

Gateshead

Personal Details:

Name: Mr Gary Haley

Email: [REDACTED]

Postcode: [REDACTED]

Organisation Name: Gateshead Council (District or county councillor)

Comment text:

Related subject: All parts of the council

As an elected member of my council for 16 years I am very familiar with the scope, extent and complexities of all of the council's operations to support residents.

These were always significant but that has undoubtedly increased as our population has become less resilient with many more inequalities apparent to us as councillors and the workforce in our Gateshead Cares health and wellbeing system.

Since the time of the last boundary review in 2003 we have seen a doubling of the number of children in our care (68% up since 2010), more children than ever in our children's system, and more care experienced young people who we are now responsible for until their 25th birthday. We have extended the role of elected members as corporate parents and created a board to challenge ourselves and our partners to ensure everything we do for our children is good enough for our own children. We have involved care experienced young people in our decision making and welcome their highly effective links to children in our care.

So, as Lead Member for Children and Young People I am very familiar with the increasing complexity of our children's system and everything we must do to secure the best outcomes for the young people who will be part of Gateshead's future.

I am also familiar with the extent to which elected members must provide increasingly effective scrutiny of our executive and, since the creation of our health and wellbeing board and the latest reorganisation of the NHS which has seen the creation of a super-regional ICS with its regional and

place boards, a large number of health professionals charged with delivering a £580 million budget across Gateshead.

Our region is moving towards a combined mayoral authority from 2024 which, with the additional role of our police and crime commissioner and her office, mean there will be more, not less, involvement for our elected members in regional matters.

The size of Gateshead Council is in line with the other metropolitan boroughs in Tyne and Wear with whom we need to maintain a close working relationship given the interlinked nature of regional bodies.

In summary, I struggle to see how, in these circumstances, all this can continue to be delivered on behalf of the people of Gateshead with an effective executive and arguably more important scrutiny system unless the size of our council remains as it has been since 1974.

Attached Documents:

None attached