

Health and Wellbeing Strategy

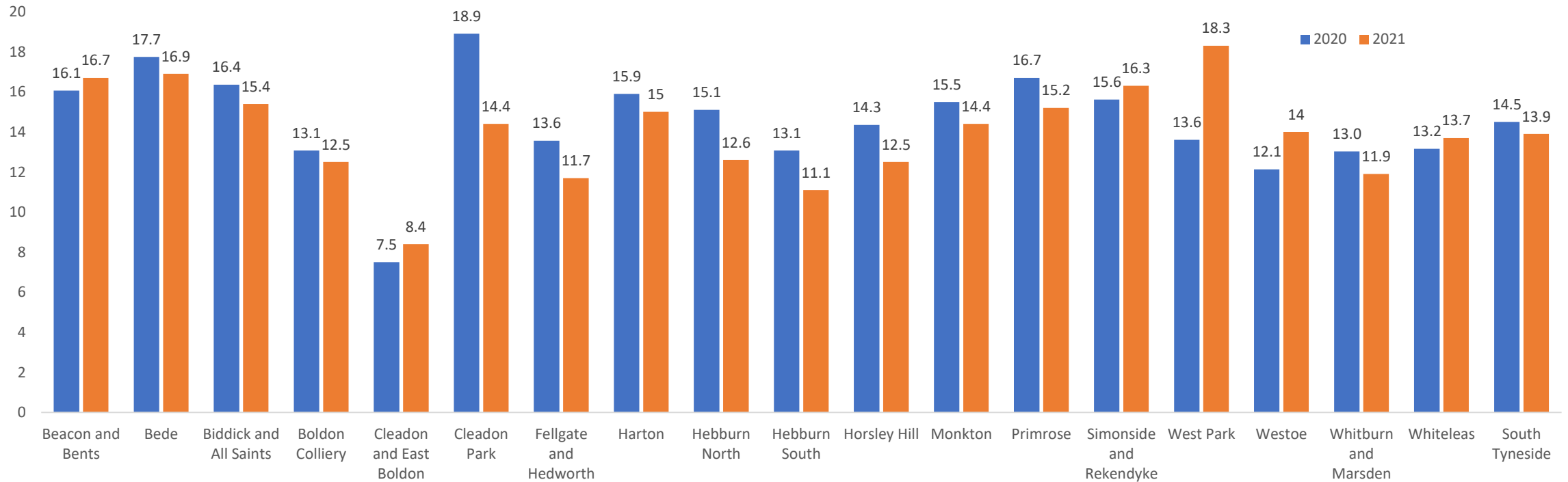
Baseline Position & Progress Update

Financial security to lead healthy, fulfilling lives

Health & Wellbeing Board – 7th June 2023

Where are we now? Baseline Position

Fuel Poverty (% of households; LILEE Method)



- The latest data shows that in **2021**, **13.9% of households in South Tyneside** were in fuel poverty – a 0.6 percentage point decrease from the year prior. This compares to **14% households in the North East** and **13.1% in England**.



Where are we now? Baseline Position

Fuel Poverty (% of households; LILEE Method) continued...

Some important caveats...

- Under the Low Income Low Energy Efficiency (LILEE) method (which replaced the Low Income, High Costs method in 2021):

*households are considered fuel poor if they are living in a property with an energy efficiency rating of band D or below **and** after housing and energy costs, their income is below the poverty line*

- **This means that a household in a property with an energy efficiency rating of C or better (44.15% of dwellings in South Tyneside) cannot be defined as fuel poor, regardless of their income or the level of energy prices.**

[Commons Library Research Briefing on Fuel Poverty \(24th March 2023\)](#)

“The England (LILEE) definition is better viewed as a measure of progress against the Government’s fuel poverty target, rather than an estimate of the full extent of households struggling to keep their homes warm, well-lit, provide sufficient hot water and run appliances.”

