



Bridging the gap

across the Tees Valley



The Teesside Charity

Newsletter January 2026

Our impact

from Jan 25 to Dec 25



51,865

local people assisted



6,300

young people reached through our Inspiring Futures initiative



206

local groups supported



72

beds distributed



22

washing machines gifted



482

people received a caravan holiday



9

fridge freezers donated



13

cookers delivered



323

people supported with fuel vouchers



2,044

people helped with shopping vouchers



265

children received school uniform and shoes



9

homes fitted with carpets

Foreword

Hello, welcome to our latest newsletter.

As we welcome the new year and look ahead, I am reminded that our future is made possible by the remarkable commitment of our supporters.

Each year, your involvement, whether through donations, volunteering or spreading awareness, helps us make a real and lasting difference in our community.

Looking back, it is inspiring to see how much we achieved together in 2025. Thanks to your kindness, support and belief in what we do, we were able to make a difference in the lives of 51,865 people right here in our region.

But we know there is more to do. With your continued support this year, we can deepen our impact and support even more people across our community responding as challenges evolve and new opportunities emerge to provide help where it is needed most.

It is through your ongoing involvement that we are able to expand our reach, and we could not do so without your unwavering commitment. Every act of kindness, every hour volunteered and every contribution helps bridge the gap for those living within the Tees Valley.

Whether you are a long-standing supporter or new to our charity, your support truly matters. Together, we can build on past successes, respond to emerging needs and ensure that no one in our community is left behind. If you are able to support our cause in any way, we invite you to get involved. Please join us and be part of something bigger. Help us bridge the gap in our region.

Finally, I thank Diane, Mandy, Rachel, Sheila, and our incredible team of volunteers who help facilitate fundraising and charitable donations. Together and on behalf of my fellow trustees, I invite you to take pride in the difference you have made and continue to make, by being involved with The Teesside Charity.

Together, we can bridge the gap in our region.



Harriet Spalding,
Chair of trustees

Making every step count



Paul Gaukroger
and Alex Hirst

Last September, a team of incredible supporters of The Teesside Charity took on Mount Kilimanjaro and raised an amazing £13,400 to help change lives in the region.

We caught up with Alex Hirst and Paul Gaukroger of platinum patron Pneuma Group and Laura Tarran of patron Racz Group to hear about their experience and why they're encouraging you to take on this challenge for charity.

Q: What inspired you to climb Mount Kilimanjaro for charity?

Alex: Being a trustee of the charity was a big motivation for me. At the beginning of the year, I set myself a challenge to do something outside of my comfort zone. When I received an email about the opportunity, it felt like the perfect way to combine that personal challenge with supporting a cause I care deeply about.

Paul: I supported The Teesside Charity in my previous job and wanted to continue my commitment in my new position at Pneuma Group. It was one of the first opportunities that came through when I joined, and it felt like a great way to get involved straight away and give back to a cause close to home.

Laura: Taking on this challenge felt like the natural next step for me. I've already participated in a variety of fundraising events for the charity, and having recently joined a fitness dance group, I thought why not see if I could dance my way to the top while supporting a great cause.

Q: Why was it important for you to raise funds for The Teesside Charity?

Alex: Witnessing the dedication and passion of my fellow trustees to make a real difference is truly inspiring and I wanted to play my part.

Paul: It's the first time I've come across a charity that truly acts as a touchpoint across so many different areas. It's inspiring to contribute to an organisation that helps so many people in so many ways, there's a cause that resonates with everyone.

Laura: Being based in Teesside, I love that it allows me to give back locally while helping a wide range of causes. From a business perspective, it's particularly rewarding to contribute to an organisation that has such a broad and positive impact as it means so many people from the business can have their causes supported.

Q: What would you say to others thinking of taking on the challenge?

Alex: I would say do it! If you're up for something adventurous and want to take on a challenge, go for it. The whole experience is out of this world and the people guiding you on the trek are incredibly happy, welcoming individuals, who are a pleasure to be around.

Paul: This challenge really ticks a massive box for personal achievement. Physically, it's not overly demanding, but the reward is huge. You also get to experience the local ecosystem and the lives of the people who live and work there every day.

Laura: If you're taking on this challenge, you need to be mentally committed. It's as much a mental test as it is a physical one, if not more.

