

North East Pensioners Association

Impact report June 2025

**You can Join NEPA.
Help us Inform, Influence and Change
older lives for the better in our
communities.**



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1. CARE HOMES, CARERS & HOUSING.

Darlington Borough Council's gets Good CQC report for adult social care services. It highlights many strengths including a 'consistent, strength-based assessment programme', 'effective' hospital discharge arrangements, and 'high satisfaction' among unpaid carers. It also noted a 'responsive and person-centred approach' from social workers and strong multi-agency partnerships ([D&STimes](#))

Carers week held 9th June 2025. To many, the job may appear to be just that, but to those involved it's a complex, multifaceted, loving role that requires an extraordinary type of person. Carers Week – an event founded by the charity Carers UK over 25 years ago – was created to celebrate these particular individuals ([SCToday](#)).



Bay View House, formerly the Rex Hotel. This is being transformed into a care home after a £12 million restoration project. The project, set to open this summer, will provide residential, nursing, and dementia care in Whitley Bay ([NEcho](#)).

2. ECONOMY.

North East jobless below national average for first time on record. The reduction in the North East's unemployment of 0.5% was greater than that of any other region except the North West, down 0.7% ([NEBylines](#)).



Treatments for age-related conditions and other diseases. North East biotech firm Magnitude Biosciences has secured £700,000 funding through a number of investors and grant money. The Durham University spin-out which specialises in 'in vivo' drug discovery - within living organisms - has raised the funds for development of its high-throughput screening platform ([BusinessLive](#)).

The North East is set to receive nearly £30m. This to boost its fastest growing sectors. The funding forms part of a broader government initiative led by Chancellor Rachel Reeves, who has earmarked £86 billion in the Spending Review for advanced manufacturing and defence.

3. HEALTH & WELFARE.

'Search' Newcastle win a GSK Kings Fund Health Impact Award. This for their work with older people. The Awards recognise and rewards outstanding work by small and medium-sized charities focused on improving health and wellbeing in the UK. See video of the outstanding work they do ([Click here](#)).



New Skin Cancer treatment. A study led by Newcastle University scientists identified a new combination therapy for treating ICB-resistant metastatic skin cancers. The new combination therapy, anti-CD30, could also benefit immunotherapy treatment of othersolid cancers ([NewcastleUniversity](#)).

Rural areas miss out on new kerbside food recycling service. Northumberland County Council needs additional funding to meet new recycling requirements, including food waste collection from all households starting April 2026. The council requires £1.5 million more than the £2.9 million already provided by DEFRA ([H/Courant](#)).



'Failing' water sector blasted by MPs as bosses pocket bonuses despite pollution crisis. Parliamentarians on the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs committee said there is a cultural problem in the sector and called for "a major refresh of the incentives and drivers" and "much more regulated management of financial incentives for senior executives" ([Express](#)).

4. THE NHS.

Sir Paul Ennals CBE appointed as shared chair by Gateshead, Newcastle and Northumberland NHS trusts. The appointment is part of the Great North Healthcare Alliance, a collaborative working arrangement aimed at improving patient care and staff benefits. Sir Paul brings extensive leadership experience, particularly in services for vulnerable children and adults ([NHS](#)).



Crackdown on agency spending saves NHS nearly £1bn. The NHS in England has seen a significant reduction in spending on temporary staffing agencies, with nearly £1 billion saved in 2024/25, following the government's introduction of stricter agency spending limits ([SCToday](#)).

Sunderland's new eye hospital, set to open in summer 2026. This will be the North East's only all-electric hospital, powered by a nearby energy centre. It will house services from the ageing Sunderland Eye Infirmary ([NHS](#)).

Revolutionary new test spots cancer sooner. A new blood test piloted by Newcastle hospitals, called a "liquid biopsy", is being rolled out across the NHS. The test, which can detect tiny fragments of cancer tumours, helped diagnose a patient with stage four cancer, allowing for precise treatment ([Chronicle](#)).

Job losses as urgent NHS call firm collapses. 1,400 people across several sites in the UK, including Stockton-on-Tees and Newcastle, had lost their jobs across the group but did not confirm how many had been affected at each site. The firm taking over PHL Group agreed the immediate transfer of 600 jobs ([BBC](#)).



NHS helipad. The HELP Appeal donated £600,000 to construct a new helipad at the Northumbria Specialist Emergency Care Hospital. The helipad will support day and night landings, including new aviation lighting and safety markings ([NHS](#)).

NHS bosses in Newcastle face a £9m monthly. This savings target to achieve a £106m savings goal by March 2026. A voluntary severance scheme and staff efficiency suggestions are being explored ([Chronicle](#)).

NICE's decide not to recommend Donanemab and Lecanemab for NHS use. Prof Carragher, Alzheimer's Society's Chief Policy Research Officer, said: "There is no doubt that today's decision is a setback for people with Alzheimer's disease. It is highly disappointing that we are in a situation where treatments that slow the progression of the condition are not available on the NHS ([Alzheimer's Society](#)).



Note for more reading just click on the [underlined words](#)

5. POLITICS.

Great North alliance of 9 elected mayors promise prosperity through innovation. They have formed The Great North, an economic alliance focused on clean energy, cyber assets, and the creative industries. The alliance aims to increase job opportunities and address historic investment disparities, particularly in infrastructure and public services, between the North and the South East ([Infotec](#)).