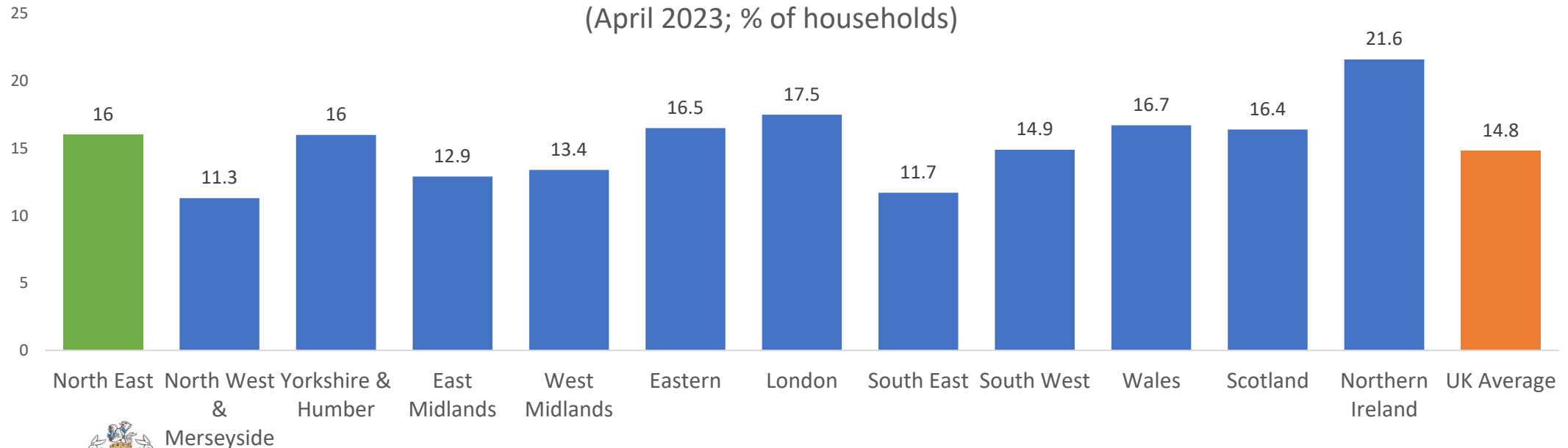


Where are we now? Baseline Position

Fuel Poverty Estimates (April 2023; University of York Social Policy Research Unit)

- Using a different definition of fuel poverty – *households spending more than 20% of their net income after housing costs on fuel* – in April 2023, **20% of households in the UK were estimated to be in fuel poverty, falling to 14.8% after social security mitigations** (support for people in receipt of benefits).
- In the North East, a quarter (25.6%) of households were estimated to be in fuel poverty, falling to **16% after social security mitigations**.

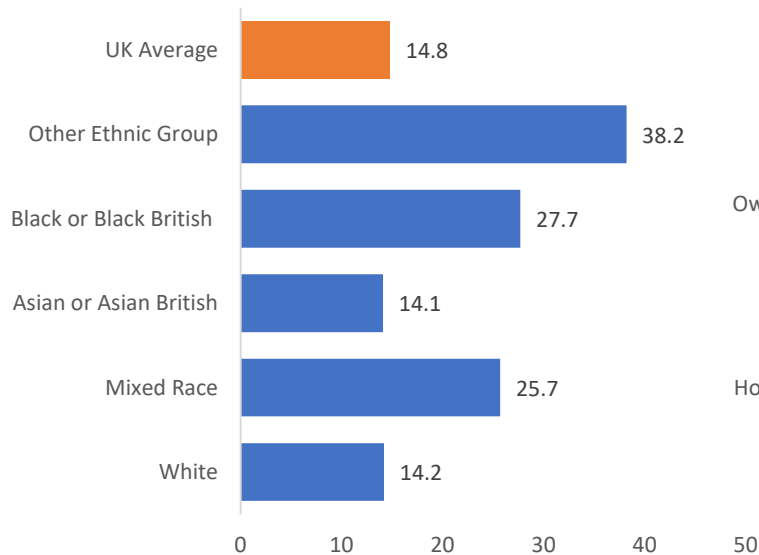
Estimated Fuel Poverty Rate **After** Social Security Mitigations - Region
(April 2023; % of households)



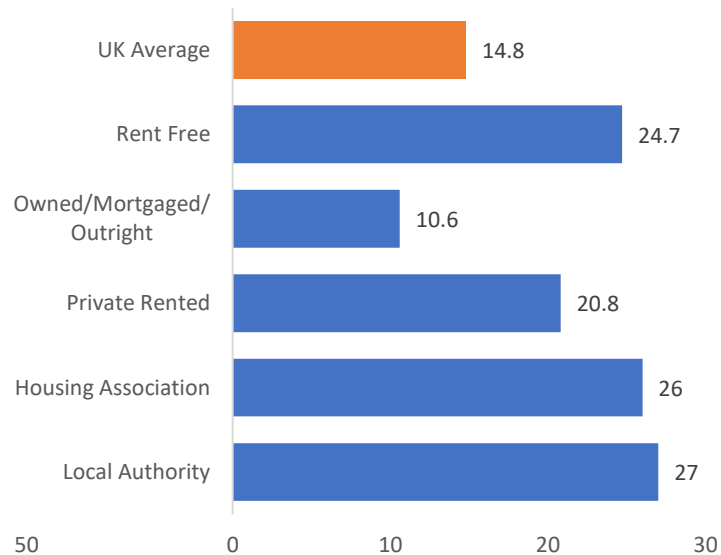
Where are we now? Baseline Position

Fuel Poverty Estimates (April 2023; University of York Social Policy Research Unit)