Q: If there's one message, you'd like people to take away from this piece, what would it be?

Alex: Absolutely do the hard things you want to. You will meet some amazing people along the way and have some great conversations where you will learn a lot about their lives and their motivations for conquering Mount Kilimanjaro.

Paul: You can do it! Just believe in yourself. Motivation is about doing something as an achievement. The reward is massive, so don't be put off.

Laura: It's a phenomenal team effort. No one climbs that mountain alone. You come to realise just how loved and supported you are, from those who donate to those who help you every step of the way up the mountain.



Laura Tarran

Will your story be next? Be part of this year's Kilimanjaro Lemosho Route Trek for The Teesside Charity from 15th September until 25th September 2026. To find out more email mandy.s@teessidecharity.org.uk

Teesside Heroes

Do you know a
Teesside Hero?

If you know someone
worthy of a Teesside
Hero award why not
nominate them at -

teessidecharity.org.uk



Meet the true heroes of Teesside, amazing people, doing amazing things for the community. All Teesside Heroes are presented with a personalised trophy and £1,000 to donate to their chosen local charity.

July 2025

Bill Cook

£1,000 to Senses Wellbeing Centre CIC

Those who know Bill Cook describe him as being the heart of Saltburn & Marske ASC. Since qualifying as a coach in 1983, he has quietly and consistently shaped the lives of hundreds of young swimmers across Teesside.



August 2025

Chris Heathwaite

£1,000 to Bloodrun EVS

Chris has supported the North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust as a volunteer driver for over five years. During this time, he has assisted patients with transport, medication deliveries, emergency food parcels and essential equipment. Alongside his volunteer role with the trust, Chris volunteers with Blood Run EVS and has supported this charity for over seven years.



September 2025

Carol Fodden

£1,000 split between Sprouts Community Food Charity, Kiora Hall and the Great North Air Ambulance

Through her tireless efforts, Carol has directly improved the lives of over 1,000 people in the community through her work with Sprouts Community Food Charity and other local charities. Over the past five years, she has actively collected donations for multiple charities and turned her home into a dedicated drop-off point for Sprouts.



October 2025

Susan Mansaray

£1,000 to Purple Rose Stockton

Susan came to this country as an asylum seeker from Sierra Leone and has since dedicated her life to helping others through her charity Purple Rose Stockton. Susan founded the charity in 2021 and has since supported hundreds of people week in and week out with fresh warm meals, clothing, essential supplies and a safe welcoming space in which they can find community, kindness and support.



November 2025

We Can Dance

£1,000 to We Can Dance

We Can Dance was established in 2000 to provide dance lessons for children with special needs in North East England. They became a registered charity in 2010, focusing on young people with special educational needs, such as profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD), autism, physical disabilities, sensory impairments and behavioural difficulties.



December 2025

Kevin Gibson

£1,000 to the Army Cadets

Kevin has dedicated the last 48 years of his life volunteering for the Army Cadets. During this time, he has risen through the ranks to achieve Major status and occasional C Company Commander. He has dedicated tens of thousands of hours to the organisation and in turn supported thousands of children.



Beneficiary visits

Every donation we receive goes right back into the communities in our region, to help those that need it most. Here is a snapshot of where the funds go and how you have helped.



Donated
£4,050
Impacted
45 people

Coatham House

Emma Stainthorpe - Sembcorp

A grant of £4,050 was awarded to Coatham House for office renovations. Coatham House is a long established charity that started as a response to the levels of youth homelessness in Redcar in the 1980s. It now runs a variety of services and programmes, delivering accommodation and support to those who are homeless and those at risk of homelessness.



Donated
£4,005
Impacted
35 people

Cleveland Boxing Club

Ken Devereux - Devereux Transport

£4,005 in funding was allocated to Cleveland Boxing Club to support with rent costs for a three-month period. Cleveland Boxing Club is a non-profit organisation set up for the benefit of disadvantaged under-18s in Billingham and surrounding TS postcodes. The club gives children a place to be active, make friends, and learn from skilled coaches, not only about the sport, but also about respect and community.



Donated
£2,633
Impacted
825 people

Nite Light CIC

Tracey Flanagan - Bulkhaul

Nite Light CIC, a local charity aiming to reduce poverty and social isolation, received a £2,632.50 donation in June 2025 for a refurbish and restore project which included a replacement shower macerator, removal of air conditioning unit, an additional countertop and t-shirts for the volunteers and staff.



