

# **Sunderland City Council**

**Addressing Food Poverty:**

**Sunderland- An accredited  
UK Living Wage Employer**

**Public Health Practitioner-Joanne Dolan**

Living Wage accreditation is for organisations to demonstrate their commitment as a responsible employer.

By paying the real Living Wage, employers are taking a stand to ensure their employees can earn a wage which is enough to live on.

As well as it being the right thing to do, there is a growing body of evidence demonstrating the business benefits of becoming a Living Wage Employer.



In July 2020, Sunderland City Council was accredited by Citizens UK and the Living Wage Foundation (LWF) as a 'UK Living Wage Employer'.

Since then the City Council has been working in partnership with the LWF to promote the Real Living Wage of £12 an hour, higher than the government minimum of £11.44.

In 2023 there were 45 Living Wage employers headquartered in Sunderland alongside 47 who have branches or district centres in Sunderland.

Due to this 11,723 people who work within Sunderland's boundaries are employed by accredited RLW employers

Sunderland City Council was the first council in the North East to commit to the scheme and has paid employees the Real Living Wage recommended by the LWF since 2014.

Following accreditation with the LWF in 2020, it has extended this commitment to staff working for council contractors as and when contracts are renewed.

In 2022 Sunderland won a national award for its work championing the rights of lower paid workers.

Major employers based on the city such as the University of Sunderland and Gentoo are also in the scheme alongside City Council staff

More recent accreditations include:



PENNYWELL NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE



# Sunderland City Council

**Thank you!**