



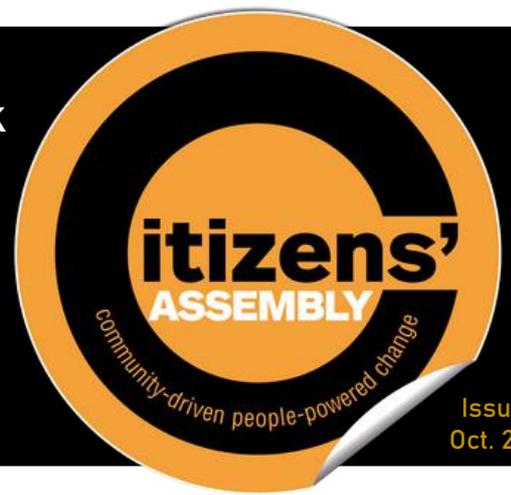
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Issue 6  
Oct. 2020

# YOUR CAST NEWSLETTER!

Keeping you up to date with our work, what we're planning and how you can get involved, direct to your inbox!

*Now is the time for community-driven, people-powered change in South Tyneside.*

## CAST 'Members Only' meeting with guest speaker: Professor Allyson Pollock

Online Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October 10:45-12:15

We are delighted to welcome Professor Allyson Pollock to speak at our first 'members only' meeting!

As Director of the Newcastle University Centre for Excellence in Regulatory Science, Prof. Pollock has spoken out about the corporate direction in which NHS Trust Boards are being driven, with mergers going hand-in-hand with reducing services and the establishment of private companies. Highlighting that we must be very aware that the government is trying to find alternative ways of funding, in addition to expensive PFI councils are under pressure to raise bonds to finance hospitals and services at the same time as facing massive cuts in their own budgets - this money should be used for council services not tied into new forms of 'Project Finance' for hospitals and NHS services.

We will also be presenting our members with the first draft of the CAST 'People's Manifesto' based entirely on feedback from our recent series of public consultations and online survey.

South Tynesiders have clearly demonstrated that we can and must do better to make the borough more inclusive and democratic - NOW is the time!

**If you are a member and would like to attend, please drop us an email so we can send you the link. If you're not a member, why not join us here**

Email us: [southtyneside@assembly.org.uk](mailto:southtyneside@assembly.org.uk) Join us: [here](#)

# NEWS

## New group to campaign for special needs children

Parents and carers of children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in South Tyneside have formed a new group called Arise South Tyneside to campaign on behalf of families in the area.

This follows a breakdown in relations between South Tyneside Council (STC) and the parent carer forum known as South Tyneside Stronger Together, who have been critical of the Town Hall's response to SEND children's needs, following results of a recent survey sent to their members and shared on Facebook.

In a statement, South Tyneside Stronger Together said they had had one of their most successful years to date but that the local council had 'systematically wanted to take out independent views that challenge their objectives' and only wanted to 'hear success stories of their work'. Continue reading [here](#)



We want *your* views on our local playgrounds.

Do you think our local playgrounds are up to scratch? What would *your* children like to play on? Do you have/care for disabled children - is there enough disabled-friendly provision in our playgrounds?

Have your say [here](#)



The South Tyneside Council Participation and Engagement Officer for SEND has announced a series of three virtual Q&A sessions.

This is an opportunity for parents and carers to ask questions and share experiences of the SEND services for children and young people in South Tyneside. The sessions are intended to ensure parents have a voice in the provision of SEND services. Andy Ritchie (SEND Access & Inclusion Service Manager) will be answering questions about SEND services and the help and support available for families.

The dates for the events are Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October 10:30-11:00, Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> 19:00-19:30 and Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> 13:30-14:00.

We have been advised that spaces are limited so please book early:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/124403587479>

Email us: [southtyneside@assembly.org.uk](mailto:southtyneside@assembly.org.uk) Join us: [here](#)

# Hate Crime Champions

Launched in August, Northumbria Police are looking to enlist specialist 'Hate Crime Champions' across the region. The aim of the new initiative is to educate the public about hate crime and the impact it can have on communities. It is hoped that the members of the community who take up the role can educate their peers and colleagues about what constitutes a hate crime, how to report it to police and how victims can get support. Teaming up with both South Tyneside and Sunderland City Councils, it is hoped that the initiative can help prevent future incidents.

To read the full article click [here](#) Any individuals, groups or businesses interested in becoming a 'Hate Crime Champion' contact [4986@northumbria.pnn.police.uk](mailto:4986@northumbria.pnn.police.uk)

Please see the list below for online resources that can be used to get people talking about hate crime and how to report it.

<https://hackinghate.eu/>

<https://www.stophateuk.org/onlinehate/>

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/>

<https://www.fearless.org/en>

<https://www.stonewall.org.uk/>

<https://beta.northumbria.police.uk/advice-and-info/personal-safety/hate-crime/>



## Upcoming meetings

To attend CAST working group meetings, you must be a member. Join [here](#)!

Education:	Environment:	Sustainable Communities:	Health:
Tuesday Nov. 3 <sup>rd</sup> @ 6pm	Thursday Nov. 5 <sup>th</sup> @ 6pm	Thursday Nov. 12 <sup>th</sup> @ 6pm	TBC

CAST are proud to support SSTHC - please don't forget their fortnightly **meetings**!