Donated
£8,500
Impacted
14,000 people

Norton Sports Charity

Trustee James Robson

£8,500 was awarded to Norton Sports Charity for the partial refurbishment of the cricket pavilion. Norton Sports Charity is a registered charity providing sports, recreation and social facilities to residents across the Tees Valley. The facility helps to bring different members of the community together and is used by a wide range of residents, including young people and individuals from diverse backgrounds.



Donated
£2,429
Impacted
262 people

Bankfields Primary

Trustee Alex Hirst and Steve Brooke - Pneuma Group

£2,429 was awarded to Bankfields Primary School for their new initiative OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning). Bankfields Primary School is an inclusive school at the heart of the Bankfields estate, serving the children of Eston and the surrounding area. As part of the new project, the school is planning a series of outdoor activities designed to support the overall wellbeing of its pupils. These activities aim to help children release energy, reduce stress and manage their emotions more effectively.



Donated
£1,500
Impacted
40 people

Soccability

Vice chair Andrew Rowe - Azets

Soccability, a frame football team in Teesside, received £1,500 during our last Golden Giveaway and have used the funding to purchase new equipment to help improve members' experiences. Frame football is an adapted way for players with a physical impairment to use a Kaye Walker or similar to play football.



Donated
£1,725
Impacted
145 people

Outwood Academy

Lewis McDonald - SeAH Wind

Outwood Academy was granted £1,725 in funding for three coaches for a school trip for the year 7 pupils to the Yorkshire Sculpture Park.



Donated
£6,077
Impacted
100 people

TASC

Laura Tarran - Racz Group

Teesside Ability Support Centre (TASC) was awarded a grant of £6,077 to purchase The Omi Vista Mobii, an interactive projection system that creates dynamic, motion-activated sensory experiences on tables, floors, and other flat surfaces. Teesside Ability Support Centre is a registered charity based in Middlesbrough, which supports and empowers adults within the disabled community. Their primary goals are to prevent physical deterioration and support the wellbeing of all their members.

Where do your donations go?

As you can see your donations are helping organisations right across the region.

The benefit of The Teesside Charity is that every penny you donate goes right back into the community to help those who need it most.



The Teesside Charity Annual Ball



Our Annual Ball will take place this year once again at Hardwick Hall and guarantees to be a memorable night of fantastic food, drink, music, dancing, great company and surprises.

**The Teesside Charity Annual Ball
Friday 2nd October 2026,
Hardwick Hall Hotel**

**Our last Annual Ball in association with Ward
Hadaway raised an amazing £76,700!**

Will you help us raise even more this year to continue our mission to help businesses and individuals join together to make the Tees Valley a better place in which to live, work and do business? Of course, the funds we raise will go to hundreds of fantastic causes and every penny raised will stay right here in our region. As the ball is always a complete sell out, we urge you to act soon and reserve your space to avoid missing out.

2nd
October
2026

Get your tickets now

If you're interested in reserving a seat or a table contact diane.s@teessidecharity.org.uk for more information.

Tickets cost £1,300 per table of 10, £1,560 per table of 12 and £130 for an individual ticket. The ticket cost includes a three-course meal with wine and a welcome drink.



Dates for your diary

Middlesbrough Half Marathon

Sunday 1st March

Starting in Centre Square, outside the Town Hall and MIMA gallery, the road closed course heads out through Albert Park, passing the home of Middlesbrough FC at Riverside Stadium, before looping around the docks to finish back in Centre Square. The cost is £30 and we ask you to raise £150 in sponsorship.



Skydive

Sunday 29th March

Fulfil your dream of a tandem skydive, a big tick on your bucket list! We have secured 10 places to skydive over Durham Parachute Centre in Shotton Colliery. The tandem skydive from 10,000 feet takes place on Sunday 29th March. There is a £50 entry fee, and we then ask you to raise a minimum of £395 in sponsorship.



Ladies' Lunch

Thursday 14th May

Members of the Tees Valley female business community are in for another treat when we hold our next Ladies' Lunch at Whinstone View. Arrival is from 11.30am with a welcome drink's reception and time to network. Ladies will then be seated at 12pm and enjoy a two-course lunch followed by our guest speaker, Kimberley Turner, Co-CEO of Double Eleven. Tickets are priced at £42.50 and include a welcome drink and two course meal.

