# North East Tri-Sector Challenge 2023



Emirates Riverside, Chester-le-Street 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2023





## **Challenge Information**

The country of Boroland is a former British Overseas Territory planted somewhere in the Atlantic Ocean. The country is split into 24 counties with each area having its own unitary authority, fire service, police service, Police Fire and Crime Commissioner, NHS trust, a housing association and a major charity.

Each of these organisations have had their senior management leadership team removed by the government due to poor performance and the Challenge saw the arrival of a group of new senior leaders who were seconded in from the UK to help sort the mess out.

Participating teams stepped up to become saviours and attempted to rescue their organisations and Boroland from the brink of disaster.

Benefits of entering teams included:

- An opportunity to collaborate with and create lasting bounds with colleagues from across sectors and services
- · A rare opportunity to develop political acumen by working alongside real life elected officials in a highly pressurised environment
- Exposure to tasks and situations that senior managers face daily and some that luckily only occur occasionally
- · An opportunity to put analytical and problem solving skills and tools to the test
- · Exposure to intense time management constraints
- An opportunity to develop resilience to rapidly changing priorities, demands and timescales
- · An opportunity to win the Challenge and be crowned as Tri-Sector Challenge Champions

#### **Facilitators**

Richard Wills Training Associates (RWTA) Ltd are the creators of the Tri-Sector Challenge. They work in partnership with regional bodies to deliver the event. The business is owned by Richard Wills, a former local government officer who created and ran the LA Challenge on behalf of a local authority owned training company. Richard left the sector in 2020 to launch RWTA.



#### **Teams**

Organisations below nominated teams to this event:

•	Durham County Council	(1 team)
	Home Group	(3 teams)
	Middlesbrough Council	(1 team)
	Newcastle City Council	(3 teams)
	Northumberland County Council	(1 team)
	Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council	(1 team)
	Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council	(2 teams)
	Wakefield Council	(1 team)
•	Your Homes Newcastle	(2 teams)

### **Quotes - Role Players**

#### John Rawling, John Rawling Consultancy, NEREO Associate

The Tri-Sector Challenge is a great training opportunity for everyone; as a role player, in the part of Council Leader/Chair of the Board, I had to think on my feet and respond to the rapidly evolving scenarios I was faced with, much like the real world! I'm hoping to take part again next year.

#### Jill Scarr, Impact Change Solutions, NEREO Associate

Being part of this dynamic event as a role player is rewarding and enjoyable. It is a great opportunity to see the amazing talent in local authorities and housing associations, and seeing future leaders emerging through strong leadership and collaboration

#### Joanne Leask, NEPO

I found the Tri-Sector Challenge a roller coaster of challenges, surprises and successes as the day progressed. I could see how each of the participating teams gained their confidence and developed into their roles to meet the challenges of an extremely eventful day as an executive leadership team. The event was very well organised, providing a diverse insight into strategic planning, collaboration and innovative thinking. I would like to thank NEREO, Rich Wills and Dave Senior for the fantastic management of the event which was thoroughly enjoyable and well executed. I would strongly recommend any local authority or wider stakeholder to participate in a future event, it's certainly a thrilling day.

#### Lisa Thompson, Lisa Thompson HR, NEREO Associate

Playing an Enabler at the Tri-Sector Challenge is something I look forward to all year! The roles are so varied and I learn something new every time. It's great for honing skills such as adaptability and prioritising. I'd definitely recommend giving this a go if you have the chance.



#### Malcolm Brain (Cllr), Vice-Chair of NEREO and Gateshead Council Elected Member

Thanks for the opportunity to participate, again just as challenging and stimulating for assessors as for participants.

#### Peter Fanning, former NEREO Associate

This was again a great event to give some future managers a change to experience pressure in a safe environment. It's good to see there's talent coming through across the region.

#### Simon Hanson, NEPO

Supporting the Tri-Sector Challenge is a great way to develop your individual and team playing skills. The day is full of challenges and opportunities to understand the pressures that are faced by local government in an educative and stimulating way. It's also a great way to develop your own networks. We'd encourage all in the sector to support future Tri-Sector Challenges.

