



South Tyneside Council

item 2

**East Shields and Whitburn Community Area Forum
28 May 2026**

**East Shields and Whitburn Community Area Forum
Minutes**

22 January 2026

Present: Councillors: Clare (In the Chair), Brown, Carter, Harrison, Traynor, N. Maxwell & Berkley

Officers and Outside Representatives: Merrik Robertson (CAF Management Officer), Chloe Berston (Assistant Housing Manager), Alex Hoole (Housing Manager ESHW), Don Wade (ASB and Neighbourhood Crime Co-Ordinator), Jonathan Ramanayake (Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue), Anna Dixon (Senior Manager - Housing Strategy and Regulation), Andy McGill (Welfare Support Team Manager), Gemma Briggs (Operational Manager Family Help Services), Lucy Keating (Director of Legal and Governance - Monitoring Officer) Sean Allen (Democracy Support Officer)

Apologies: Councillors: Dixon, Foreman, Leask, Myers & Welsh

Voluntary sector representative: J Volante

There were 7 members of the public in attendance at the meeting.

1. Declarations of Interest

None

2. Minutes of the Meeting 16 October 2025

Agreed: That, having taken the above amendments into account, the minutes of meeting held on 16 October 2025 be confirmed as a true record.

3. Community Partners Report

Submitted: Report of Community Safety Partnership

Nexus

No representative from Nexus attended the meeting. They had sent apologies and advised no updates were required.

Members noted their disappointment at the lack of attendance and asked if a basic report could be provided when they weren't attending, highlighting any work being done such as ASB issues.

Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service

Jonathan Ramanayake of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service was available to attend the meeting; provided highlighting the following data:

Deliberate Primary Fires – Excluding road vehicles

Ward	Incident Count
Cleadon Park	0
Harton	0
Horsley Hill	1
Whitburn And Marsden	0
Total	1

Primary Deliberate fires – Including road vehicles

Ward	Incident Count
Cleadon Park	0
Harton	1
Horsley Hill	0
Whitburn And Marsden	0
Total	1

Deliberate Secondary Fires

Ward	Incident Count
Cleadon Park	2
Harton	0
Horsley Hill	0
Whitburn And Marsden	0
Total	0

Total number of Deliberate Fires

Ward	Incident Count
Cleadon Park	2
Harton	1
Horsley Hill	1
Whitburn And Marsden	0
Total	4

A Member asked if there had been any issues on Bonfire night as they had been made aware of an issue with white goods being burnt. It was advised that there had been no issues with ASB, in respect of the bonfire with white goods, they were aware of the bonfire, and it was a safe distance from any homes. The white goods were not known to be in there until the fire had subsided.

Northumbria Police

Inspector Heron, Neighbourhood Sergeant, provided the CAF with an update from Northumbria Police containing the following information:

Burglary Dwelling

Harton - there had been no offences in this period.

Horsley Hill - there had been 1 offence in this period:

- Offenders force entry to garage before stealing motorcycle from inside. This crime remains under investigation.

Marsden - there had been no offences in this period.

Cleadon Park – there have been 3 offences in this period:

- Attempt burglary. Offender, unsuccessfully, tries door handle of address before making off. This crime remains under investigation.
- Attempt burglary. Offender knocks on victim's door. Victim does not answer but believes they have heard the offender try the door handle. The offender remains unknown.
- Offender had smashed a window at the victim' address before going to the rear door and trying to gain access to the address. offender had been in possession of a knife. The offender had been arrested and charged for this offence.

Westoe Crown - there had been no offences in this period.

Harton Moor - there had been no offences in this period.

Whitburn - there had been no offences in this period.

Burglary Commercial/Non Residential

Harton - There had been no offence in this period.

Horsley Hill - there had been no offences in this period.

Marsden - there had been no offences in this period.

Cleadon Park – there had been no offences in this period.

Westoe Crown - there had been no offences in this period.

Harton Moor - there had been no offences in this period.

Whitburn -. there had been no offences in this period.

Vehicle Crime

Harton - there have been 6 offences in this period:

- Theft of vehicle. Offenders steal locked motorcycle which is located abandoned a short distance away. This crime remains under investigation.
- Theft of vehicle. Offenders steal locked motorcycle. This crime remains under investigation. This crime is linked to the one above as it relates to the same victim.
- Damage to vehicle. Offender causes scratches to parked vehicle. This crime remains under investigation.
- Damage to vehicle. Offender causes large scratch along the side of a parked vehicle. The offender remains unknown.
- Damage to vehicle. Offender tampers with tyre valves on parked vehicle causing tyres to deflate. This crime remains under investigation.
- Damage to vehicle. Offender causes scratch along the side of a parked vehicle. This crime remains under investigation. This crime is linked to the one above, the same victim is involved.

