



North East England

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NORTH EAST ENGLAND WORKS.

Healthy Ageing in the North East

North East England presents the opportunity to design, test and commercialise smart assistive technologies and health management solutions. Combined with a globally competitive life sciences ecosystem and Government commitment in partnership with industry, the region represents a test bed for longevity for your global market development. This is supported by well-established clusters connecting investors with customers, collaborators, supply chains, and innovation partners.

The National Innovation Centre for Ageing (NICA) can help you co-develop and bring to market products and services in financial and consumer goods and services, future mobility and independent living. Opportunities exist to work with older citizens to identify market opportunities - VOICE is a thriving network of thousands of citizens who contribute insight and ideas to identify unmet needs and market opportunities.

Investors can take advantage of the growing market demand for healthy ageing solutions by working with experts in the North East, home to the highest concentration of applied academics in ageing in the UK, to develop your product or service.



The North East of England

- Major Rail
- Motorway
- Major Roads
- 🚢 Ports
- ✈ Newcastle International Airport

✈	By air	🕒
1h 20m	Amsterdam	
7h 15m	Dubai	
1h 20m	Dublin	
1h 15m	London	
1h 50m	Paris	

🚆	By train	🕒
2h 36m	London	
2h 24m	Manchester	
1h 25m	Edinburgh	



North East – key features

- A track record of success in Healthy Ageing and Longevity. The North East has a dynamic and established cluster of expertise offering unique advantages to investors as well as a rich network of institutes, support organisations and companies for all sectors focussed on healthy ageing.
- A competitive costs package against comparative UK and European locations, including low industrial costs and salary costs some of the lowest in Europe.
- Direct access to a core of highly-skilled students, professionals and capability: The North East has a highly skilled talent pool, with 7,000 people currently employed in life sciences and a further 116,000 in the manufacturing sector. Highest proportion of University students studying STEM in the UK over 22,000 these life sciences students and good graduate retention in health and life science related subjects
- A vibrant cluster of innovative SMEs operating alongside leading firms including: PragmatIC, GlycanAge, onHand and Tancream.
- A network of assets in a test-bed location: Newcastle is a hub for ageing intelligence, bringing together expertise from business, research, data and AI and the public to co-design, develop and test a wide range of products and services that address healthy longevity and through-life wellbeing.



Innovation assets and expertise

There are numerous ways to benefit from the globally competitive life sciences North East ecosystem, such as:

- **Diagnostics and prevention:** Gaining insight through innovation services and academics in ageing across the UK with the Diagnostics North East network.
- **MedTech technologies:** Work with the Centre for Process Innovation (CPI) and its National Healthcare Photonics Centre to develop and commercialise your MedTech products.
- **Remote care management solutions:** Collaborating with the NHS and the Health Innovation North East and North Cumbria to test and demonstrate your remote care management solutions.
- **Biopharmaceuticals and advanced therapies:** Working alongside the Northern Alliance Advanced Therapies Treatment Centre on all elements of the clinical delivery pathway.
- **Housing transformation:** Develop innovation in housing for an ageing society through collaboration with Newcastle's Health Innovation Neighbourhood and Sunderland's Connected Places Catapult.



Programme Outline

Innovation Hubs – Including NetPark and Newcastle Helix, home to the National Innovation Centres for Ageing and Data.

Biomedical Research - Newcastle Biomedical Research Centre (BRC) delivers world-leading research in ageing and multiple long-term conditions. The only UK BRC dedicated to ageing.

Digital Assets: Health Data & Analytics -National Innovation Centre for Data - Health Inequalities. Immersive technologies production facilities at PROTO. NIHR Innovation Observatory Clinical Data Overview of clinical data access / management and big data

Clinical Trials - Newcastle Joint Research Office at Newcastle University/Newcastle Hospitals

Diagnostics - The National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) Newcastle In Vitro Diagnostics Co-operative

CPI Health Tech and Pharma expertise and facilities supporting a range of technologies; medicines and vaccines, wearable and connected devices and novel foods including gut health

- High value manufacturing catapult
- Opportunity to visit the mRNA Academy and RNA Centre of Excellence
- National Horizons centre

Business Networking – Engage with innovative SMEs, R&D expertise and global companies



Support for Investors

In addition to national programmes, the North East of England has a range of specific schemes, depending on the type of project, investment level and job creation

