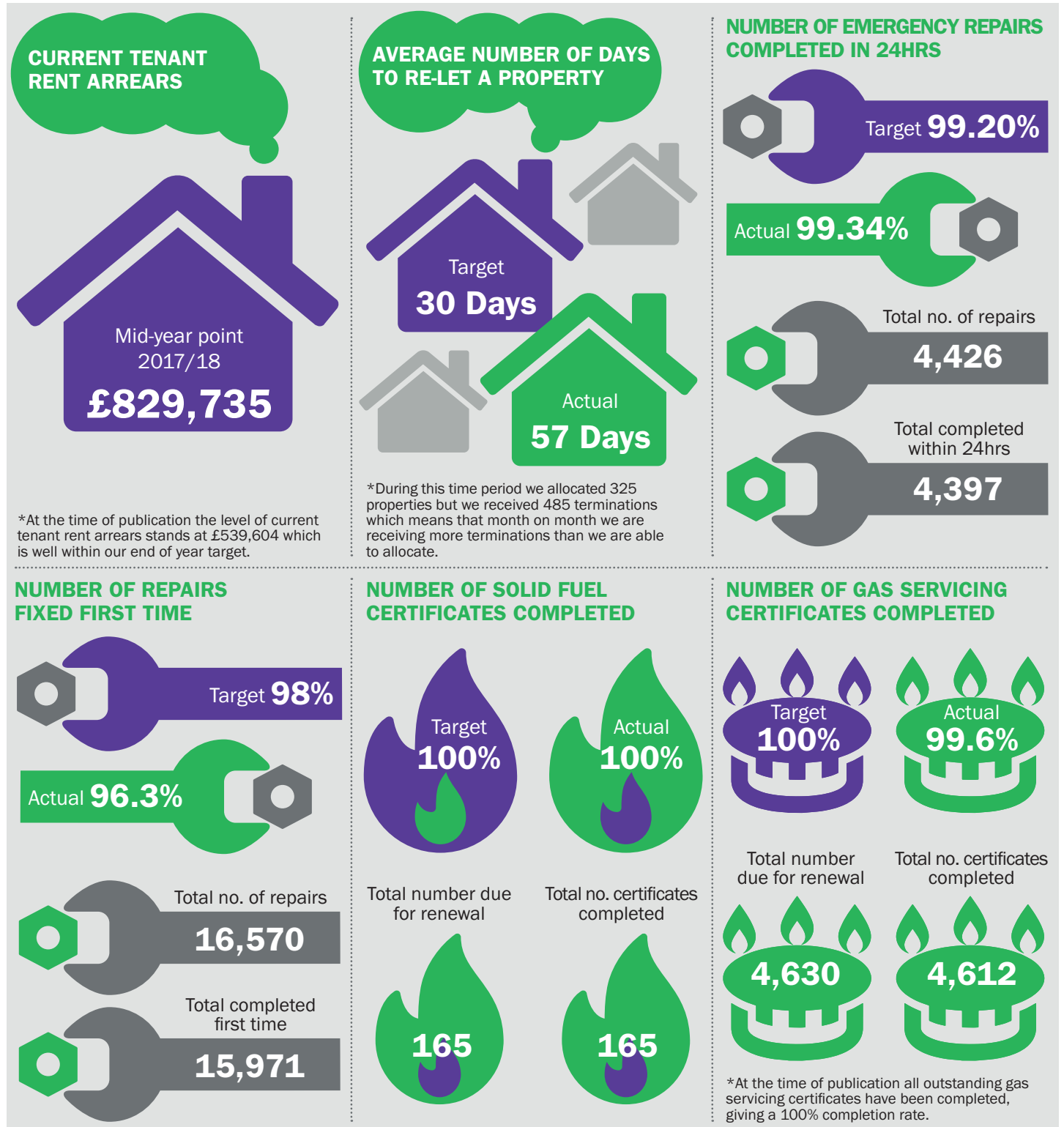
Contact your GP, pharmacist or midwife to get the flu jab or visit [nhs.uk/staywell](http://nhs.uk/staywell) for more information.

