



Jenni Cooke
Assistant Director
Children, Families & Learning

Challenges – NE Local Authorities

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Context & History



Impact & Response



Challenges – NE Local Authorities

History & Context

- 2.6M Population – 12 Authorities
- 7 Unitary Authorities
- 3 Directly Elected Mayors
- 29 MPs – 25 Labour



Challenges – NE Local Authorities

Industry & Investment

- Reliance on Projects; Grants and Subsidies
- Regeneration
- Good Examples – Leisure; Culture Nissan; Hitachi
- Public Sector Employment:
 - NE 27.5%
 - England 23%



Challenges – NE Local Authorities

Inequalities

- NE Second Highest Level of Poverty in England (after London)
- Health Inequalities
- ‘Out of Work’ Claimants:
 - England 12.1%
 - NE 12.5% - 21.2%



Challenges – NE Local Authorities

Impact

- ‘Austerity’ policies and measures have disproportionate impact on North East
- Increased level of need for services at time of service reductions, eg Child Protection/LAC
- Loss of political influence?
- Public sector reorganisation
 - complexity of services and relationships
- Sustainability of authorities – particularly smaller unitaries
- Loss of clarity about local authority role – localism v central control, eg Academies
- Are services ‘retreating’ into core tasks? Risk averse?



Challenges – NE Local Authorities

Response

Usual way! – reduce ‘back office’;

Non-statutory services;

Restructure

Not Enough!

Joint commissioning and de-commissioning

Partnerships – Integrated Services

MASH

Voluntary Sector

Shared Services, eg Xentrall

Regional/Sub-Regional Working

Collaboration – Tri-Borough Talks

‘Target’ Services – High Impact Locations/Households;

Troubled Families etc.



Challenges – NE Local Authorities

‘Shape it or someone else will’!

