


WELCOME TO IMPACT



**NORTH
OF TYNE**

**COMBINED
AUTHORITY**

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Welcome to the latest North of Tyne Combined Authority schools' update. There has been loads going on since our last newsletter, and we're really pleased that over 200 schools across Newcastle, Northumberland and North Tyneside have engaged with our programmes of work.

From early literacy to careers pathways, from mental health to welfare advice – we have been able to support schools, families and children in partnership with our local authorities, trusts, teaching school, research school and so many teachers and leaders making a difference every day.

At the end of March, North of Tyne Combined Authority committed to continue to fund this work across the North of Tyne area for 2023-24 academic year, so the team have been industriously working to bring this to life for the new school year.

In further progress, we are delighted to share that our work is referenced in the North East Devolution deal, with a commitment to continue education improvement and child poverty prevention work across a wider North East footprint.

Here's a look back and an overview of what we have planned for 23-24; please get in touch if you'd like to know more.

Adrian Dougherty, Head of Public Sector Innovation



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Child Poverty Prevention Programme

Looking back

'Extending good practice & enabling additional activity, to address the causes and symptoms of child poverty, providing evidence of how social and economic resilience work together to improve productivity' is what we set out to achieve through the pilot phase of this programme.



Over 2022-23 we have funded a diverse range of activity in over 90 fantastic North of Tyne schools across all phases. We have seen a hugely diverse landscape of support for families across our geography and have worked to extend some of this brilliant practice and complement what's already available for children and families.

We have so far directly supported 90 schools. Over 600 pupils and 260 families have directly benefitted from afterschool clubs and family learning opportunities, 16 schools have undergone poverty proofing© audits and training, and welfare advice has been available in 33 schools, resulting in over £400,000 in financial gains for families.

Working families' resilience has been further boosted by our work to help employers to support staff with their financial wellbeing, beyond pay and benefits, with poverty reduction strategies developed for workplaces employing over 4500 North of Tyne employees – we know this work is impacting on families and staff in our partner schools.

January saw the publication of an opinion-piece from Adrian Dougherty in [schoolsweek](#), reflecting on devolution and child poverty in the North East, and partner schools came together in April (thank you to our fantastic hosts Monkseaton High School) for our first 'Summit' event for schools. More than 50 school leaders, pastoral leads and experts from across the region spent the evening sharing insights, experience and lessons on how schools can play their part in supporting the most economically disadvantaged children and families; helping NTCA to understand how we can best play our part too.



'It is hugely important that the Combined Authority has not only recognised the wide-ranging impacts of poverty on children and young people growing up across the North of Tyne, but also that it has a vital role to play in preventing and reducing it – adding immense value and capacity to existing activity, including by bringing together a broad range of local partners in a way that wouldn't have happened without this pilot, to undertake innovative work that could and should be replicated elsewhere, an example of good practice.'

Amanda Bailey, North East Child Poverty Commission



Child Poverty Prevention Programme

Looking forward

Much of our time has been spent developing strategic partnerships across the region, to allow us to understand better how we can continue to contribute to breaking down persistent inequalities for young people across the North of Tyne. We look forward with anticipation to seeing the future impact of this work under the leadership of a new North East Mayoral Combined Authority.

In the meantime, North of Tyne Combined Authority Cabinet has committed to additional funding for 23/24 academic year and now we have an extended and expanded programme of work ready to support schools, children and families.

NEW for 2023-24

All schools across North of Tyne have fully-funded access to Challenging Education's online professional learning programme 'Thinking Differently for Disadvantaged Learners©' until July 2031. This is a tried and tested online learning resource appropriate for all phases of education, designed to help staff to 'Think Differently' about working with our most disadvantaged learners. A resource that is designed to be flexible and fit in with your school plan for professional development. There is no expectation or requirement to complete all the sessions within a module, and no need to complete the sessions in a particular order. Think 'pick and mix' approach!



"This training helps to focus the staff to help us achieve better outcomes for disadvantaged learners. A good blend of visuals, research and practical focussed activities."

Headteacher, secondary phase.

You can find out more [here](#) or you can **access the resource for your school now** by following the instructions below to register your school, access can be shared with all staff and governors.

The diagram illustrates the registration process for the programme. It starts with a registration page where users are prompted to click 'REGISTER' in the top right-hand corner. This leads to a 'Register' button. After clicking, users are directed to a 'Lead Professional Learner Details' form, which includes fields for First name, Surname, Email, and Work email address. A final step involves completing contact details and setting a password, with a note to ensure the password is secure and memorable for all staff. The diagram also features logos for 'Teach First Awards 2021', 'Thinking Differently for Disadvantaged Learners©', and 'North of Tyne Combined Authority'.

Below is an outline of support which will be available in a total of 120 schools this academic year, building on the pilot phase, if your school would be interested in benefitting from support through pillar 1 – [please get in touch!](#)



Pillar 1 – Poverty Interventions in Schools

All schools within the programme will have access to support from Challenging Education through their Raising Attainment for Disadvantaged Youngsters (RADY) programme. You can find out more [here](#) or [click here](#) to book your space on a web meeting to hear more from Challenging Education on 20th September at 3:30pm.

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As with the 2022-23 pilot phases, schools on the programme will be able to choose one from a suite of fully-funded poverty interventions, ranging from family learning to afterschool clubs, to poverty Proofing the school day audits and training or small grants.

More details available on request, please contact Joanna Unthank
joanna.unthank@northoftyne-ca.gov.uk
with any queries or to express your interest to benefit from this support.