Supporter Get Together

Thursday 26th March

We'll be at Rockliffe Hall for our first supporter get together of 2026. Booking is essential, refreshments will be provided, but numbers are limited. For more information or to register your interest please email diane.s@teessidecharity.org.uk

Walk into the Light

Friday 5th June

Will you put your best foot forward for mental health? Join us for a unique night-time walk to raise funds for local mental health charities. Starting at 11pm, we will begin a 12-mile walk at Cod Beck Reservoir that will finish as the sun comes up. There is a £35 entry fee, and we ask participants to raise £200 in sponsorship.



Golf Day

Friday 10th July

Our golf day will be taking place at Middlesbrough Golf Club. Upon arrival, you will receive a breakfast sandwich in preparation for fun and games on the putting green, organised by Phil Lyons of patron InBond and Richard Marsden of RMS Solutions. The teams will battle it out across an 18-hole golf course. The day will include on-course competitions and a two-course dinner followed by presentations. Team entry is £480.

Great North Run

Sunday 13th September

Take part in the world's biggest half marathon! The entry fee is £60, and we ask runners to raise £300 in sponsorship. All who take part will receive a running vest, and there will be a space in the charity village where runners can receive a well-deserved massage and refreshments.

For more information contact mandy.s@teessidecharity.org.uk or visit our website teessidecharity.org.uk/events

Ways to get involved

There are so many ways to get involved with The Teesside Charity, whether that be a monthly donation, skydiving or attending an event, every contribution makes a difference.

BECOME A PLATINUM PATRON



Platinum patrons is a group of successful businesses as well as high-net-worth individuals who are looking to support the community with a life changing yearly donation. It's not just about the donation, platinum patrons are invited to get involved with funding applications, visit successful beneficiaries and award our Teesside Heroes and grant winners. Annual platinum patronage is £24,000 a year or £2,000 a month.

For more information, email diane.w@teessidecharity.org.uk.

BECOME A PATRON



Our patron tier is made up of businesses and individuals who donate a significant amount of money annually. By being a patron, you can get involved with application shortlisting and present funding and awards to our Teesside Heroes and Golden Giveaway winners. You will be recognised in our newsletters and on our website. An annual patronage is £6,000 for organisations and £3,500 for individuals.

For more information, email diane.w@teessidecharity.org.uk

BECOME A CENTURION



Join the legion of wonderful people who donate £20 per month to our charity as a centurion.

To sign up visit our website teessidecharity.org.uk/donate

ATTEND AN EVENT



The charity organises wonderful events throughout the year, from lunches to black tie dinners, raffles and auctions, they are great fun and bring in much-needed funds. Buy a ticket, come along and have fun knowing that you are helping a fantastic cause.

Visit our website for more details teessidecharity.org.uk/events

TAKE PART IN A SPONSORED EVENT



Ever fancied running a marathon, skydiving or perhaps a sponsored sleepout? Then take part in one of our sponsored events. We do all the organisation, you simply need to raise a minimum amount of money.

For more information, email mandy.s@teessidecharity.org.uk

INFANT HERCULES CHARITY CLUB



Perfect for smaller businesses who are keen to support us on a corporate level, membership of the IHCC costs £1,200 a year or £100 per month. Benefits include the opportunity to publicly show support, have your logo on our charity website and social media posts when you sign up and invitations to quarterly business gatherings.

For more information, email diane.w@teessidecharity.org.uk

CHOSEN CHARITY



If you are a business or organisation looking to select a chosen charity, we'd love to talk to you. To discuss this please get in touch with the team at info@teessidecharity.org.uk

SCAN THE CODE TO FIND OUT MORE



teessidecharity.org.uk/get-involved/

DONATE PRIZES



Raffles and auctions are great fun and bring in much-needed funds. We accept hampers, bottles of alcohol, beauty vouchers, hotel stays and much more. Every donation is appreciated!

For more information, email info@teessidecharity.org.uk

MAKE A ONE-OFF DONATION



By clicking the 'Donate' button on our website you can make a one-off payment. There is no monetary limit and we are immensely grateful for all your donations.