# PERFORMANCE

We aim to be the best we can and offer the best service we can to our tenants. This is why we are constantly monitoring our performance and measuring our work against a set of performance indicators.

Performance indicators are targets used to measure our performance in specific areas and provide important information in key services we provide. These have been agreed by tenants.

Our latest figures show the results for the 6 month period April - September 2017.





# THANKS *for your support*

**A special event was held just before Christmas to thank tenants who have helped to support the council in 2017.**

The council organised the festive get together to show its appreciation for tenants who have actively engaged with the council over the last 12 months.

The invited guests have all been part of focus groups set up to scrutinise the council's housing service, members of the tenant forum group, or those who been involved in establishing community projects led by the council.

At the event, at Blyth Civic Centre, Philip Soderquest, Head of Housing for the council, also thanked a number of partners for their support. These included Silx Youth Project, Blyth; Prosper, a procurement consultancy firm, who have helped to fund two community projects -

Newsham Matters and Alnwick Learning Hive projects; Symphony Kitchens and the British Army.

The tenants were shown a film of the highlights from the year and were also treated to a Christmas buffet and quiz.

Tenant Debbie Trinder, said: "I think it's really important as a council tenant to be able to challenge and question the council on performance and scrutinise the service. To be involved and have a say now will make a big difference to our future. If we, as tenants, don't speak up and say what we want from our housing service, then decisions will be made without us."

*"To be involved and have a say now will make a big difference to our future."*

Debbie Trinder



If you would like to get involved in our Task and Finish groups, which have specified timelines and look at housing services, then contact the Resident Involvement Team on **01670 542424** or check our **Homes for Northumberland Facebook page**.

# CRACK DOWN ON TENANCY FRAUD

Tenancy fraud costs local authorities millions of pounds every year, leaving families with a genuine need of secure and affordable housing, in temporary accommodation.


It can also be very serious for you if you are found to be committing tenancy fraud. You're likely to lose your tenancy and you could lose your right to council housing in the future.

The council has been leading the way in establishing the North East Tenancy Fraud Forum (NE-TFF), which includes local authorities and registered social landlords from across the region.

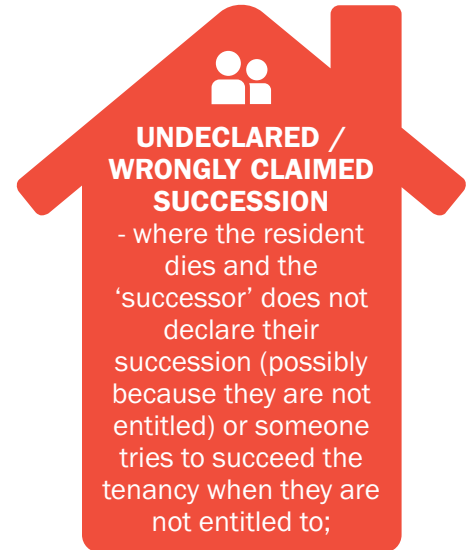
This forum has been campaigning across the region to help fight various types of tenancy fraud.

But to crack down on this issue we need your help. If you suspect any fraudulent behaviour report it to our Fraud Team on **01670 624359**.



  
Tenancy fraud can lead to anti-social behaviour in neighbourhoods. If you know anyone who you think is committing fraud report it today.

## THERE ARE DIFFERENT TYPES OF TENANCY FRAUD INCLUDING:



## SO WHAT THINGS SHOULD YOU BE LOOKING OUT FOR?

- 🏠 Has a property near you been left abandoned by the previous tenant? - Abandoned properties can lead to squatting and vandalism.
- 👂 Do you know someone who has given false information on their housing application, or homeless application, in order to get a property?
- 🏠 Perhaps you know someone who has falsely put in an application for a Right to Buy on behalf of someone else, i.e. a parent has applied for a Right to Buy without any intention of living in the property but allowing a child or relative to live there instead.

- 👂 Or have they falsified their own claim for Right to Buy in order to gain a discount?
- 🏠 Is someone you know wrongfully subletting their council-owned home, privately? - This is a criminal offence, punishable by a two-year jail sentence and/or a fine of up to £50,000.

