

# NEW WRITING NORTH

Press release, for immediate release  
26 July 2022

## **New Writing North to launch Writing and Publishing Skills Hub in North East England**

New Writing North, the creative writing and reading agency for the North of England, will launch a Writing and Publishing Skills Hub in autumn 2022. The £600,000 programme is funded by the North of Tyne Combined Authority and other local funders.

The launch is a nationally-significant intervention into rebalancing the creative industries, and a major boost for the North East, where New Writing North is currently progressing plans to establish a new Centre for Writing. The Writing and Publishing Skills Hub will create a suite of educational and professional development opportunities for schools and teachers, students, young people and adult learners, and writers and literary SMEs in the region.

Taking place across Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland as well as supporting a substantial online offer, the Writing and Publishing Skills Hub will empower people across the region with an exciting range of courses, activities and events to open out and build skills and careers in the sector.

Over three years, New Writing North will create opportunities from school roadshows for pupils interested in pursuing a career in the creative industries, to networking and business skills training for practitioners and SMEs.

Professional development opportunities, conferences and courses will all be available to new and emerging writers across the region. New volunteer training programmes will support people with a passion for books to develop their own skills and experience through community reading and festival programmes.

The Writing and Publishing Skills Hub also builds on existing work and New Writing North's current innovative artist investment programmes which support writers with bursaries to support new projects.

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New Writing North is a registered charity in England & Wales number: 1062729. Company limited by guarantee in England & Wales number: 3166037. Registered office: Ellison Terrace, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8ST



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New Writing North's award-winning Young Writers programme will also be extended, including new Young Writers' Groups and a vocational summer school for aspiring writers and publishers for which participants gain at Arts Award qualification.

In total the Writing and Publishing Skills Hub creates or enhances 16 areas of work, developing pathways into the industry and making a unique offer for skills growth in the region. The programme will be managed by a new team of three staff at New Writing North's Newcastle office. These vacancies are now open for application.

## **Claire Malcolm, New Writing North's Chief Executive said:**

"This significant investment will support New Writing North to establish new areas of work for the long term. With our new MA in Publishing created with Hachette UK and Northumbria University launching this September this region is now leading the way in creating infrastructure for the development of creative people from a range of backgrounds. My desire has always been that a young person growing up in the North East could imagine a job as a writer or a publisher. Now they will have a clear pathway to pursuing that ambition. As the programme continues to take shape, we look forward to welcoming further industry partners to help us build connections and to enrich the opportunities".

## **Cllr Glen Sanderson NTCA cabinet member for Culture, Creative and Rural said:**

"Culture is for everybody. It plays a huge part in all our lives and in the economy of Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland.

"That's why we're investing to allow arts organisations to grow and artists to gain new skills and develop their work.

"New Writing North's programme for our writing and publishing sector will benefit thousands of people by providing access to training, learning opportunities and vocational skills development and will support the next generation of creative talent in the North of Tyne.

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“It’s part of a multi-million-pound investment in Skills for Growth for the cultural sector through which we are also investing in music, the visual arts and digital and live event production.”

*The Writing and Publishing Skills Hub vacancies are now for application open at <https://newwritingnorth.com/vacancies/>*

## Ends

**For all media enquiries, contact Laura Fraine, Senior Marketing and Communications Manager, New Writing North**  
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## About New Writing North

New Writing North is the development agency for creative writing and reading in the North of England.

Based in Newcastle upon Tyne since 1996, it is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation. The organisation works in partnership with regional and national partners to produce a range of literary and performance activities including flagship projects such as the Northern Writers’ Awards, Young Writers, the Gordon Burn Prize, Durham Book Festival and Read Regional.

New Writing North specialises in developing and investing in writers of all ages and act as a dynamic broker between writers, producers, publishers and broadcasters across the creative industries. Current partners include BBC Radio 3, Channel 4 Drama, Faber and Faber, Hachette Children’s Group, Northumbria University and Durham University.

As a producer of new work, New Writing North commissions a wide range of writing from topical essays and publications to award-winning dance theatre productions, short films, live literature and broadcast projects.

New Writing North’s extensive and award-winning Young Writers programme develops the creativity and skills of young people. Work in schools with children and their teachers is complemented by a large and diverse out-of-

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school programme that is open to all, with a special focus on areas with fewer opportunities.

As a promoter and producer of festivals and literary events and through its partnerships with schools, libraries, universities and prisons, New Writing North engages audiences with enriching and creative reading experiences.

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