Horsley Hill - there have been 3 offences in this period:

- Damage to vehicle. Offender causes damage to windscreen of vehicle by unknown means. The offender remains unknown.
- Damage to vehicle. Offender throws brick through rear window of parked vehicle. This crime remains under investigation.
- Damage to vehicle. Offender damages windscreen of parked vehicle. This crime remains under investigation.

Marsden - there have been 3 offences in this period:

- Theft of vehicle. Offender cuts lock on parked motorcycle before stealing it. This crime remains under investigation.
- Theft of vehicle. Offender steals parked motor vehicle by unknown means. This crime remains under investigation.
- Damage to vehicle. Offender smashes windscreen of parked vehicle and pours flour across the bonnet. The offender remains unknown.

Cleadon Park – there have been 4 offences in this period:

- Theft of vehicle. Offender steals parked car from outside of victim's address. the offender remains unknown.
- Attempt theft of vehicle. Offender damages lock on parked motorcycle in attempt to steal. This crime remains under investigation.
- Damage to vehicle. Offender damages windscreen on parked vehicle. The offender remains unknown.
- Damage to vehicle. Offender causes long scratch along the side of a parked vehicle. The offender remains unknown.

Westoe Crown - there had been 1 offence in this period:

- Theft of vehicle. Offender steals parked motorcycle. The bike was recovered a short time later. The offender remains unknown.

Harton Moor - there had been no offences in this period

Whitburn - there had been no offences in this period

Hate Crime

There have been 4 hate crimes in this period, up from 2 in the same period last year:

- Public order (racial offence) - Horsley Hill.
- Public order (racial offence) - Horsley Hill.
- Public order (disability offence) – Harton Moor
- Public order (racial offence) – Westoe Crown

Anti-Social Behaviour

There had been a total of 29 ASB incidents in this period, down from 44 in the same period last year.

Harton – there were 2 ASB incidents in this period.

Horsley Hill – there were 4 ASB incidents in this period.

Marsden – there were 4 ASB incidents in this period.

Cleadon Park – there were 5 ASB incidents in this period.

Westoe Crown – there were 5 ASB incidents in this period.

Harton Moor – there were 5 incidents in this period.

Whitburn – there were 4 ASB incident in this period.

Motorcycle Disorder

Harton - there had been no incidents in this period.

Horsley Hill - there had been 1 incidents in this period.

Marsden - there had been 1 incident in this period.

Cleadon Park – there had been no incidents in this period.

Westoe Crown - there had been no incidents in this period.

Harton Moor - there had been 3 incidents in this period.

Whitburn - there had been 2 incidents in this period.

The report noted overall that there had been a reduction of 33% on general ASB.

A Member raised an issue with the figure of reduction, stating that they believed ASB was just as high, but the issue was the public not reporting incidents anymore due to a lack of faith in the police. It was noted that while this was taken on board, they could only report what they knew and could only encourage public and elected members to continue to report any issues with ASB as hot spots could then be identified and action then taken.

A Member asked if doorbell footage was able to be used in incidents of crime, such as the recent bike thefts. It was noted that doorbell footage was able to be used and that the police encouraged anyone to provide this into them rather than just post on Social Media, as they could use the footage to try and resolve incidents.

ASB

Don Wade, ASB and Neighbourhood Crime Co-Ordinator provided a verbal update on ASB.

He noted that there had been a noted drop in ASB on the nights around bonfire night. Work between different departments and partners had been in place and noted that there had been no injuries or fire damage to properties as a result of bonfires or fireworks.

A Member noted that an issue had been raised with a former staff member and didn't believe it had been passed on. Don requested the information be sent to the ASB team to be reviewed.

The update noted that street drinkers in South Shields Town Centre had been served community protection notices and this was being monitored as breaching the notice was a criminal offence.

Youth crime issues had an ongoing investigation with between the community partnerships and that funding had been secured to open a youth service on Ocean Road on a Thursday-Saturday with the aim of providing somewhere for young people to go, rather than being on the streets.

The report noted 2 orders had been served on repeat offenders in the centre of South Shields which banned them from the town centre, there had also been 30 orders served on households connected with motorbike ASB.

A Member noted their concern that there was a lack of youth activities across to borough, but highlighted that statistically, the East Shields and Whitburn CAF area was the safest.

A Member noted their concern with ASB and noted that while youth were demonised, 75% of ASB was as a result of Adults. It was noted that there were no no-go areas in South Tyneside. A Member questioned this comment, noting that the current issues at the Interchange meant some people wouldn't go near after sunset. It was also noted that they felt Nexus were not doing anything from their side with issues inside the interchange, after the member witnessed an incident where 4 nexus security stood doing nothing while a group of young people caused issues. It was advised this would be something taken back to the community partners and highlighted as a concern that needed to be addressed.