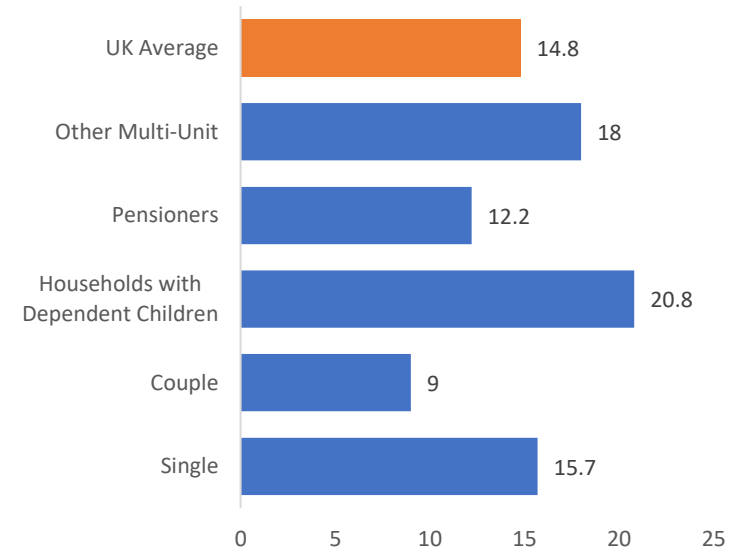
Estimated Fuel Poverty Rate **After** Social Security Mitigations - Ethnic Origin of Head of Household (April 2023; % of households)



Estimated Fuel Poverty Rate **After** Social Security Mitigations - Housing Tenure Type (April 2023; % of households)



Estimated Fuel Poverty Rate **After** Social Security Mitigations - Household Type (April 2023; % of households)



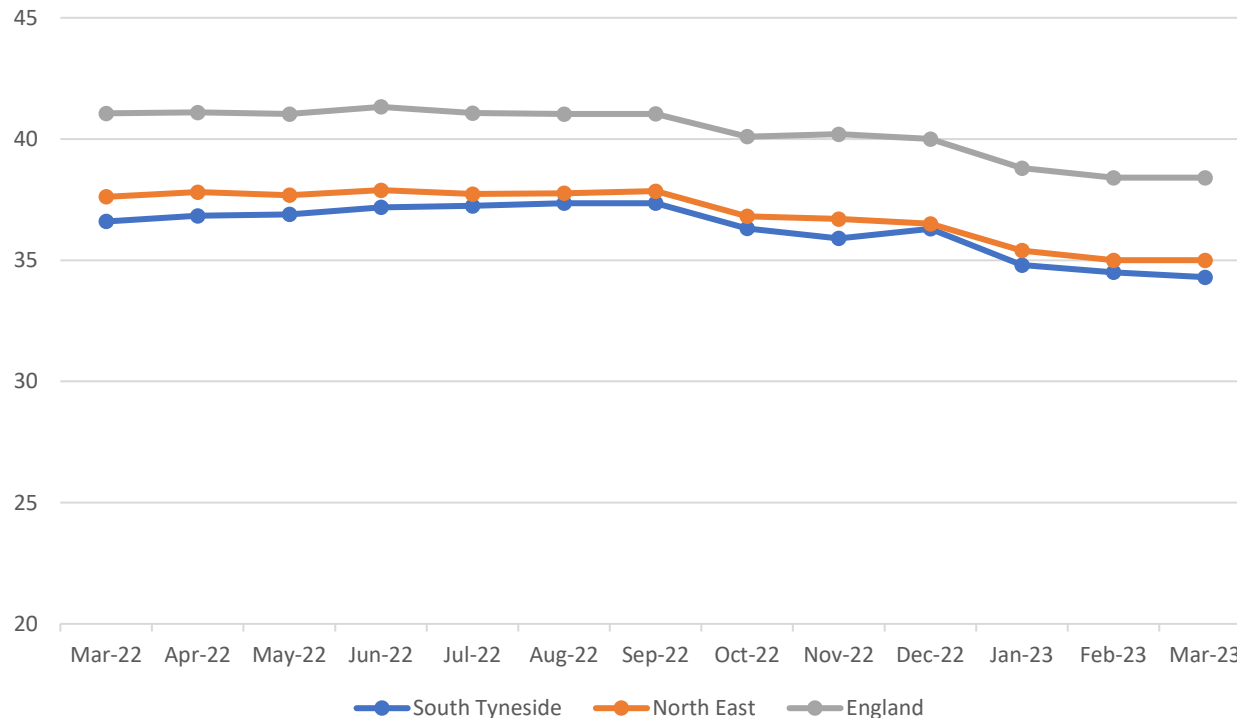
- After social security mitigations were accounted for, households with a person of 'other' ethnic origin as the head of household, local authority owned property households and households with dependent children were most likely to be in fuel poverty.