Since April 2014 our Fraud team have had 99 applications to purchase Right to Buy withdrawn.

If you know anyone who you think is committing fraud report it today on our Fraud Hotline **01670 624359**, email [fraudline@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:fraudline@northumberland.gov.uk)

# LEASEHOLDERS

## *Rights & Responsibilities*

**Did you know as a leaseholder you have several responsibilities? Below are some of them.**

### **You must:-**

- 🏠 Pay your Service Charges when requested
- 🏠 Carry out all internal repairs and decoration to your property
- 🏠 Inform us if you sublet your property and provide us with a correspondence address
- 🏠 Inform us if you intend on selling your home
- 🏠 Not leave your property empty for more than 30 days
- 🏠 Not cause a nuisance to your neighbours
- 🏠 Allow us into your home to carry out any repairs necessary under the lease
- 🏠 Make sure you have a Annual Gas Safety Check and provide us with a copy of your certificate. We can do this for you for £45 + VAT.
- 🏠 Not use your home for running a business
- 🏠 Maintain any garden/outside area that you are responsible for
- 🏠 Dispose of rubbish properly and in the correct bins provided.

### **In return we promise to:-**

- ✓ Provide an excellent dedicated service to our leaseholders
- ✓ Listen to your views and use your comments to improve the services we deliver.

**We advise you read your lease carefully and make sure you understand what your obligations & responsibilities are. You should be able to get a copy of your Lease from your solicitor.**

# NOTICEBOARD

## Social Fridays

If you live in the south of Northumberland and are looking for a way to make new friends and to learn new things then head along to Age UK's Social Friday event.

Held every Friday at The Round House, Ashington, the free event offers a range of activities including games, quizzes and gentle exercise.

So, if you or someone you know would like to join Social Fridays just drop in to The Round House between 1pm-3.30pm or call for further information:

01670 784 800



For **FREE and confidential sexual health services**, including confidential sexual health advice, HIV testing, pregnancy-decision making, contraception and sexually transmitted infection screening, contact the Northumberland sexual health service provided by Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust on **01670 515151** or visit [www.northumbria.nhs.uk/sexualhealth](http://www.northumbria.nhs.uk/sexualhealth)

For sexual health information, advice and support at a touch of a screen you can download the app by visiting [www.northumbria.nhs.uk/our-services/sexual-health-services/download-our-app](http://www.northumbria.nhs.uk/our-services/sexual-health-services/download-our-app)

## Thinking of STOPPING SMOKING?

For expert advice and support to stop smoking, including a personalised quit plan and prescription treatments to help beat cravings, smokers and e-cigarette users can contact the Northumberland NHS Stop Smoking Service provided by Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust on **01670 813135** or visit [www.northumbria.nhs.uk/stopsmoking](http://www.northumbria.nhs.uk/stopsmoking)



We are currently reviewing our estate walkabouts and their effectiveness going forward. Watch this space for details of future plans.

# APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU

**OVER 90%**  
OF OUR APPRENTICES MOVE INTO A HIGHER APPRENTICESHIP OR FULL EMPLOYMENT ON COMPLETION

No matter what your age, experience or challenges - whether you want to learn a trade, take up a new career or get a degree you can earn while you learn with a apprenticeship with the council.

## WHAT IS AN APPRENTICESHIP?

The apprenticeship programme is a formal training programme that is undertaken with employment.

You are employed by the council or a company we work with. You would earn a wage not less than the minimum wage for an apprentice / your age.

You would follow a structured training programme and receive both on and off the job training.



## HOW LONG DOES AN APPRENTICESHIP TAKE?

This depends on the apprenticeship you are doing and your own experience, but normally an apprenticeship would take a minimum of 12 months.

## HOW CAN I GET AN APPRENTICESHIP?

We work with employers across the area to find real job opportunities with real prospects where you can start an apprenticeship.

You can apply for an apprenticeship if you are:

- ✓ 16 or over by the end of the school summer holidays
- ✓ living in England
- ✓ not in full-time education

We welcome applications from all ages. You can apply for an apprenticeship any time.