To make a donation visit our website teessidecharity.org.uk/donate

NOMINATE A TEESSIDE HERO



Teesside Heroes not only get recognition for their amazing good deeds as unsung community champions, but they are given £1,000 to donate to their local charity of choice. Of course, we need to hear about them, so nominate your hero via our website

teessidecharity.org.uk/teesside-heroes

Dream team

Meet the team that helps businesses and individuals join together to make Tees Valley a better place in which to live, work and do business. Diane, Mandy, Rachel and Sheila work tirelessly to support the people of the Tees Valley. Whether they're managing events, working closely with businesses, or organising funding applications, they work behind the scenes to ensure no opportunity is missed and no one is left without support.

DIANE SMITH, Charity Manager

Charity manager Diane is responsible for the day-to-day running of the charity, including looking after our donors, supporting events, helping with the caravans and shortlisting the applications for funding. No day is ever the same. Diane loves connecting people and working collaboratively with other charities.



Contact Diane if you want to learn more about how you can support The Teesside Charity on diane.w@teessidecharity.org.uk

MANDY SHIELDS, Events Manager

Events manager Mandy organises a wide range of events from skydiving to golf days to the Annual Ball, all to raise funds for the charity. Our secret weapon, Mandy is great at persuading people to take part and join in. One of her favourite charity events is the Great North Run, she loves to meet and cheer our supporters on and always has the most amazing day.



Contact Mandy if you want to get involved with any fundraising or events on mandy.s@teessidecharity.org.uk

RACHEL POWER, Funding Co-ordinator

Funding co-ordinator Rachel manages the quarterly grant applications, oversees the Hardship Fund, manages the caravan bookings, the Teesside Hero programme, The Teesside Charity Christmas Toy Appeal and Golden Giveaway initiative. She loves presenting our Teesside Hero Awards and seeing their reaction as they are always a complete surprise for the hero and really captures what The Teesside Charity is all about.



Contact Rachel if you want to access funding on rachel.p@teessidecharity.org.uk

SHEILA NEAL, Office and Finance Administrator

Office and finance administrator Sheila keeps our database and financial records up to date and accurate.

She is very methodical and meticulous and is our resident Sage and Plinth expert. One of her favourite initiatives of the charity is the Christmas Toy Appeal, it helps those struggling to provide presents for their children and helps alleviate some of their worry and stress at such a pressuring time.



Contact Sheila if you have any enquiries about payments on sheila.n@teessidecharity.org.uk

A season of giving



The Teesside Charity's third Christmas Toy Appeal proved to be a huge success thanks to the support and generosity of the wonderful people of the Tees Valley.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who contributed to The Teesside Charity Christmas Toy Appeal 2025. Whether a gift was donated, a collection organised or funds provided, your generosity is deeply appreciated.

The volume of donations and support for the appeal ensured that over 3,400 children in the Tees Valley woke up to presents under their Christmas tree.

We spoke with Kath Callan, our toy appeal coordinator who said: "Managing a toy appeal is more than logistics. It's a quiet promise that every child, regardless of circumstance, deserves the joy of unwrapping hope on Christmas morning.

"I find it an absolute privilege to lead a fantastic team to enable this to be fulfilled on behalf of The Teesside Charity."

The toy appeal wouldn't have been what it was without our incredible team of volunteers. Their dedication has had a massive impact on the toy appeal; without them, we wouldn't have been able to help the magnitude of children that we have. Their time and support are appreciated, and we thank each and every one of them.

This year's toy appeal will launch this autumn. Our aim is to continue to bring the magic of Christmas to children across the Tees Valley and we would love your support once again.

If you would like to plan ahead and consider us for your Christmas charity of the year, please email rachel.p@teessidecharity.org.uk

New events for 2026!



We're excited to announce two brand-new events this year; each offering a fresh opportunity to make an impact and support our cause.