Education Improvement Programme

Looking back

The Education Improvement Pilot Programme for the North of Tyne was set up to take steps to address the significant educational achievement gap in our area, with pupils in the North of Tyne likely to underperform in comparison to their peers elsewhere in the country. The five objectives for the programme are based on an education strategy which was co-constructed with our constituent local authorities – Northumberland, North Tyneside, and Newcastle.

Across 2022-23, over 180 schools have engaged in one or more of our projects across the five objectives, directly supporting 17,000 pupils and 400 teachers & school leaders. This has been across both local authority-maintained schools, and schools within multi academy trusts.

We funded 12 schools to develop bespoke education recovery projects to the benefit of 2,000 children most in need. Priorities addressed included oracy and literacy, re-engaging whole school communities, mental health, and outdoor learning. A School Mental Health Award has also been launched with 70 schools having signed up since January 2023.



Pupils from Newbrough C of E Primary school participating in Forest School lessons through their NTCA 'Inspire' grant.

Leaders from 30 schools across North of Tyne participated in our popular 'Linking Leaders' programme, developed and delivered in partnership with constituent local authorities and Newcastle Research School. A further 36 experienced Headteachers, Multi Academy Trust leaders, Teaching School Hub leads, and local authority school improvement partners are being supported to achieve professional accreditation through the Association of Education Advisers.



"I just want to say what a fantastic piece of CPD Linking Leaders has been from start to finish. We completed our school visits this week and it was a super experience both as the host and as the monitoring school. Our partner school is such a contrast to ours, but underneath lots of common ground. We have already planned a project for next year, to link the students together and continue our partnership."

Headteacher, North Tyneside

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Literacy leads across 14 schools were supported through innovative grants to develop projects to help over 3,000 of our most disadvantaged pupils, and 117 settings serving disadvantaged communities were given access to Launchpad for Literacy, an early literacy development programme.

Support was also provided to secondary and middle school curriculum leaders and teachers across North of the Tyne to engage effectively with local employers, empower young people at Key Stage 3 with the knowledge and understanding to make informed decisions including progression to level 3 STEM subjects. The project worked intensively with 10 schools across North of Tyne, directly benefiting over 1,100 pupils. In addition to this, 20 schools engaged in a project to support better transition of pupils between Key Stages 3 & 4 through the lens of careers.



“As a teacher it will help me link specific parts of the curriculum to areas of employment that I didn't know about and diversify the career links I am able to offer as well as being a fantastic opportunity for students to listen to experts in the field.”

Subject Lead, North Tyneside

Looking forward

The work in the pilot phase has allowed us to test and better understand how we can continue to add value across the local education system, building positive partnerships with a range of stakeholders. The NTCA Cabinet committed additional funding to continue and expand the

programme in 23/24 as we build towards the new North East Mayoral Combined Authority.

Continuing for 23/24

Following the success in 22/23, our innovative grants for schools programme will continue, as will our Schools Mental Health Award, established in partnership with the Carnegie Centre of Excellence for Mental Health in Schools at Leeds Beckett University. The award is open for all schools across North of Tyne to access free of charge. Further grants will again also be available to the next cohort of North of Tyne teachers embarking on the NPQ for Leading Literacy.

The Linking Leaders programme will continue with Cohort 3 of Senior Leaders and Cohort 2 of Subject Leads (Primary) with plans in place for adaptation of the model to incorporate Linking SENCos, Linking Early Years Leaders and Linking Secondary Subject Leaders. In addition, a further 30 senior leaders and local authority school improvement partners will form cohort 2 to achieve professional accreditation from the Association of Education Advisers.

The successful project supporting secondary and middle school curriculum leaders and teachers across North of the Tyne to engage effectively with local employers will continue to deepen the impact on the participating schools, and expand to 13 schools in 23/24

New for 23/24

Oracy - 100 schools will be given free access to a whole-school approach to oracy, delivered by the national oracy charity, Voice 21. This is open to all schools in North of Tyne to apply for and will commence in October 23.

Cultural Capital - 12 schools will be part of a project delivered in partnership with Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums to connect children and young people, schools and

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communities with art and cultural opportunities and experiences in response to their needs, to increase the participation of pupils in cultural activities and increase cultural capital. This project will also include elements for early career teachers (ECT).

Launchpad for Literacy – the existing provision of support in early literacy development will be deepened with settings invited to choose from a menu of offers. And for the first time, Private, Voluntary and Independent sector settings (PVI) will be given free access to the toolkit and resources.

The Difference Inclusive Leadership Course – 40 senior leaders from across North of Tyne have joined as a cohort to develop essential practice expertise and powerful strategic leadership tools to evaluate and improve the inclusion priorities of their school.

Digital and creative approach to mental health – we have teamed up with Mortal Fools, an award-winning theatre, drama and creative learning charity, to provide 50 schools with free access to [MELVA](#), a fun and accessible creative intervention, supporting children (aged 7-11) and the adults in their lives to talk openly about – and better understand – their mental health, emotions and wellbeing.

For more information or for how you or your school can get involved, please contact Andrew Garrad
andrew.garrad@northoftyne-ca.gov.uk

And the final word goes to a Headteacher from a school that is participating across projects in both the Education Improvement and Child Poverty Prevention Programmes:



“I think the North of Tyne's approach to improving educational outcomes for children and young people is inspiring. It is ambitious yet clearly grounded in evidence-based research.

Unlike other approaches to improving outcomes, the North of Tyne acknowledges the multiple barriers that children, young people and their families can face.

I am delighted to be part of the NTCA's initiatives, and I am proud to be a Headteacher in an authority with such unparalleled vision and ambition.”