Where are we now? Baseline Position

In Work Poverty (Universal Credit Claimants in Employment; %)

Percentage of Universal Credit Claimants in Employment
(Mar 2022 - Mar 2023)

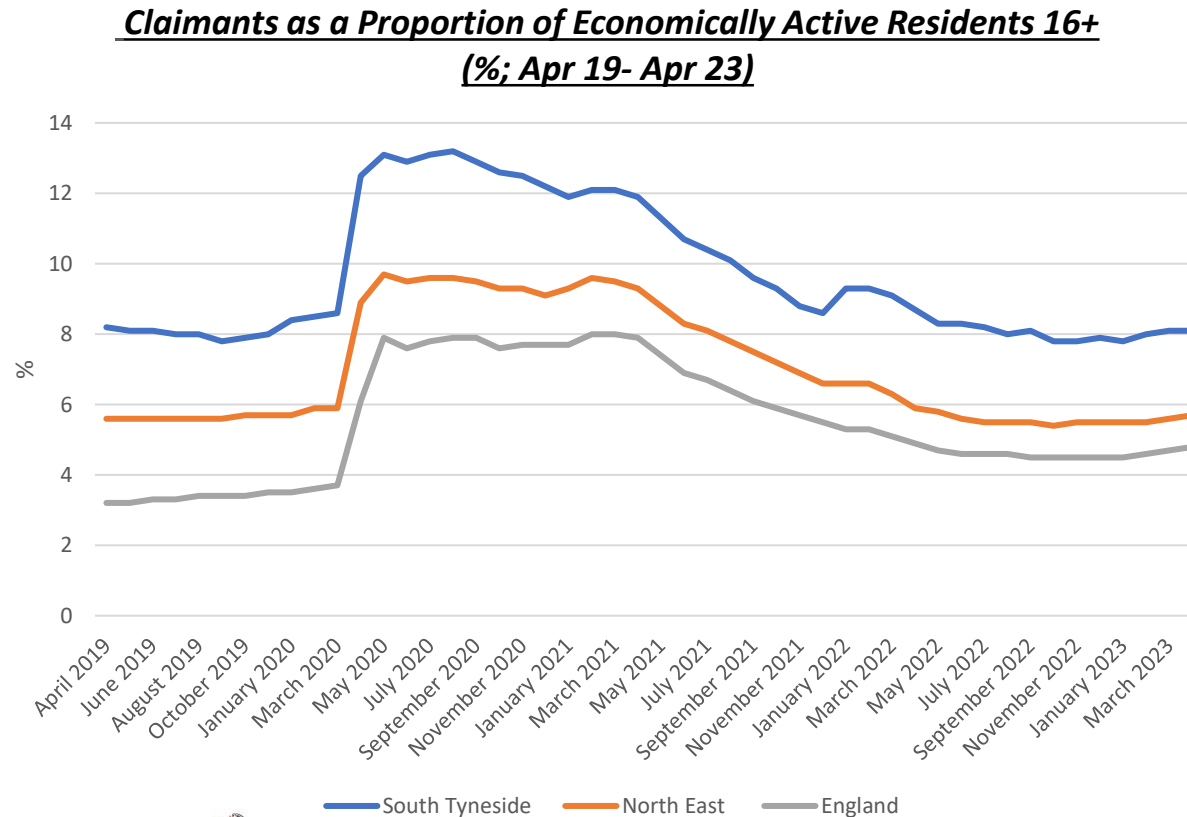


- In South Tyneside, the percentage of people **claiming universal credit that were in employment** decreased slightly from 36.6% in March 2022 to 34.3% in March 2023 (*the most recent month for which employment status data is available*).
- The percentage for March 2023 was lower than both regionally (35%) and nationally (38.4%).
- Generally, the percentage of people **claiming universal credit that were in employment** for South Tyneside, the North East and England saw a similar trend between March 2022 and March 2023.