A member asked if something to do with early sales of fireworks could be addressed next year, as the sales started earlier and earlier which resulted in people causing ASB with them weeks before bonfire night. This was noted to be looked at for the future.

Agreed: That the report be noted.

4. CAF Funding Report

Submitted: Report of the Director of Business and Resources and the Director of Governance and Corporate Affairs.

The CAF Management Officer presented the report.

The funding to East Shields and Whitburn Community Area Forum for 2025/2026 was £320,860 which comprised:

- Environmental Capital Funding £ 166,664
- Housing Capital Funding £ 96,420
- Local Neighbourhood Scheme £ 57,776

The Officer introduced the following funding applications to the CAF:

Scheme and Community (Ward)	Applicant and Purpose of Grant	Grant Sought (Project Cost if different)	Grant Awarded
Local Neighbourhood Scheme To build stronger communities	Cllr Dixon Ash Grove Flags to Flexible. Even side of the street and small section of Odd.	£7,934 from the Local Neighbourhood Scheme	£7,934 from the Local Neighbourhood Scheme Proposed by Cllr Carter

Whitburn and Marsden			Agreed by Member
Local Neighbourhood Scheme To build stronger communities Whitburn and Marsden	Cllr Dixon Lindsey court fencing renewal.	£3,886 from the Local Neighbourhood Scheme	£3,886 from the Local Neighbourhood Scheme Proposed by Cllr Carter Agreed by Member
Housing Capital Scheme To build stronger communities Harton	Cllr Maxwell Centenary Avenue/ Whitton area, This small area is Housing land in between a shrubbed area on the corner of these streets, small fence inside the shrubbed area	£514 from the Housing Capital Scheme	£514 from the Housing Capital Scheme Proposed by Cllr Clare Agreed by Member
Housing Capital Scheme To build stronger communities Harton	Cllr Maxwell Block 37 to 53 Fulwell Avenue, fencing the bin storage area to communal area.	£995 from the Housing Capital Scheme	£995 from the Housing Capital Scheme Proposed by Cllr Clare Agreed by Member
Local Neighbourhood Scheme To build stronger communities Harton	Cllr Clare Harton Village New barriers to match the others that were added on a previous CAF scheme (Continuation – Project is to refresh the village and improve aesthetics).	£7,395 from the Local Neighbourhood Scheme	£7,395 from the Local Neighbourhood Scheme Proposed by Cllr Maxwell Agreed by Member

Local Neighbourhood Scheme To build stronger communities Cleadon Park	Cllr Traynor & Cllr Foreman Luffness Drive, Flags to Flexible Continuation, Remove flagged area and replace with tarmac	£12,053 from the Local Neighbourhood Scheme	£12,053 from the Local Neighbourhood Scheme Proposed by Cllr Harrison Agreed by Member
Local Neighbourhood Scheme To build stronger communities Harton	Cllr Clare Harton Village 2 x steel benches, protected coating, supplied and fitted.	£3,756 from the Local Neighbourhood Scheme	£3,756 from the Local Neighbourhood Scheme Proposed by Cllr Maxwell Agreed by Member
Housing Capital Scheme & Local Neighbourhood Scheme To build stronger communities Harton	Cllr Maxwell Bishop Ramsey Court Garden improvements to include, Garden furniture, hanging baskets and decorative features	£514 from the Housing Capital Scheme & £378 from the Local Neighbourhood Scheme	£514 from the Housing Capital Scheme & £378 from the Local Neighbourhood Scheme Proposed by Cllr Clare Agreed by Member
Housing Capital Scheme & Local Neighbourhood Scheme To build stronger communities Horsley Hill	Cllr Leask & Cllr Berkley St Cuthberts Avenue New front divisional fencing to all Council Houses	No funding required. For information	No funding required. For information

Environmental Capital Scheme & Local Neighbourhood Scheme	Cllr Leask	£3,326 from the Environmental Capital Scheme & £12,759 from the Local Neighbourhood Scheme	£3,326 from the Environmental Capital Scheme & £12,759 from the Local Neighbourhood Scheme
To build stronger communities	Continuation of verge hardening programme on Lincoln Road, South Shields. Final phase.		
Horsley Hill			Proposed by Cllr Brown Agreed by Member

Agreed: That the above applications be approved.

5. CAF Management Report

Submitted: Report of CAF Management

Merrik Robertson, CAF Management Officer, provided the CAF with an update on the work of the CAF Management team.