#### Stuart Errington, Glenmore Consultancy Services, NEREO Associate

The Tri-Sector Challenge is an excellent event to be part of. Understanding the role of Principal for three of the teams was really rewarding, thought provoking and, at times, took you out of your comfort zone. It was fantastic to see how the teams grew into the task and produced innovative solutions to the problems they faced. Overall, a great experience and something I'll be happy to support in the future.

## **Quotes - Participants**

#### Vicki Atkinson, Northumberland County Council

Thanks to all of the team who arranged and were involved in the challenge. My team mates and I had an absolute blast! It was such good fun, I wish I could do it every week! I came away with some self-learning too. Amongst other things my "people-pleasing" tendencies probably hinder my decision-making sometimes so I'll be bearing that in mind in future.

#### **Christopher Dale, Redcar & Cleveland Council**

I would like to thank all of the team for facilitating this event which is much needed and of great benefit to those who attend.

#### Lisa Noteyoung, Redcar and Cleveland Council

The event was a great experience! I look forward to receiving my individual report.

#### Sarah Wainwright, Wakefield Council

It was a great, very well organised and fun day – congratulations to the team on making this such as success.

#### **Sharon Traill, Newcastle City Council**

I wanted to feed back what a really enjoyable day it was yesterday. I did learn a lot in a fantastic way, and wanted to say thank you to the team. I will definitely be encouraging my team to participate next year. I really enjoyed the experiences and the challenges thrown towards our team. It was a great way of learning and embracing challenges outside of the day-to-day role.



## **Award Winners and Highly Commended**

#### **Best Team**

Winners Middlesbrough Council

Highly Commended Durham County Council

Home Group - Team 3

Newcastle City Council - Team 1 Northumberland County Council

Wakefield Council

**Behaviours** 

Winners Middlesbrough Council

Highly Commended Durham County Council

Newcastle City Council - Team 1 Northumberland County Council

**Communications** 

Winners Wakefield Council

Highly Commended Durham County Council

Middlesbrough Council

Special Mention -

Presentation

Stockton Council - Team 1

Special Mention -

Media

Stockton Council - Team 2

Leadership

Winners Newcastle City Council - Team 1

Highly Commended Middlesbrough Council

Wakefield Council

**Shining Star** 

Winner Sarah Moffatt, Home Group - Team 2

Highly Commended Amanda Charge, Newcastle City Council - Team 2

Lewis Gamble-Thompson, Redcar & Cleveland Council





















































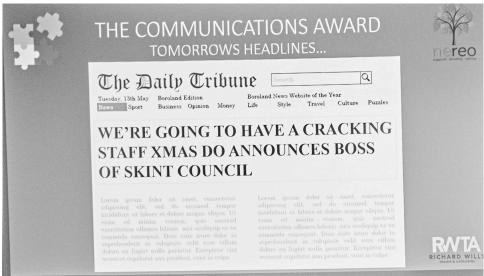


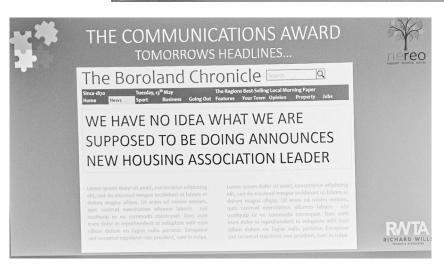














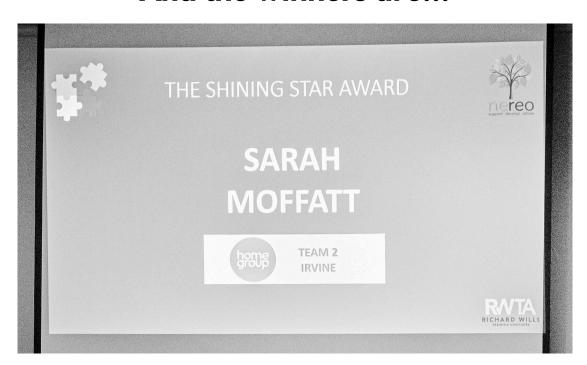


















## **Next Tri-Sector Challenge...**

The 2024 event will be held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2024, at Durham County Cricket Club, Chester-le-Street. Further information will be provided when available.

For further information or to register your interest, please email Maureen O'Keefe - mokeefe@nereo.gov.uk

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