

# A Wellbeing Framework for the North of Tyne



**SUMMARY**



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This is a summary of the Report by the Roundtable on Wellbeing in the North of Tyne. The full report was submitted to the North of Tyne Combined Authority Cabinet in January 2022, and is available **here**.

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# What is a Wellbeing Framework? and why is it important?

Collective wellbeing means everyone having what they need to live well, now and in the future. We know that our health and wealth are important. But being able to really live well can be impacted by lots of different things. This includes the quality of our home and relationships, how much we feel we have a say in decisions that affect our lives, whether we are able to access local services, green spaces and more.

What wellbeing looks like will vary from place to place. But wellbeing can only be achieved when all the interconnected parts of our lives are taken into account. The wellbeing organisation, Carnegie UK, believe that collective wellbeing happens when social, economic, environmental and democratic outcomes are seen as equally important and given equal weight.

A wellbeing framework helps governments understand what matters most to people, set goals and measure progress towards achieving them.

In December 2020, the North of Tyne Combined Authority started working with Carnegie UK to create a wellbeing framework for the North of Tyne.

By creating and adopting a wellbeing framework, North of Tyne will become one of the first combined authorities in England to include wellbeing in decision making processes.

The wellbeing framework is a set of goals that will help to achieve the North of Tyne's vision of:

*A dynamic and more inclusive economy, one that brings together people and opportunities to create vibrant communities and a high quality of life, narrowing inequalities and ensuring that all residents have a stake in our region's future.*



## Collective Wellbeing

At Carnegie UK we believe that collective wellbeing happens when **social**, **economic**, **environmental** and **democratic** wellbeing outcomes are seen as being equally important and are given equal weight.



# Creating a Wellbeing Framework for the North of Tyne

To create a wellbeing framework, North of Tyne Combined Authority and Carnegie UK adopted a 'roundtable method'. A 'roundtable' is a group of specialists who meet for a defined period of time to discuss and develop solutions on an agreed topic. This approach has been used successfully to create wellbeing frameworks in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

North of Tyne Combined Authority and Carnegie UK invited 12 specialists from different sectors and from across the region to form the Roundtable on Wellbeing in the North of Tyne.

The Roundtable was co-chaired by Professor Mark Shucksmith OBE (Newcastle University) and Sarah McMillan (Northumberland County Council).

The purpose of the Roundtable was to gather the views of citizens and experts, and to use this evidence to create a wellbeing framework. In turn, the wellbeing framework would help North of Tyne Combined Authority to make decisions that improve the wellbeing of everyone in the region.

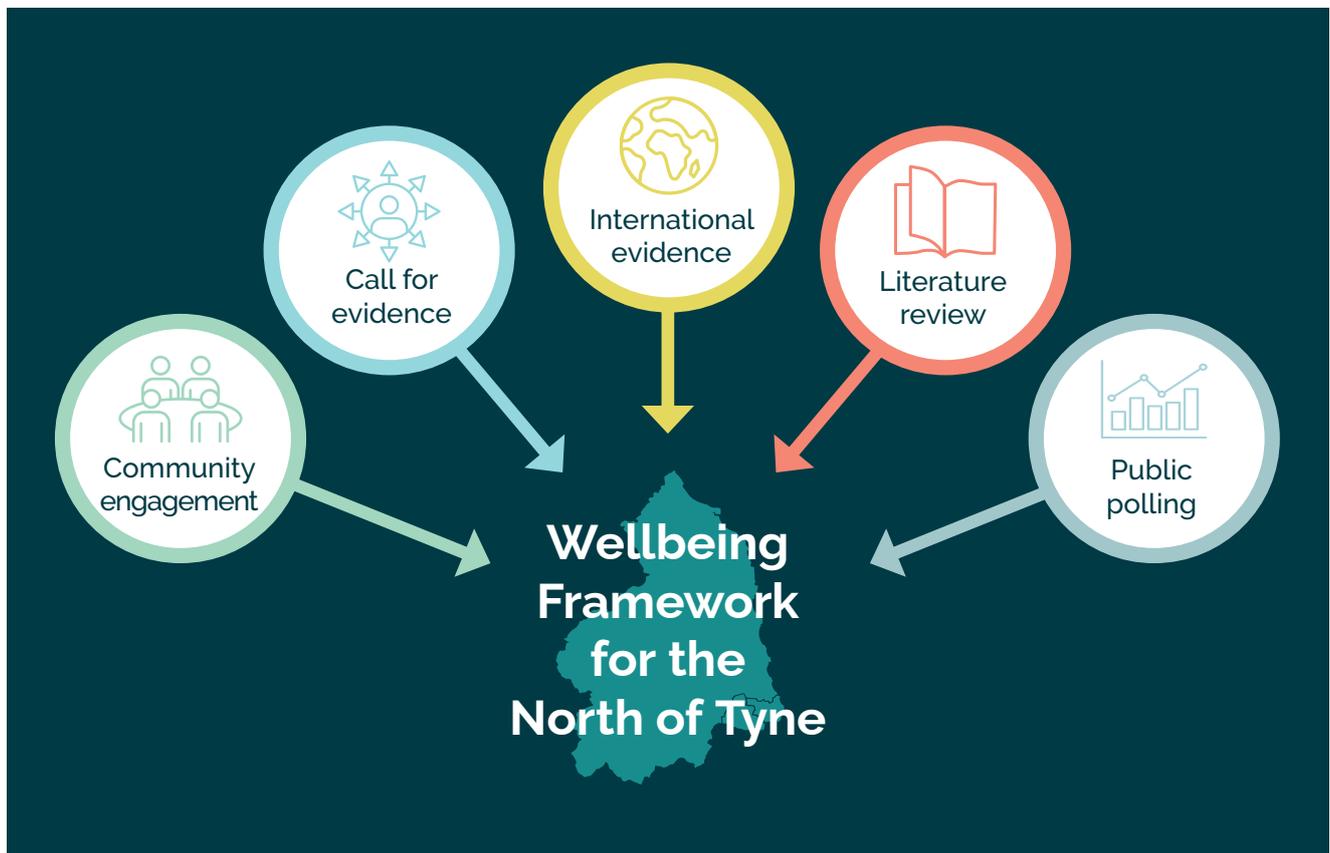
The Roundtable on Wellbeing in the North of Tyne	
<b>Professor Mark Shucksmith OBE</b>	Newcastle University / Carnegie UK Trustee
<b>Sarah McMillan</b>	Assistant Director of Policy, Northumberland County Council
<b>Andrea Malcolm</b>	Executive Director of People, Homes and Communities, Bernicia
<b>Behnam Khazaeli</b>	Senior Public Health Manager, North Tyneside Council
<b>Emma Ward</b>	Research, Evidence and Analysis Programme Manager, North East Local Enterprise Partnership
<b>Jennifer Wallace</b>	Director, Carnegie UK
<b>Laura Seebohm</b>	Executive Director of External Affairs, Changing Lives
<b>Leigh Mills</b>	Head of Inclusive Growth, North of Tyne Combined Authority
<b>Liz Robinson</b>	Public Health Manager, Northumberland County Council
<b>Lorna Smith</b>	Assistant Director of Public Health (Acting), Newcastle City Council
<b>Miatta Fahnbulleh</b>	Chief Executive, New Economics Foundation
<b>Robin Fry</b>	Chief Executive, VODA / North of Tyne Combined Authority VCSE Ambassador