## HOW TO APPLY

Search for an apprenticeship at [www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship](http://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship) where you will see all vacancies from all providers. You can also sign in and create an account, before completing and submitting your application.

## WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

More information is available from our Apprenticeships and Traineeships team. You can call **01670 622114** or email [apprenticeships@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:apprenticeships@northumberland.gov.uk) or go online to [www.northumberland.gov.uk/apprenticeships](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/apprenticeships)



# WOULD YOU LIKE THE CHANCE TO IMPROVE YOUR JOB PROSPECTS...

## ... or train in a new discipline?

*A series of new courses have been announced in the recently published Learning and Skills Prospectus, produced by the council, covering skills based classes, job-related training, apprenticeships and employability improvement.*

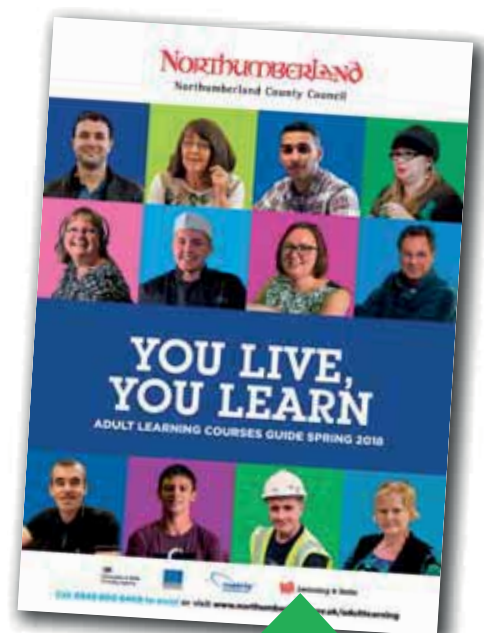


## Learning & Skills

You should have received a copy of the prospectus which includes details of over 320 courses which will be held in Northumberland County Council's Adult Learning Centres across the county.

From beginners to seasoned students, young mums to jobseekers or retirees the programme of courses is wide and varied. This year new courses have been introduced in digital skills, beauty, creative writing, step into construction (site and labourer based training programme) and FREE taster workshops in science related subjects such as muscles, bones & fitness and DNA & genetics.

The specialist teams at Learning and Skills offer help and support to all learners but particularly welcome the chance to support those people with special needs, learning difficulties, or those who just need an extra boost to help them through.



To download a copy of the prospectus visit [www.northumberland.gov.uk/adultlearning](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/adultlearning)

# NEW Year, NEW ACTIVE YOU!

A healthier, happier 2018

## Membership gives you...

### Continuous help and support



Including...

Personalised programme, goal setting, measurements, monitoring, motivation, advice, variety, challenges...  
...all included in your ACTIVE journey

**£32**

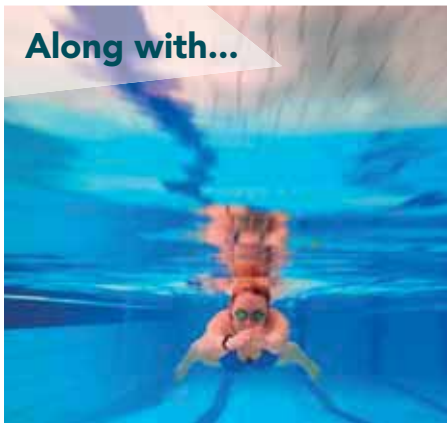
Monthly direct debit for adults with a 12 month contract

**£26**

Monthly direct debit for 14-21 yrs, FT students and over 65's

## #ActiveMe

### Along with...



swimming pools with  
NEW pool based  
fitness classes  
for 2018

**10x**



fitness classes suitable  
for ALL levels with  
NEW classes  
for 2018

**450+**



gyms with staff on  
hand to advise  
on your goals  
for 2018

**15x**

**ACTIVE**  
NORTHUMBERLAND

in partnership with

**NORTHUMBERLAND**  
Northumberland County Council



**01670 620200**

Registered Charity No. 1153198

[www.activenorthumberland.org.uk](http://www.activenorthumberland.org.uk)