



**Community
Foundation**

Vital Signs North East



- 'Takes the pulse' of our region to identify challenges and opportunities, and how philanthropy can best address them.
- Acts as a guide to inform effective giving – of money, time and expertise - to support communities and civil society.
- Draws on statistics, research and knowledge from our funding and networks.

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- **Research:** Mark Pierce, with Nils Stronach and Jo Cundall
- **Editorial group:**
 - **Jo Curry MBE DL**, Sir James Knott Trust
 - **Ngozi Lyn Cole**, consultant
 - **Professor Tony Chapman**, Durham University
 - **Matt Bratton**, CBI
 - **Dr Christopher Hartworth**, Difference North East
 - **Claire Malcom MBE**, New Writing North/CF trustee
- **Specialist advice:** Nick Perks (environment); Becky Elton (Housing)

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Economy



Education



Health



Environment



Culture



Homes



**Living
Standards**



Community



Justice



Access

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- Climate change
- International tensions
- Low growth and low productivity
- Income and wealth inequality
- Poverty and cost-of-living
- Pressures on public services
- Lack of affordable housing
- Mistrust in institutions, democratic disengagement
- Drop in volunteering and stagnation in giving
- Reduced funding for arts, heritage and sport

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Vital Signs North East: Economy



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- Higher unemployment
- Lower economic activity
- Lower median earnings
- Lower levels of self-employment
- Fewer businesses

But

- *Excellent universities*
- *Strong areas of industry*
- *Tourism, culture, environment*
- *Inclusive growth agenda*



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Vital Signs North East: Economy



- Help ensure everyone can contribute and benefit from a prosperous regional economy
- Foster local economies inc. access to jobs and training
- Increase civil society organisations' capacity to be strong economic partners

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Vital Signs North East: Education



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- GCSE and A level attainment gap
- Lower higher education progression
- Higher % of people with no qualifications
- Higher % of NEET young people

BUT

- *Our schools do well on 'distance travelled'*
- *Progress happening on skills*
- *Commitment from key bodies to do more*



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Vital Signs North East: Education



- Support civil society organisations to add value to/fill gaps in mainstream provision
- Contribute to raising attainment and skills by closing gap and supporting individuals at risk of exclusion
- Promote greater equity, diversity and inclusion and support learning as a force for change in communities

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Vital Signs North East: Health



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- Lower life expectancy
- Fewer healthy years of life
- More obesity, smoking and drinking; less physical activity
- Higher suicide rate

BUT

- *Integrated health/care plan involving NHS, councils and voluntary sector*



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Vital Signs North East: Health



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- Address root causes of ill-health and health inequality
- Fund services that address gaps or add value e.g. diet, drinking, smoking, mental health
- Tackle health issues for people most at risk of exclusion



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Vital Signs North East: Environment



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- Historic carbon production
- Vulnerability to extreme weather
- Lower recycling rates
- Relative complacency

BUT

- *Rapid fall in greenhouse gas*
- *Good air quality*
- *Well served with green spaces*



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Vital Signs North East: Environment



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- Address local environmental issues around climate, biodiversity etc.
- Help communities benefit from opportunities via the 'green industrial revolution'
- Ensure communities have a voice on environmental issues



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Vital Signs North East: Culture



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- Lower arts and heritage participation
- London disproportionately funded
- Household income under pressure
- Local authorities squeezed

BUT

- *Routes to participation and enjoyment*
- *Support for culture among regional and sub-regional bodies*
- *Creative industries*



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Vital Signs North East: Culture



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- Ensure everyone has opportunities to engage in culture
- Fund arts, heritage and sports to address social and economic challenges and opportunities
- Increase capacity of organisations through core support, volunteering and partnerships



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Vital Signs North East: Homes



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- More reliance on social housing
- Expanding private rented sector
- % of indebted households
- % households threatened with homelessness

