



Linskill and North Tyneside
Community Development Trust



*Providing opportunities, support,
and guidance for our community*

Organisation Strategy
2023 - 2028

Our Vision

That the community of North Tyneside will have a higher quality of life with improved physical, emotional, economic and social wellbeing.

Our Mission

To operate as a valued, self-sustaining, community anchor organisation providing opportunities, support, and guidance to communities across North Tyneside which responds to local needs.



Introduction

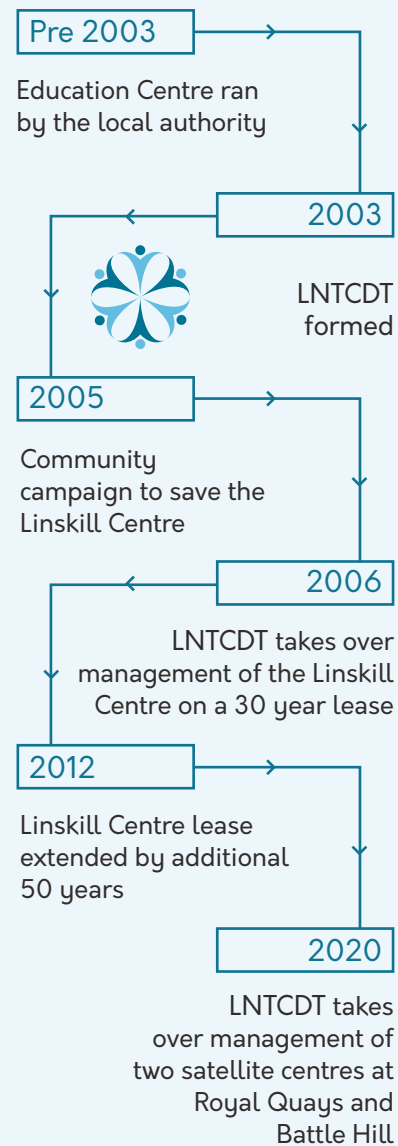
Linskill and North Tyneside Community Development Trust (LNTCDT) was established in July 2003 to complete a community asset transfer of the Linskill Centre from the local authority. This was one of the largest asset transfers in the country and the only asset transfer in North Tyneside. The Linskill Centre is considered a regional success story. We have successfully developed it into a financially self-sustainable community facility serving the communities of North Tyneside. We deliver a comprehensive programme of community and business activities attracting over 260,000 visitors each year.

Capital investment has been gradually secured to improve the facilities and the Trust operates a number of community businesses there under Linskill Trading Ltd. These services are for the benefit of the local community with all surpluses being reinvested into the centre and its community activities.

The Trust also manages two satellite sites at Battle Hill Multi-Use Centre and Royal Quays Community Centre, both transferred in April 2020, with the objective of rejuvenating these centres and extending its reach into North Tyneside.

Our corporate strategy outlines the Trust's priorities over the next five years until 2028, building upon what we have already achieved and sharing our aspirations for the future. We are excited about the future, keen to expand our reach and are motivated to achieve the best outcomes for our community.

Our Progress



Our Values



Ambitious

Push ourselves to deliver best practice, achieve more and become a leader in our field.



Community Led

Listen to the views and needs of our community, incorporating these into planning.



Respectful

Consider the impact of the work we do, ensuring it complements others and achieves best practice.



Responsive

Be quick to act, making the most of an opportunity and/or addressing a need.



Resilient

Respond to changing needs and priorities, ensuring resilience for the future.

Business Objectives

- To secure the funding necessary to maintain our community hubs at current standards and invest in them so they continue to meet our user expectations.
- To grow our existing community businesses* and seek new commercial opportunities to maximise income to support the delivery of charitable activities and ensure longer-term sustainability.
- To secure the funding necessary to support the ongoing development and delivery of the Community Programme.
- To increase social impact and inclusion by growing the number of individuals and groups of all ages accessing our Community Programmes and volunteer and work opportunities.
- To recruit and develop staff to enable the ongoing delivery and/or growth of Linskill Nursery

*Communities come together and set up community businesses to address challenges they face together.

Social Objectives

- To promote social inclusion for marginalised and disadvantaged groups.
- To increase community cohesion by providing place-based community hubs/community based representatives, developing involvement with the wider community and promote a sense of belonging.
- To support the development of independent, self-sustaining groups which meet the specific needs and interests of community members.
- To identify and fill local gaps in local provision by developing new in-house services, or by supporting community groups to develop these.