It was noted that the Streetscene Teams continued to carry out general cleansing duties throughout all areas of work, including mechanical sweeping and manual removal of litter and detritus across the CAF area.

Agreed: That the report be noted.

6. Tenancy Agreement Review

Anna Dixon, Senior Manager – Housing Strategy and Regulation provided a verbal update on the Housing Tenancy Review. The update informed Members and the public that the review was to take place. It would be a 12 week consultation. It was also noted that within Hebburn Hub, a drop in would occur on the 26th February 2026 between 4.30-6.30 for tenants who had any queries.

The Presentation provided an overview of what was proposed as part of the review which included:

- Clearer rights under Right to Buy
- Access for essential Repairs and Maintenance
- Permission for major changes or adaptations
- Communal block living
- Mutual Exchange
- Clarification on elements already included in Tenancy Agreement

It was noted that once the consultation had concluded, any decisions would be made by the cabinet.

A Member queried if the changes were put to the tenant panels and if they were involved in the discussions. It was noted that this was the case. It was also asked if tenants would have to sign a new agreement, it was advised they wouldn't need to sign a new one, it would automatically supersede the existing agreement.

A Member asked if there was any wording for arrears support. It was noted that that wouldn't be in the wording, but that they would continue to be reviewing the needs and addressing them where required.

7. South Tyneside Housing Services Spotlight Session

Andy McGill, Welfare Support Team Manager provided a presentation on the support offered by the Welfare support team.

It was noted that the Welfare Support Team consisted of 26 advisors and assistants providing specialist support. The team operated across South Shields, Jarrow, Hebburn and local social hubs as well as offering telephone appointments and home visits.

The services offered by the team were briefly outlined as support around benefits and casework, debt and local welfare provision including food and fuel vouchers and provision of household items. Social Navigators would work with vulnerable residents and had achieved over £1.7M in financial gains since the scheme began, in addition to non-financial outcomes such as sustaining tenancies and accessing community support.

Recent service improvements included a new, streamlined referral form, additional service provision to reach more residents and reduce waiting times, and the introduction of Lightning Reach, an online portal connecting residents to over 2,500 support organisations.

Some case studies were included to highlight the breadth of support and positive outcomes for residents.

It was explained that the team could be contacted via an online referral form, the Lightning Reach portal, calling 0191 4246040 or emailing welfaresupport@southtyneside.gov.uk.

A Member noted how positive the work was and how unenviable their roles were. They queried if the service was open for anyone or if it was tenant based only. It was noted the support was available to anyone in the borough.

A member asked if work with people dealing with ASB and loan sharks was part of the service, it was advised that was one of the services offered and work across different departments was key.

8. Family Hubs Presentation

The CAF was given a presentation from the Operational Manager, Family Help Services, and the Family Hub Team Manager, which gave an overview of Family Hubs, services offered and their impact locally.

It was explained that Family Hubs were established as a “one stop shop” for families, building on the Sure Start model. The Hubs would offer parenting support, support around child development and play and health services, using a strength-based approach offering services in a non-judgemental setting.

There were 12 Hubs across the borough, staffed by qualified practitioners who would deliver services both from the Hubs and on an outreach basis in homes, nurseries and schools. Family Hubs were intended to be welcoming spaces, adapting to the needs of the local community and signposting to other services as necessary.

It was noted that the Government had recently announced funding to help develop Best Start Family Hubs, although more detailed information about amount of funding and policy requirements was not yet available.

Services offered included debt and welfare advice, weight management, mental health services, housing support and smoking cessation, highlighting the broad range of provision available to families in addition to parenting support.

On engagement, it was noted that 62% of children were engaging with a Family Hub Service, with 2,000 visitors per month. Some highlights included 204 sign-ups to Dad Pad, 132 referrals for Baby Boxes, 422 registered learners, and 5,964 parenting support sessions reaching 1,879 children.

A Member asked how the service could be promoted more, it was noted that as elected members, they were one of the main ways to highlight the service.

A member of the public asked if the service was based where the original Sure Start centres were, it was noted that this was the case. It was also noted that there was a rebranding to best start family hubs that would align with the national strategy.

9. Work Programme

Submitted: Report of the Director Governance & Corporate Affairs

The Democracy Support Officer presented this report to the CAF, with members of the CAF being asked to consider potential items for reports.

Agreed: That the report be noted.

10. Chair's Urgent Items

The Chair had no urgent items. A member questioned if this was the last meeting of the year as it seemed to be early. It was advised that, as agreed at the annual borough council, it agreed the diary and this was the final meeting of the municipal year.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the Next Meeting would be confirmed at the Annual Council Meeting in May 2026.