North East Inward Investment Grant

For exceptional projects creating at least 100 new jobs

NTCA Inward Investment Fund

Up to £1m for first time investment based on size of company and number of jobs

Grants for SMEs

Based on job creation and capital investment

Incubators and accelerators

Networks, facilities and expertise to grow your business

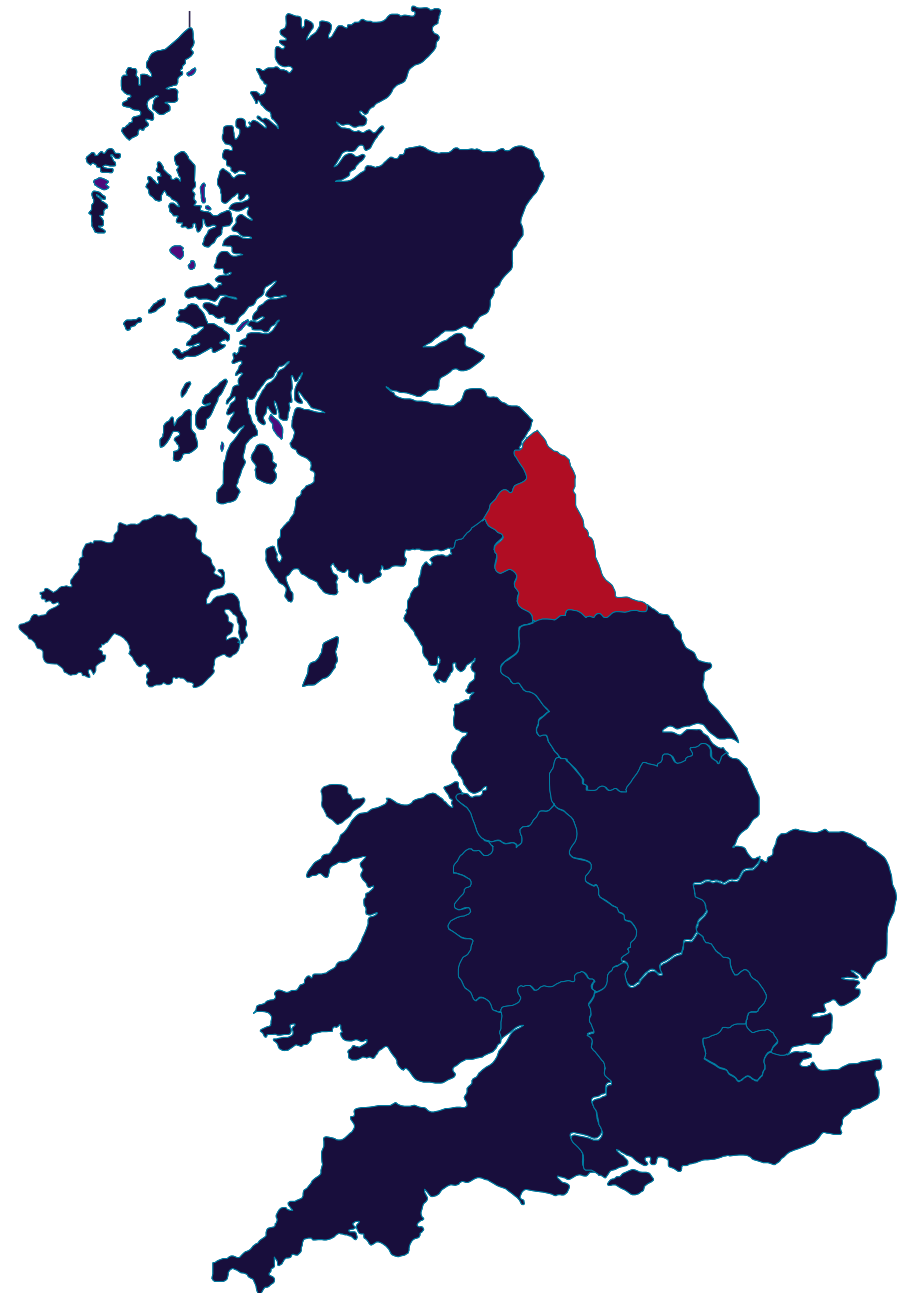
North East Fund

£120m investment programme for SMEs, consisting of five individual funds:

- Venture Fund
- Capital Development Fund
- Grant Capital Fund
- Small Loan Fund
- Innovation Fund

Soft-landing packages

Tailored packages of support to enable companies to settle into the region from recruitment support to access to key business networks.



Case Study - Glycanage

- [GlycanAge](#), a Newcastle-based life science company, designed a new at-home blood test, MenoAge, which has the potential to diagnose menopause and perimenopause.
- Headquartered at The Catalyst on Newcastle's Helix development, home to the National Innovation Centre for Ageing and a dynamic cluster of life science businesses, industry leaders and academics, GlycanAge benefitted from a close network of sector expertise and a wealth of collaborative opportunities which was the perfect environment for translating research into tangible and impactful products for the healthcare market.
- MenoAge is in the process of being recognised by the NHS and the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, and could save the NHS over £500 million by contributing to timely treatment of perimenopause in the UK.



Case Study - Solcom

- [Solcom](#) Ltd was a micro-SME when it developed a ground breaking cloud based data system in 2008. In 2010 it worked with NHS South Central to develop a remote health monitoring system (telehealth) using this cloud platform and medical instruments linked to some of the early smartphones and tablets. This system permitted a user to measure their health and have a remote clinician review it on a daily basis. It was able to be delivered for a much lower cost than existing systems and shown to work exceptionally well.
- Solcom went on to create a solution for monitoring people activities as well as health.
- In 2019 Sunderland Council sought a central core database system that would collate data from many difference sources. Solcom won the contract, and using its existing cloud core, Solcom worked closely with SCC to develop new feature sets, culminating in a smart phone App that enabled informal care networks look after frail people in their own homes. The App was called SHEILA and won an international Harvard award for innovation.



Case Study – XR Therapeutics

- [XR Therapeutics](#) deliver a safe, effective and faster treatment facility using the latest VR technology.
- By combining traditional Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT) with Virtual Reality (VR), their therapists can recreate scenes tailored to the patient's individual needs. The unique treatment can be adapted by the therapist in real time, they have complete management of the rate of exposure. They treat those with mental health issues and those whose lives have been restricted by a phobia.
- In late 2022 the company were awarded grant funding from SBRI as part of their Competition 20: Autism and Learning Disabilities. They will continue to develop their technology and therapy model to better serve people with learning disabilities and to continue furthering the work they already do with autistic people.





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