Where are we now? Baseline Position

Claimants as a Proportion of Economically Active Residents 16+ (%)

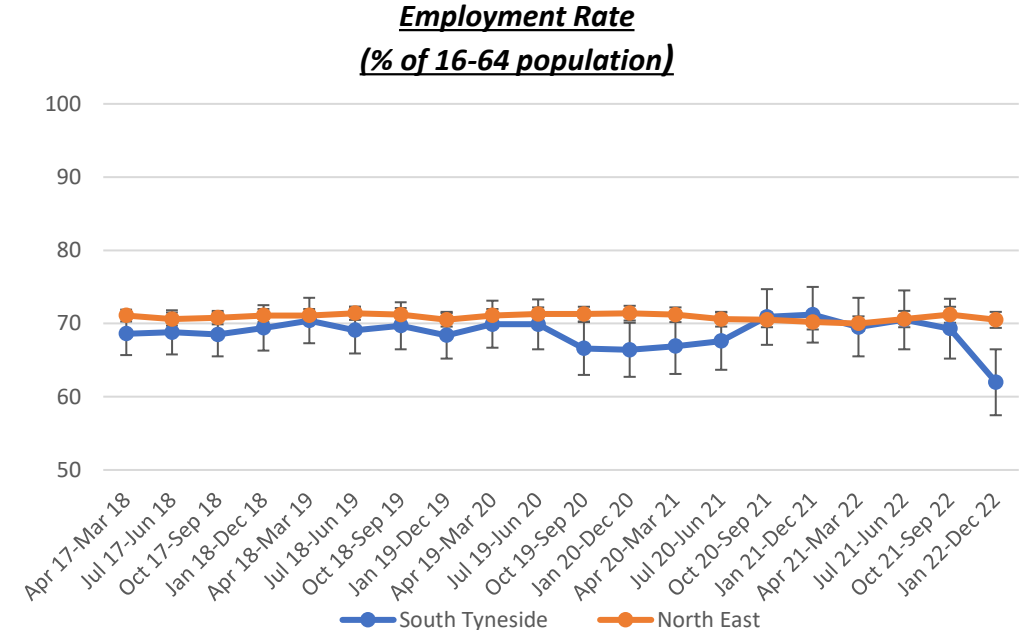
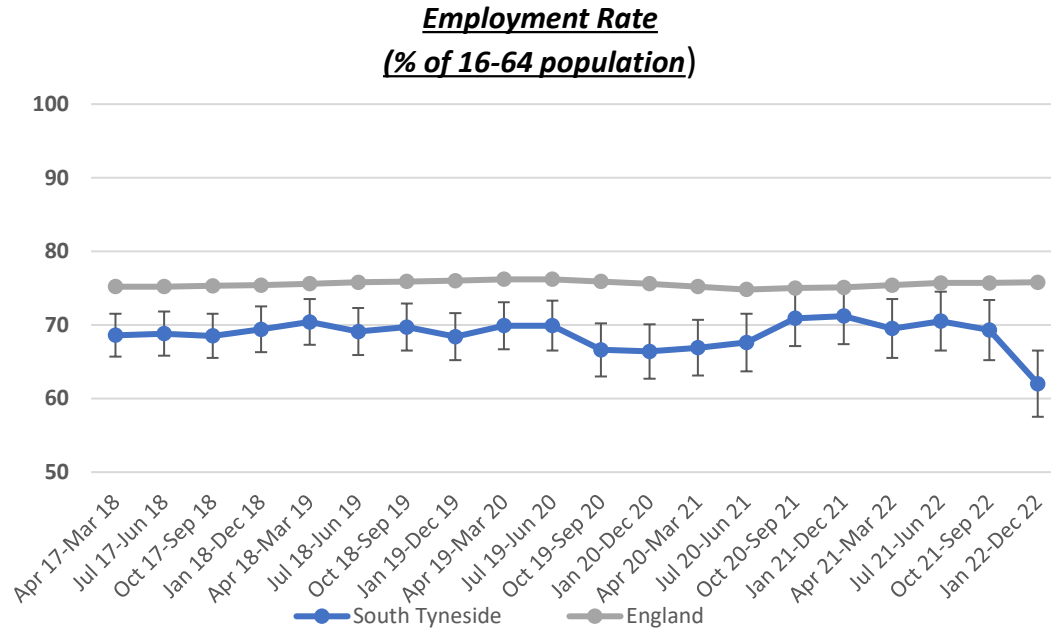