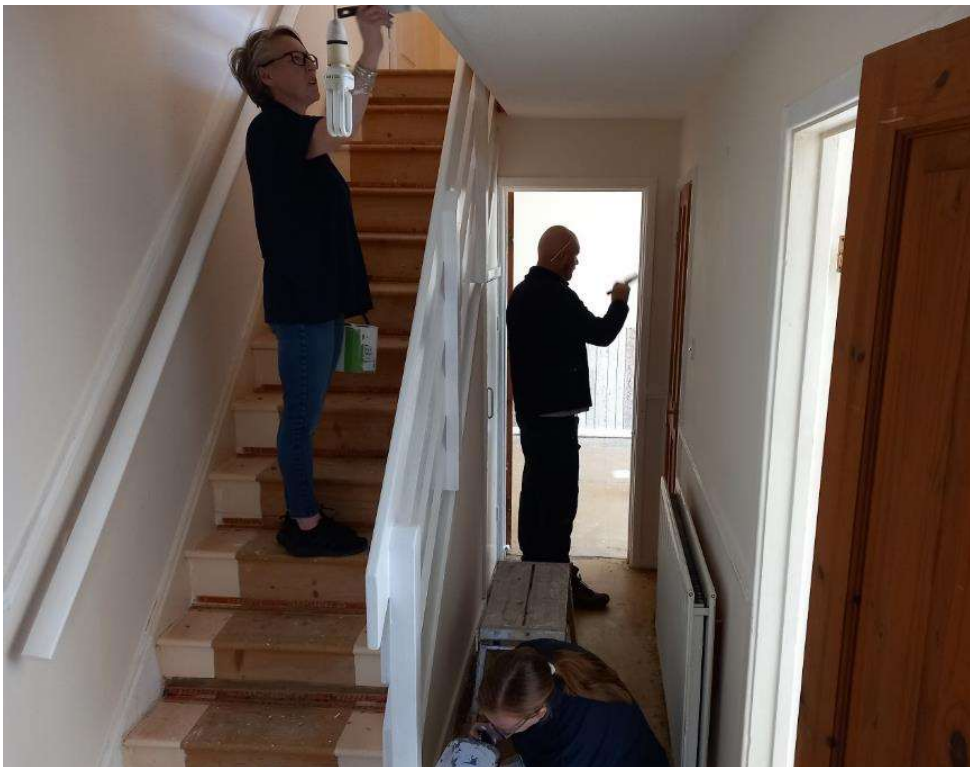
But

- *Affordability of homes to buy and rent better than other regions*



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Vital Signs North East: Homes



- Address root causes of homeless – poverty, exclusion, health
- Support those inadequately housed, homeless or at risk
- Fund research, campaigning and influence on policy and practice

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Vital Signs North East: Living standards



- Poverty, especially child poverty
- Low pay
- Lower and falling household wealth
- Households with problem debt
- Increased demand on charities

BUT

- *Commitment to tackle poverty from NECA and business groups*

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Vital Signs North East: Living standards



- Help meet basic needs and people under most pressure.
- Fund charities so they can meet rising demand and rising costs
- Build long-term resilience by ensuring people can benefit from economic opportunities

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Vital Signs North East: Community



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- Lower civic participation
- Connection between people of different backgrounds
- Lower levels of volunteering
- Number of 'left-behind' neighbourhoods

BUT

- *Strong ties within communities*
- *Grassroots organising*
- *Tradition of home-grown philanthropy*



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Vital Signs North East: Community

- Build bonds *in* and *between* communities, civic participation, community anchors
- Commit 1% pre-tax profit, support work-based volunteering and pro bono help
- Provide unrestricted, longer-term funding
- Invest in sector networks, infrastructure, volunteering, digital and data

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Vital Signs North East: Justice



- Levels of recorded crimes
- Levels of anti-social behaviour
- Levels of re-offending
- Differences between richer and poorer places

BUT

- *Opportunity to address issues in a joined-up way with PCCs, LAs, CAs and expert charity organisations*

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Vital Signs North East: Justice



- Fund prevention inc. work with young people, mediation, conflict resolution etc.
- Support victims – specialist and community level services
- Help offenders make a fresh start to reduce re-offending

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Vital Signs North East: Access



- Greater income and wealth inequality
- Exclusion based on education, employment, health, disability
- Levels of consumer debt
- Broadband in rural areas.

BUT

- Potential to join up solutions via NECA and partners

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Vital Signs North East: Access



- Address physical and financial barriers
- Fund increased access – outreach, community transport, digital
- Support research, policy and campaigning

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1. Reduce our region's **poverty** and **inequality**
2. Widen **access** and **inclusion** to increase **opportunities**
3. Support people to live **healthier** and **safer** lives
4. Strengthen **culture, community life** and **resilience**
5. Take and resource action to address **climate change**

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- **Recognise the value of the region's charities and community organisations and invest in them**
- **Join a renewed effort to grow giving and philanthropy**
- **Build on the opportunities of devolution**

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communityfoundation.org.uk/onthetable

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