

# Welfare Champions.... in a community near you!



Victoria Collinson	Blackhall Community Centre	Tuesdays 11:30am-9:30pm
Tracey Stanley	Horden Youth and Community Centre	Tuesdays 3pm-5pm
Alison Fahey	Macrea House, Murton	Thursdays 9am-4pm Fridays 9am-4pm
John Wood	Donnini House, Easington	Wednesdays 10am-12noon
Monica Christie	Eastlea Community Centre	Thursdays 7pm—9pm
Jim Currie, Judi Briggs and Clare Bricklebank	Shotton IT Centre	Monday 9 am – 3pm Tuesday 9am - 8pm Wednesday 9am – 5:30 pm Thursday 9am – 5:30 pm (closed for lunch 12pm until 1pm) Friday 9am – 3pm

Some Welfare Champions offer support on an adhoc basis in and around local communities rather than from one specific base. These are as follows:

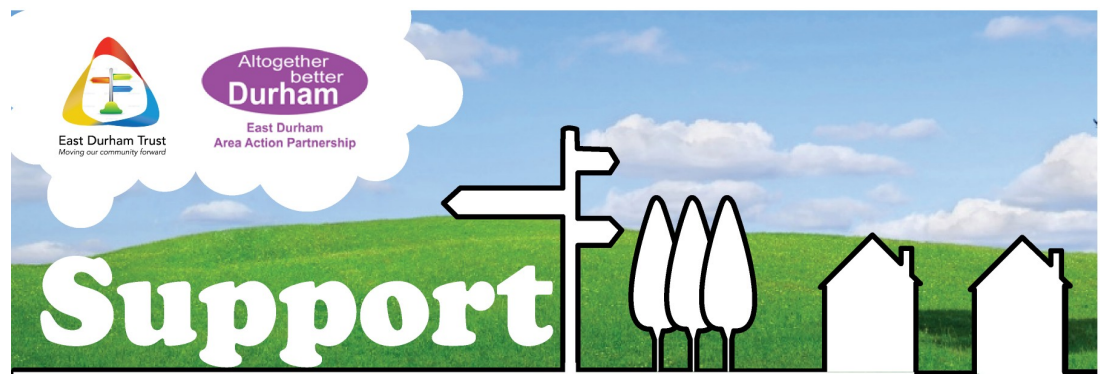
- John Baxter – Seaham Area
- Rona Hardy and Denise Brooks - Shotton including Shotton Community Centre
- Margaret Girvan - Peterlee
- Alison Bilton, - Horden

For information on any of the Welfare Champion bases or for us to contact a Champion on your behalf contact us on:

0191 5693511  
[info@eastdurhamtrust.org.uk](mailto:info@eastdurhamtrust.org.uk)  
[www.eastdurhamtrust.org.uk](http://www.eastdurhamtrust.org.uk)



East Durham Trust  
Moving our community forward



## The newsletter of the East Durham Welfare Champions Project

# Welfare Champions refer over 100 people and families for food parcels!

**The Welfare Champions project aimed at supporting people hit by benefit cuts under the Government’s Welfare Reform agenda has seen alarming amounts of people in need of food parcels.**

Welfare Champions have been bowled over by the demand for food parcels in East Durham. Welfare Champions alone have referred over 100 people to East Durham Trust’s FEED project. The FEED project supports East Durham families and individuals who are in a crisis situation and without an emergency food parcel would go hungry.

The demand in food parcels has come as a direct result of the Welfare Reforms with families and individuals seeing their benefits being reduced and sometimes stopped.

Welfare Champions referring to the FEED project has proved to be a vital lifeline for families in East Durham.

The FEED project has assisted many people from our community who have found themselves in dire need and have been supported by a food parcel. We see this need becoming more in demand over the coming months.

**Jim Currie—Welfare Champion  
Shotton IT Centre**

# WHO WE ARE HELPING!

## Welfare Champions continue to provide valuable support

### Tracey throws herself into new role.

Horden- based Welfare Champion Tracey Stanley has proven to be a magnet for local people in crisis.

Based in Horden Youth and Community Centre Tracey has advised scores of people affected by Recession, Government Cuts and Welfare Reform. Even at this early stage she has referred people to the Citizens Advice Bureau, the Credit Union and has also accessed food parcels for local people in need.

One of her early successes included a simple phone call to DWP when a local man had not received his JSA payment – the authorities confirmed that they had made an error and promptly rectified the situation – simple but effective support to a person in need.

### Victoria Collinson is based in Blackhall Community Centre every Tuesday.

She has seen a huge variety in the issues that people have asked for support with. The issues have ranged from quick advice on bedroom tax to helping people budget and manage their money better.

Victoria recently supported a person, with complex needs, to fill in an appeal form to have their benefits reinstated. The appeal was granted and the benefits were backdated.



# WANTED !!

## New Welfare Champions

In order to build upon the success of our Welfare Champions we are now moving into phase 2 and are seeking second set of recruits.

Individuals would be expected to be well placed in their local East Durham Communities to be accessible to people, ideally (but not essentially) linked to a local Community group. Champions are expected to attend two day training programme and a monthly Welfare Champions Team Meeting.

The champions are supported by East Durham Trust in a number of ways ranging from transport costs and expenses to admin support and promotional materials.

If you'd like to be involved contact:

Danielle Martin  
Welfare Champions Coordinator  
0191 569 3511

[danielle.martin@eastdurhamtrust.org.uk](mailto:danielle.martin@eastdurhamtrust.org.uk)



Danielle has recently been appointed as the Welfare Champion Coordinator and is looking forward to working with the Welfare Champions and supporting them to carry on helping the community.

## News of the good work is spreading

Welfare Champions has been such a success that other Area Action Partnerships are looking to have the project in their area too. Welfare Champions may be coming soon to the Great Aycliffe and Middridge area.