- In April 2023, **8.1% of economically active residents 16+ in South Tyneside were claiming out of work benefits**, this compares to 5.7% in the North East and 4.8% England wide.
- Despite a 0.3 percentage point rise since the start of 2023, **South Tyneside's current rate is still below that seen pre-pandemic (March 2020 -8.6%)**



Where are we now? Baseline Position

Employment Rate (% of 16-64 population)

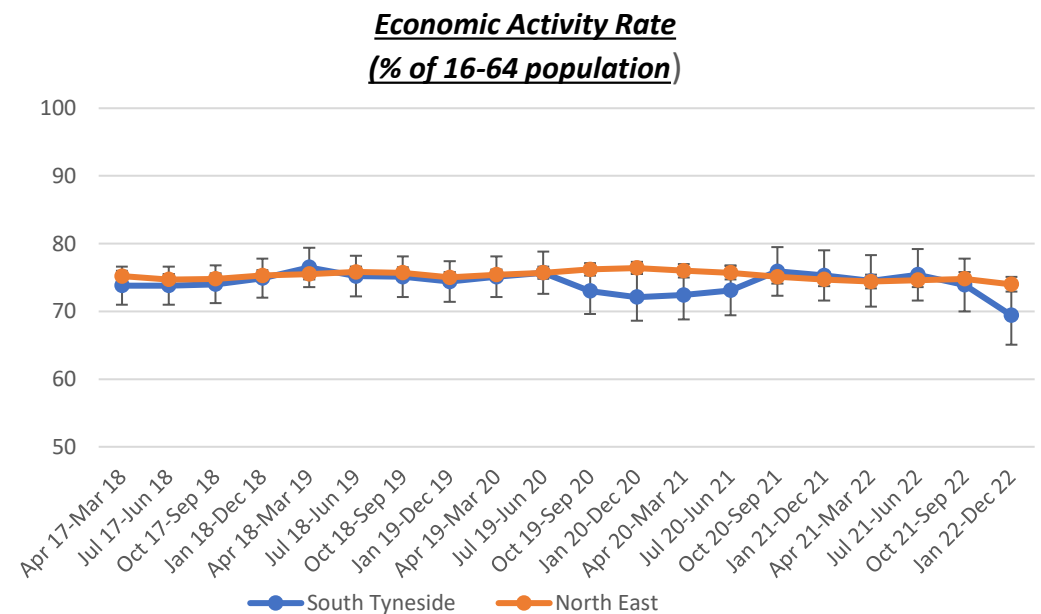
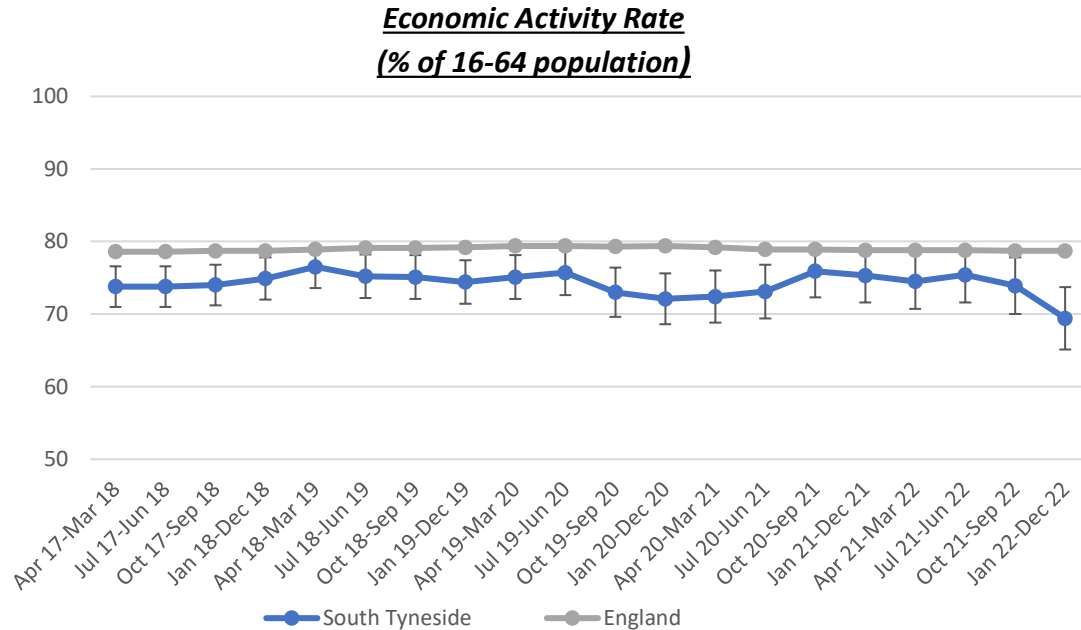


- In the period Jan-22 to Dec-22, the 16-64 employment rate in South Tyneside (62%) saw a sharp (non statistically significant) decrease from the previous period - now 8.5 percentage points lower than the North East rate (70.5%) and 13.8 percentage points lower than the England-wide rate (75.8%).
- South Tyneside's employment rate is at its lowest since July 2009-June 2010.