Padel Tournament

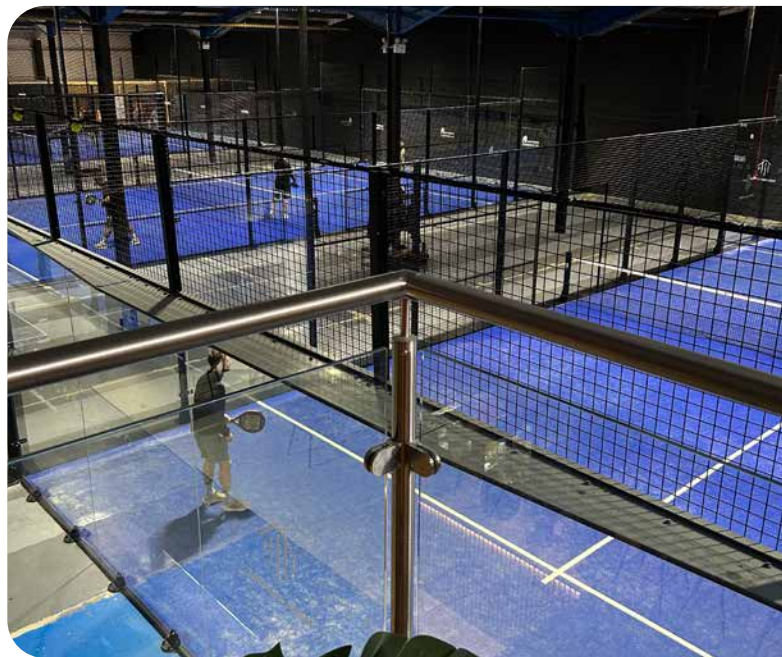
In Association with our headline sponsor, patrons Mercury Wealth

Thursday 23rd April 2026

Companies are invited to enter teams of 4 players at a cost of £250 per team. Arrival is from 8.45am with welcome drinks, followed by an introduction from head coach at Padel Up in Stockton.

After a warmup, teams will go head-to-head throughout the day with an overall winner being crowned at the end of the day.

Cost includes tournament entry for four players, welcome drink plus lunch with refreshments.



Swaledale Waterfall Challenge Walk

Sunday 10th May 2026

Embark on an epic journey with an action-packed itinerary through the scenic landscapes of Swaledale. Kickstart the day with a thrilling 20-minute walk to the breathtaking Wain Wath Force. Dive into an invigorating swim that will leave you energized. Then embark on an intense 10-minute walk to East Gill Force and brace yourself for another exhilarating swim against the backdrop of nature's wonders. You will then immerse yourself in the beauty of Swaledale River with a 1-hour 30-minute circular walk, taking in the picturesque landscapes of Swaledale and Kisdon Hill, arriving at Kisdon Force for the grand finale – a final swim that promises to be the crowning jewel of your adventure. Entry fee is £35 and we ask you to raise £200 in sponsorship.

Above and beyond

Every year our wonderful trustees, patrons, Infant Hercules Charity Club members and centurions go above and beyond, and we want to thank our team of supporters for going the extra mile. Their time and effort never go unnoticed.

Ball Beneficiary

A heartfelt thank you to Meldrum Group for choosing us as one of the beneficiaries of their Demolition Ball and raising an amazing £5,000 in support of our work.

Golfing for good

A huge thank you to Paul Harrison for arranging a charity golf day and choosing us as one of the beneficiaries to receive £3,221.

Christmas generosity

A massive thank you to Made for Trade, who donated £2,500 towards The Teesside Charity Christmas Toy Appeal.

Miles that matter

Huge thanks to Louise Woods of patron Active Chartered Financial Planners who took part in the London Marathon and raised £2,175, plus walked the Lyke Wake Walk with her friend Natalie Wood and raised a further £1,048 for our charity.

Peak performance

A big thank you to Chris Snaith who ran up and down Roseberry Topping fifty times consecutively and raised £1,253 for The Teesside Charity and the Neonatal unit at James Cook University Hospital.

Charity of the year

Thank you, Behaviour Interactive, for choosing us as their charity of the year and for their generous donation of £1,245.

Running with purpose

Thank you to Lydia Chilton and Elliot Armstrong who took part in the Athens Marathon and the Great North Run and raised £1,527 for our charity.

A worthy fight

Thank you for Matt Fannon of IHCC member, Atom Financial who won a white-collar boxing match and donated £270 to our charity.



Natalie Wood and Louise Woods



Elliot Armstrong and Lydia Chilton

We couldn't exist without you.

Thank you to our many donors. We would not be able to carry out this fantastic work without our trustees, platinum patrons, patrons, Infant Hercules Charity Club members, centurions and event attendees.



The Teesside Charity

www.teessidecharity.org.uk
Registered Charity No: 1140740