

Tyne and Wear Citizens: 2018 Impact Report



Our impact in Tyne and Wear

- By organising on the Living Wage campaign we've trebled the number of Living Wage Employers in our region from 30 to over 90; this included securing an uplift in pay for 500 people at Virgin Money in Newcastle. We celebrated our movement for fair pay at Brewdog during Living Wage Week in November.
- Our leaders are in ongoing negotiations on the real Living Wage with large employers such as local Councils and Universities. Over the summer, we targeted Newcastle FC and took public action at St James' Park Stadium.
- We're spearheading the Fair Change campaign, which is due to roll out nationally, after having campaigned for 4 schools to implement a Fair Change System that's already brought over £60,000 back to young people in receipt of Free School Meals. We also persuaded a Local Authority to pilot the scheme.

- Hundreds of us 'Reclaimed the Metro' and won a commitment from public transport providers such as Nexus and Arriva to implement a Hate Crime Charter, which requires them to train their staff on hate crime and build confidence among communities that they can report and challenge hate incidents.
- We ran a Citizens Commission on Mental Health that held 3 public hearings, heard testimony from over 300 people and culminated in the launch of our "Living Well: Mental Wellbeing and Public Life in the North East" at a Mental Health Assembly attended by 450 active citizens.
- As a result, these are just some of the pledges we won: Durham University agreeing to develop a Suicide Protocol, Catherine McKinnell MP committing to work with us to pilot the provision of a counsellor in every local school, our local NHS Trusts agreeing to develop mental health training for all staff who have patient contact.



- Our alliance is growing! In the past year alone we have recruited 5 new member institutions and trained over 50 new leaders in community organising. We have also welcomed two new members of staff: Claire and Wendy, our Community and Parent Organisers respectively.

Our nationwide impact

- Nearly 5,000 citizens from our chapters across England put democracy in action by holding a total of 21 Accountability Assemblies ahead of the local elections in May.
- As a result, 5 local councils agreed to pay the Living Wage, which will bring the total number of accredited local authorities to 95, benefitting hundreds of low-paid staff.
- 143 Syrian refugee families will be able to rebuild their lives in the UK - whether via the Government's resettlement scheme or through Community Sponsorship, thanks to pledges won.