Where are we now? Baseline Position

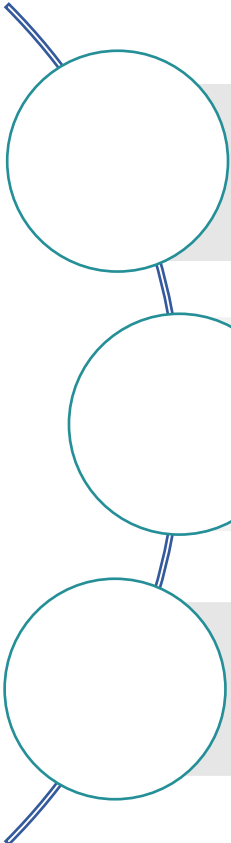
Economic Inactivity Rate (% of 16-64 population)



- In the period Jan 2022 – Dec 2022, the 16-64 economic activity rate in South Tyneside was 69.4%; CI +/- 4.3) (the last time the rate was this low was 2004).
- South Tyneside's most recent rate was 4.6 percentage points lower than the North East rate (74%) and 9.3 percentage points lower than the England-wide rate (78.7%).



Wider Context Issues To Note



Despite Ofgem's positive announcement about the July energy price cap, **food inflation is still running at around 20%** and while inflation is set to fall this year (from its current level of around 10% to 5%), **prices are still increasing** (and often increasing the fastest for value brands and essential food).

Business confidence levels (as shown by the Lloyds and NatWest North East Business Monitors) **are improving and the labour market is proving resilient**. However, there is still a large percentage of the population economically inactive (particularly due to long term ill health and caring responsibilities) in South Tyneside.

The wider measure of unemployment has fallen from the highs of the pandemic – defying the Bank of England and Office for Budget Responsibility's expectations of rising unemployment and recession (**with growth forecasts upgraded, albeit towards slow growth**).



Where are we now? Progress Update

Successes So Far

Look at those actions from People's Select Poverty Commission we could implement immediately (Priority 1, Action 2) & set up a working group to coordinate existing anti-poverty activity (Priority 1, Action 3)



The South Tyneside Poverty Group is now well established and has already undertaken and coordinated extensive work to support residents with the cost of living and implemented many of the Poverty Commission recommendations.

A targeted and evidence-based approach is at the centre of the group's work, having already coordinated a number of interventions that are having a significant positive impact. For example, the Warm Space initiative, holiday activities, food vouchers, school uniform vouchers, maximisation of income via benefit uptake and signposting of support.

Feedback on Warm Spaces from partners, residents and visiting support agencies has been really positive – the vast majority of warm spaces are carrying on into the Summer under the banner of Welcoming Places.

Work underway to evaluate ongoing interventions - an evaluation is currently underway following a successful research funding bid to look at the impact of warm spaces, as well as other evaluations looking at the social navigator project and Healthy Homes.



Where are we now? Progress Update

Successes So Far

Amplify the message to Government and key decision makers that the rising cost of living will disproportionately affect South Tyneside residents given our existing levels of poverty (Priority 1, Action 4)



A lot activity has taken place around this action, including a number of press releases (including with food banks) and highlighting of issues with Government and key decision makers (including by writing letters to ministers and energy companies).

We are one of the only local authorities to meet with Energy UK, the Lead Member has written a **blog piece for the Local Government Information Unit** and officers have **presented to Councils across the country and Australia** on our response to the cost of living crisis (with plans to share our work and experience at an **LGA Cost of Living webinar** this month).

The impact of poverty upon South Tyneside residents has been raised with parliamentarians **via informing debates led by local MP's**, formulating responses to **Commons Select Committee** inquiries, and via **ongoing discussions with influential thinktanks** including Localis, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and the North East Child Poverty Commission.

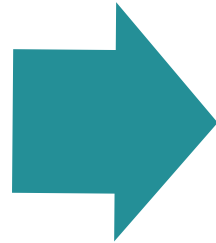
To take this further, a bespoke influencing plan is being created for the Lead Member.