MPs voted to legalise assisted dying in England and Wales. This after the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill passed its third reading. The bill, which allows terminally ill adults to end their lives with medical assistance, received 314 votes in favour and 291 against. A majority of 23 ([BBC](#)).

Are you owed more pension? The Government owes £1b to tens of thousands of people, mostly women, who received child benefit between 1978 and 2010 and were underpaid state pension due to incorrect calculation rules. But so far it has only found about one in ten of them ([RadioTimes](#)).

6. POVERTY.

Thousands marched in London against austerity. They called for the government to tax the rich to fund public services. The People's Assembly organised the demonstration, bringing together various campaigners under the slogan "No More Austerity 2.0". The PM was forced to abandon the central plank of his welfare bill to get it past its first Commons hurdle, with a dramatic climbdown that meant he had to drop disability benefit cuts ([Guardian](#)).



7. SECURITY.

Stockton crime and anti-social behaviour sparks row. A war of words broke out between Conservative and Labour politicians over crime and anti-social behaviour in Stockton town centre. Labour's Stockton North MP urged people to support shopkeepers and market traders, while a Conservative councillor branded him "out of touch" ([D&STimes](#)).

Volunteers Week June 2025. Durham Police and Crime Commissioner Joy Allen has launched new plans to develop the skills of volunteers who work on her behalf. To coincide with the Volunteers Week 2025, the PCC announced a £15,000 funding grant to Durham Community Action.

The Crown Court outstanding caseload has doubled since 2019 and continues to grow. This 'backlog' of cases is 11% larger than one year earlier and 17% higher than where the Ministry of Justice previously predicted it would be in March 2025. This is driven by poor productivity since the pandemic ([IFS](#)).

8. TRANSPORT.



Tyne and Wear Metro extension to Washington update as new work planned on £900m rail loop bid. Designs for new Metro stations and bridges will be drawn up in an effort to secure financial backing from the Government to extend the Tyne and Wear rail network to Washington ([Chronicle](#)).

Keel Crossing - confirmed as the name for Sunderland's new footbridge. The name has been revealed following a public vote for a suitable permanent identity for the new bridge spanning the River Wear, between Keel Square in the City Centre and the Sheepfolds/Stadium of Light area of the city ([N/Echo](#)).

Central Station Ticket Office. It looks as though what was foretold last year has now happened regarding the downgrading of the Central Station ticket office. On Wednesday 18th June, a kiosk appeared on the main concourse beside the big departure boards. This is now the booking office, in the most busy and noisy part of the station and quite unsuitable for people queueing or the hard-of-hearing or disabled (A user wrote in to NEPA).

North of England lost out on £140bn for transport. This according to the Institute for Public Policy Research study. The IPPR calls on ministers to close the investment gap. The IPPR independent analysis of Treasury figures lays bare in black and white the extent of the UK's transport investment divide. Over the decade to 2022/23, each year:

London received £1,183 per person

The North saw £486 per person

The North East saw £430 per person

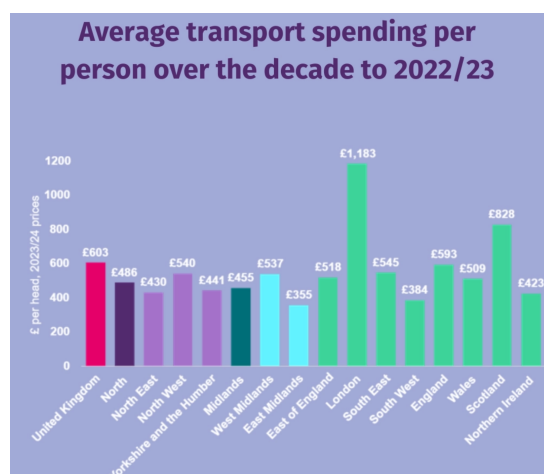
The North West saw £540 per person

Yorkshire and Humber saw £441 per person

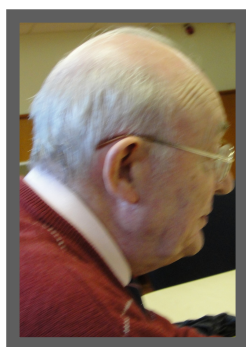
The UK as a whole received £603 per person

And England as a saw whole £592 per person

(Guardian).



The Chancellor announced a £1 billion investment. She says we're taking first steps to fix North East's crumbling infrastructure. This to upgrade and repair transport links in the North East, including the Tyne Bridge. The investment will also address the condemned Gateshead Flyover ([ShieldsGazette](#)).



Norman Spours. Our NEPA Treasurer for many years sadly died on the 14 June 2025 aged 92. He was one of the original NEPA Trustee indomitable's from NASUWT who started to revitalise the organisation and turn it around back in 2008. This with a new structure and constitution. He was one of our key Trustees who helped keep our light burning when it was at its dimmest. We are very grateful for his time, effort and sacrifice. He is truly part of today's NEPA legacy and will be fondly remembered for this but by many for his friendship and convivial character. Our condolences to his family and friends. May he rest in peace.

Sean Fahey
Secretary NEPA

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