Delivery Objectives

- To prepare and provide an organisational strategy based on our core values with an updated business plan (including a fundraising strategy and a commercial strategy) to reflect new strategic priorities and business objectives.
- To develop an annual programme of community projects and activities for adults, children and young people, including children with special and additional needs, which improve health and wellbeing, increase learning and training opportunities and aid employability.
- To offer community members of all ages a seasonal programme of community activities which bring people together, foster relationships and promote inclusion and cohesion.
- To support and strengthen stakeholder forums to ensure users from each community hub have a voice in the development of services and activities.
- To work collaboratively with other community providers to meet the wider need of our community and meet the needs of those who are underserved.

15,000
volunteer hours per year



30
Permanent
Tenants

260,000
visitors per year

99%
Self Sustaining



£3,200,000
Grant funding

*Providing opportunities, support,
and guidance for our community*



Our Community Programme

LNTCDT plays an important role in improving the quality of life for people of all ages across North Tyneside. We provide a range of activities and opportunities through our community programme which promotes positive wellbeing.

The programme aims to serve:

- Families with under 5s
- Children and young people
- Adults 18–54
- Over 55's

The activity programme is responsive to local need and the Trust is committed to being inclusive, endeavouring to meet the needs of the community. There is a growing online offer, which supports those who choose to participate from home.

Our programme is based around the well-researched five ways to wellbeing, and each activity has one or more of these themes central to its purpose:

1. We aim to **connect** people, helping to reduce isolation by being social in different ways: smaller, quieter groups or larger meet ups and events. From a vibrant and busy baby and toddler group for local parents, to a small creative writing group for older adults, participants are able to find something that connects them with others through shared experience.
2. We provide ways to **get active** to support healthy lifestyles, recognising that being physically active also supports positive wellbeing.

From the relaxing moves of a Tai-chi class to Linskill Riders cycling groups, we have a range of activities to suit different interests and levels.

3. We encourage members of our community to **take notice** of the world around them, to reap the benefits of mindfulness. Lots of our sessions support 'being in the moment' with opportunity for people to be absorbed in their environment or activity. For example, popular onsite craft groups can provide relaxation, while a group woodland walk provides an uplifting connection to nature.
4. Opportunities to **learn** throughout life is important and the community programme provides opportunities to learn new skills and gain new knowledge. This can support developing self-esteem and confidence. Opportunities to volunteer can provide ways to share skills and knowledge as well as gain them. The hugely successful 'Shedders' project is an example of learning through woodwork in the workshop, while community cookery workshops have proved invaluable through the cost-of-living crisis.
5. **Give** – opportunities to give to others and get involved in community life is known to increase feelings of happiness. For example, giving time through volunteering in one of the groups or community businesses, or reading stories to our nursery children as a community reader, can provide that uplifting feeling and sense of purpose.





Working for our community

A community business is a business set up and led by the local community, all profits flow back into the community to deliver a positive impact. LNTCDT operates a number of community businesses, some of which are based in our wholly owned trading subsidiary, Linskill Trading Ltd. Any surpluses are reinvested into the centres or to enable community development activities.



Venue Hire

15 meeting rooms and two halls are available for hire by the hour, offering a range of hire packages.



Permanent Office Space

87 rooms are available for permanent hire by tenants and local businesses.



Catering

Café 32 is open five days a week and also provides catering for Linskill Nursery and private functions, including weddings.



Linskill Nursery

An Ofsted regulated nursery providing flexible quality childcare for up to 80 children with dedicated rooms for babies, toddlers and preschool along with outdoor learning facilities.





Photo Credit: Never Ending Stories Photography

"We cannot thank you all enough for everything you all did to make our wedding reception dreams become a reality. From our first visit to Linskill we could see the potential for the space and were excited for how our wedding celebration could be. We had the most wonderful day with so many of our guests saying how good the was and how wonderful the staff were."

- Matt and Vicky



"The Cafe is a great space to catch up with friends, colleagues or have a business meeting. The drinks and food are very reasonably priced and it is a lovely atmosphere. Also a great space to hire out for coffee mornings, baby showers and events!"

- Emily Walker



"Just being part of the community is what you get from coming here. I just love this place. There's so many things to do and it's so well run. I think this place keeps me well. I do keep busy going to talks and activities elsewhere – but this is where my community is."

- Janet, EngAGE participant



The Shed means everything. It helps keep me mentally active and socially involved. I love being with the others. We're all of the same mind. There's laughs and jokes - and so many personalities... But there's really camaraderie

- Merv, Shed volunteer



All proceeds raised are reinvested back into the
Linskill Centre and its community activities.

Linskill Centre, Linskill Terrace, North Shields, NE30 2AY

0191 257 8000 info@linskill.org www.linskill.org

 LinskillCentre  linskillcentre

Charity No: 1119143 Company No: 04827255