# Gathering evidence on what matters to people in the North of Tyne

The Roundtable met four times between May and October 2021. They collected and looked at a wide range of evidence to understand what matters to people who live and work in the North of Tyne. This included:

- Looking at international research on wellbeing policy and practice, and looking at NTCA's own vision and policies (such as its Inclusive Economy Policy Statement)
- Asking for written evidence from organisations, businesses, and universities on what they think matters to wellbeing in the North of Tyne
- Organising community conversations, run by local charities and community groups, to ask residents what matters most to them
- Commissioning a YouGov survey that asked over 1700 residents questions about the North of Tyne they wanted to see

From this evidence, the Roundtable produced ten wellbeing outcomes. These outcomes provide a set of goals to enhance the social, economic, environmental, and democratic wellbeing of everyone living in the North of Tyne.



# Wellbeing Framework for the North of Tyne

## Our vision

The North of Tyne is a place with a dynamic and more inclusive **economy** one that brings together people and opportunities to create vibrant communities and a high **quality of life** narrowing **inequalities** and ensuring that all residents have a stake in our region's **future**

## Our wellbeing outcomes



## Measuring progress

After agreeing a vision and a set of wellbeing outcomes, it is important to be able to measure progress towards these goals. To do this, the Roundtable worked with the Centre for Thriving Places, who are experts in wellbeing measurement. Together, they chose a set of measures or 'indicators' that would help to understand whether wellbeing is improving or not.

There are a total of 52 indicators. They include things like the number of people who are experiencing homelessness, the percentage of children that are living in poverty and the employment rate for people with disabilities.

They also include things that have not been measured in the past but were raised as important issues in the community conversations and YouGov survey. These include things like litter and participation in local decision-making.

Over time, the indicators will provide a way of understanding progress towards achieving the wellbeing outcomes and the Combined Authority's vision for the North of Tyne.

## Implementing the Wellbeing Framework

The Roundtable has shared this wellbeing framework with the North of Tyne Combined Authority. It recommends that they use this framework to ensure a wellbeing approach to pandemic recovery that improves the lives of people in the North of Tyne. Specifically, the Roundtable asks the Combined Authority to:

- **adopt** the wellbeing framework and commit to delivering the wellbeing priorities of North of Tyne residents
- **communicate** the wellbeing framework to North of Tyne residents via ongoing involvement and engagement
- **embed** a wellbeing approach to decision making, engaging local governments, agencies and stakeholders to deliver outcomes
- **report** on progress and **review** the approach taken at regular intervals

By endorsing these recommendations and taking a wellbeing approach to government, the Roundtable believes that the Combined Authority can make progress towards a North of Tyne where everyone has what they need to live well, now and in the future.

## **Carnegie UK**

Andrew Carnegie House  
Pittencrieff Street  
Dunfermline  
Fife, Scotland  
KY12 8AW

**T** +44 (0)1383 721445

[www.carnegieuk.org](http://www.carnegieuk.org)

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