Do you have meetings you'd like more community involvement in? Let us know

Email us: [southtyneside@assembly.org.uk](mailto:southtyneside@assembly.org.uk) Join us: [here](#)

# WHAT IS...the Sheffield model?

**Each month, our new section 'What is...?' will take an unbiased look at terms often used but never really explained - this month 'the Sheffield model' and could it work for South Tyneside?**

'The Council is run for and on behalf of the people of South Tyneside and the Council's assets belong, collectively, to the people of the Borough'...'Our aim is to work for our community in an open and transparent way and keep local people informed and involved in all we do.'<sup>(1)</sup>

South Tyneside Council (STC) operates a 'Leader and Cabinet model'.<sup>(2)</sup> Basically, this means that the **majority party**, in our case Labour, chooses a leader, currently Iain Malcolm, who then chooses nine other **majority party** councillors to make up a 'cabinet' and be responsible for areas, known as portfolios, including Transport, Housing and Environment. The cabinet has the power to make key decisions, but the leader can override them. This small group made up **entirely** from the **majority party** holds the power to make almost all decisions – essentially, all other elected councillors are virtually excluded from the decision-making process. With more and more power being concentrated into the hands of this small group, many South Tynesiders are now asking 'What's the point of voting if our councillors are excluded?' So, is there a solution?

In Sheffield, 2018, **It's Our City** launched a petition calling for a move from their Strong Leader Model to the 'Modern Committee System' (MCS). Each council designs its own MCS according to own its needs but the example raised in Sheffield was that the city could have eight or nine councillors in a small committee for each portfolio. External experts and representatives from voluntary and community organisations could also be invited to bring in alternative views and suggestions. Both Brighton and Reading Councils are currently using a MCS while Chester East is adopting one following lengthy discussions to design a suitable model.<sup>(3)</sup>

Democracy is 'government by the people or their elected representatives'.<sup>(4)</sup> If the power of decision-making is concentrated in the hands of a very small group and the majority of our **elected** councillors are shut out, where is the democracy in South Tyneside?

What do you think? Could the MCS benefit the borough? Let us know [here](#)

Interested? Click the youtube logo for a short video by the **It's Our City** group. 

(1) <https://www.southtyneside.gov.uk/article/38558/How-the-Council-works>

(2) <https://www.southtyneside.gov.uk/article/38566/Leader-of-the-Council>

(3) <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-south-yorkshire-49798209>

(4) <https://www.thefreedictionary.com/democracy>

<https://www.itsoursheffield.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Sheff-Referendum-Leaflet-online-version.pdf>

<https://www.itsoursheffield.co.uk/>

**Email us: [southtyneside@assembly.org.uk](mailto:southtyneside@assembly.org.uk) Join us: [here](#)**

# COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

## UPCOMING (ONLINE) COMMUNITY AREA FORUM (CAF) MEETINGS YOU CAN ACCESS

South Tyneside Council holds five regular Community Area Forum (CAF) meetings with the purpose of discussing issues important to local residents. Members of the public are 'actively encouraged' to attend in order to meet 'local councillors and other people who have an influence on what happens in your community'. Click on your area below for the meeting link, agenda etc.

**Hebburn:** Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October @ 10am

**Jarrow & Boldon:** Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October @ 10am

**West Shields, Cleadon & East Boldon:** Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> October @ 10am

**Riverside:** Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November @ 10am

**East Shields & Whitburn:** Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November @ 6pm

If you're interested in accessing other Council meetings, click [here](#)

## GOT SOMETHING YOU DON'T WANT ANY MORE? DON'T DUMP IT - **FREEGLE** IT!

FREEGLE is a not-for-profit UK organisation aiming to increase reusing and recycling and reducing landfill by offering a free online platform where people can give away and/or ask for things that would otherwise be thrown away. Interested? Check out their [website](#) or [Facebook](#) page.

Couldn't make the  
Cybercrime workshop?  
No problem - we have  
the slides for you!

Click to view:  
[Recovering accounts](#)  
[Protecting devices](#)

[Passwords](#)  
[Phishing](#)

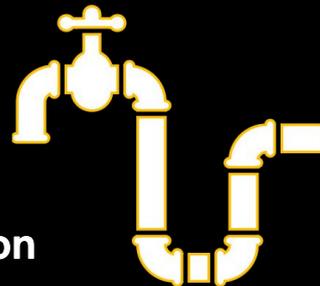
Planning an event?  
We can help you reach out -  
just **email** us the details and  
we'll do the rest!

The 'Friends of South Tyneside Hospital' is a charity working with Richmond Taxis offering

transport to local children and their families without access to transport and unable to afford a taxi, to and from Sunderland Royal Hospital Children's A&E department between 10pm and 8am when South Tyneside Hospital Children's A&E department is closed. See their [Facebook](#) page for more information.

This is **NOT** an emergency service - you **MUST** ring 999 in an emergency.

## IN THE CAST PIPELINE...



Here's what we're working on  
at the minute...

### Sustainable Communities:

Morrisons 'Community Champions' from both Jarrow and South Shields have been invited to join us at our next meeting to discuss our ideas regarding possible solutions to the issues of litter and abandoned trolleys in the borough.

For more details just drop us an email.  
To get involved, [join us!](#)

Email us: [southtyneside@assembly.org.uk](mailto:southtyneside@assembly.org.uk) Join us: [here](#)