Where are we now? Progress Update

Successes So Far

Consider the roll out of multi-agency support at a community level focussing on skills, health and debt (Priority 3, Action 12)



The establishment of Welcoming Places, along with Family Hubs, has helped roll out multi-agency support at the local level, with the former seeing a number of support agencies visit warm spaces (including experts in fire safety, energy efficiency, debt advice, skills, and physical activity).



Where are we now? Progress Update

Work in Progress

Implement a Fuel Poverty strategy with immediate action and ensure residents know where to access support through a directory of available services (Priority 1, Action 1)

Work currently underway to finalise the Fuel Poverty strategy with the multi-agency Fuel Poverty working group (to be published by Autumn). Focus is on maximising household income/reducing household costs, learning from the Healthy Homes pilot, targeting support and boosting visibility of existing schemes such as Eco 4.

Expand and intensify multi-agency homelessness safeguarding provision (and review emergency accommodation capacity and plans) and additional infrastructure (reflect on need for supported accommodation) (Priority 1, Action 5)

A review is currently underway on homelessness provision in South Tyneside. This is particularly important given the rise (albeit from a small starting point) of rough sleeping in the borough by around 25%. Findings are being pulled together along with recommendations for action.

Work with partners to design a longer term strategy to move from projects to people (Priority 3, Action 10)

Work has started following the refresh of the South Tyneside vision and its key ambitions of financial security, connected to jobs and targeting support to make things fairer. The work of the poverty group will provide the foundations of an anti-poverty strategy and will be the major focus of the Poverty Summit in September.



Where are we now? Progress Update

Work in Progress

Embed joint working between the Economic Regeneration Board and the Health & Wellbeing Board on barriers to financial security to lead healthy, fulfilling lives (Priority 3, Action 13)

Part of the ongoing review of the South Tyneside Partnership model.

Understand existing work that has been carried out looking at barriers to employment and good work (Priority 4, Action 14)

This is part of the ongoing transformation work the Council is undertaking (looking to embed evidence, insight and evaluation into everything we do).

Study, understand and implement the actions of the Poverty Truth Commission when it is published (Priority 5, Action 16)

Inspire have identified a new community facilitator who will be hosted by WHiST and able to start over the next month. Funding opportunities through the Poverty Truth Network are also being considered and Inspire and the Council have engaged with a number of other local authorities who have been through this process (including Trafford in Greater Manchester).



Where are we now? Progress Update

Challenges/Things to Note

Work with anchor institutions in the borough on measures they can take to reduce barriers to financial security amongst their employees/reduce in-work poverty, understand how other areas have done this and roll out the model to other employers in the borough, based on the concept of good work (potentially via the South Tyneside Pledge)
(Priority 2, Actions 7, 8 & 9)



Plans are being drafted for a follow up Cost of Living Summit in September 2023 – a key aspect of this will *be the sharing of best practice around how best to support employees. This is currently happening in an ad-hoc way through the Cost of Living teams channel.*

As discussed and agreed in March's Board meeting, sharing of information and ideas between anchor institutions/major organisations on how best to support staff as a standing item on the Joint Health and Wellbeing Board agenda will help this effort.

Officers are continually looking to evolve the pledge, assess its impact (evaluation currently underway), incorporate more elements in relation to good work and consider fit with devolution plans (North of Tyne Good Work Pledge).



Where are we now? Progress Update

Challenges/Things to Note

Boost digital inclusion,
digital skills and
engagement activity to drive
the ability of residents to
access the digital economy
(Priority 2, Actions 11)



Work has started to map out digital skills and engagement provision across the borough and the July meeting of the Poverty Group will look closely at the issue of digital poverty.

The Council continues to work closely with many partners involved in digital skills and inclusion, including Age Concern, Big Local Jarrow, Action Stations, Bliss=Ability and partners that are part of the Good Things Foundation databank.



Requested Actions from Board Members

1. Concerning Actions 6 & 15 -
Examine how we can help specific groups (linked to Priority 4), particularly on breaking down barriers to employment and commission in-depth insights research that identifies left behind groups and discovers common barriers to employment, economic activity, and financial security (building on the Community Insights work).

It is suggested that the board consider extending a post at Age Concern South Tyneside (previously funded by Covid legacy funding that has now come to an end).

The post will be focussed on a particular area/community, with the aim of supporting residents to maximise their income via claiming the benefits they are entitled to and signposting them towards support on money, energy efficiency and skills.

2. Views are sought from the Board on the draft plan for a Poverty Summit in September 2023.

3. Board members are requested to share and encourage the sharing of information, thoughts and suggestions via the Cost of Living Teams Channel. Feedback on the channel and bi-monthly intelligence survey has been positive but having more partner engagement via these routes would be useful.

