

Subject: Child Poverty Prevention Programme 'Pillar 1' element A
Report of: Head of Education Improvement
Portfolio: Education, Inclusion and Skills

Report Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek approval via delegated decision in line with NTCA's guidelines to award grant funding to deliver the 'Poverty Proofing the school day' and 'school uniform policy into practice' aspects of 'Pillar 1' of the North of Tyne Child Poverty Prevention Programme.

Recommendations

The Director of Policy & Performance is recommended to approve the award of grant funding as follows, to deliver 'Poverty Proofing the school day' and 'school uniform policy into practice' aspects of 'Pillar 1' of the North of Tyne Child Poverty Prevention Programme:

Children North East, a total award to the value of £62,512

1. Background Information, Proposals and Timetable for Implementation

- 1.1 In June 2021, NTCA Cabinet approved £887,500 for a Child Poverty Prevention Programme pilot, to address the causes and impact of child poverty across the North of Tyne. A programme based on three pillars was approved: funding an innovative programme of poverty interventions in schools across the North of Tyne; financial support through the school gate; and working with employers to address poverty.
- 1.2 In September 2021, the North of Tyne Investment Panel recommended the authorisation of £887,500 to be funded from the Inclusive Economy Innovation Fund. This included a proposed £340,000 for 'Pillar 1' an innovative programme of poverty interventions in schools across the North of Tyne. The intention of this pillar of the programme is to utilise and adapt existing expertise and good practice in the region to address poverty in schools and support pupils and communities.
- 1.3 The framework for this pillar of the Child Poverty Prevention Programme pilot has been developed through consultation with leaders and stakeholders across the region along with the pillar 1 steering group which comprises representatives from each local authority, education leaders and other stakeholders such as the North East Child Poverty Commission. The pillar will take the form of a grants programme, with intervention funds allocated on consultation with the project steering group.
- 1.4 Following the child poverty prevention pillar 1 steering group meeting held on 28th April 2022, a closed call for business case submission was requested from Children North East, to deliver the 'Poverty Proofing the school day' and 'school uniform policy into practice' aspects of pillar 1 support to pilot schools between June 2022 and July 2023.
- 1.5 The existing prominent work and expertise of Children North East in 'Poverty Proofing the school day' means that they are uniquely able to provide these interventions consistently across the North of Tyne region.
- 1.6 The business case submission from Children North East was internally appraised as GREEN by Andrew Garrard, Education Improvement Senior Programme Manager for NTCA
- 1.7 The Director of Policy & Performance as NTCA approver is recommended to approve that:

- 1.8** Children North East be awarded grant funding to the value of £62,512 to deliver the ‘Poverty Proofing the school day’ and ‘school uniform policy into practice’ aspects of pillar 1 support to pilot schools between June 2022 and July 2023.
- 1.9** The delivery for each school will vary, but this initial pillar 1 work will consist of a combination of the following:
- Poverty Proofing the School Day Audits and training (20 school audits and 20 school training programmes); or
 - Uniform intervention (30 school interventions); or
 - A combination – for example 10 Poverty Proofing the School Day school audits, 10 school training sessions and 15 schools accessing bespoke uniform interventions.

2. Potential Impact on Objectives

- 2.1** NTCA’s Vision is of a ‘dynamic and more inclusive economy...[which narrows] inequalities’.¹ We are committed to giving everyone the opportunity to thrive – to achieve a fair wage, and access good jobs, and by working in partnership with business, civil society and our residents to achieve this. Our Inclusive Economy Policy Statement reinforces this by committing NTCA to taking a people-focused approach to support every individual to succeed.²
- 2.2** Grant funding this activity will support pilot schools to mitigate the impact of the cost of the school day on families and reduce inequalities arising from this.

3. Key Risks

Risk description	Consequence	Strategy	Mitigation
Covid-19 disruption in schools	Unable to commence delivery	Adapt or pause delivery in the case of school closures at scale	Strong stakeholder engagement to allow planning for any required delivery changes
Lack of engagement from schools in interventions	Reduced impact	Early engagement and co-production with schools	Led by CPPP programme manager to identify target schools. Communication with schools regarding the benefits and outcomes of interventions
Unable to meet demand for interventions	Limited impact	Engagement and co-production has informed grant funding to meet demand	Potential to increase provision to meet demand if necessary
Duplication of existing or planned support for schools	Reduced impact and poor value for money	Local, regional and national engagement and co-production has evidenced the framework of interventions	Continued stakeholder engagement and monitoring of demand and impact. Flexible approach to allow for adaptation of delivery if necessary.

4. Financial and Other Resources Implications

¹ Home of Ambition: The Vision for the North of Tyne Combined Authority, November 2018, p3

² Inclusive Economy Policy Statement, North of Tyne Combined Authority, December 2018, p4

Funding for this activity is proposed to come from the agreed Child Poverty Prevention budget, as part of the Inclusive Economy Innovation Fund. Within this budget £340,000 has been allocated to delivery of pillar 1 of the programme.

5. Legal Implications

The comments of the Monitoring Officer have been included in this report.

6. Equalities Implications

A Child Poverty Prevention Programme for NTCA will have specific positive impacts for groups experiencing protected characteristics, under the terms of the Equality Act 2010. Child poverty is a characteristic of socio-economic disadvantage and is highly correlated with single parent status, for example. Given the relationship between child poverty and in-work poverty, a Child Poverty Prevention Programme for the North of Tyne would specifically deliver the aims of the 2010 Equality Act: to advance equality of opportunity for all, especially for residents experiencing low pay/socio-economic disadvantage.

7. Inclusive Economy Implications

The Programme is proposed as part of NTCA's Employability and Inclusion policy priority, developing activities and interventions which achieve local economic resilience via strengthened communities, and more and good jobs. A Child Poverty Prevention Programme will specifically support the development of an inclusive economy in line with the following characteristics:

- Equity – Tackling inequality in the North of Tyne by addressing one of its main manifestations.
- Growth – Better understanding of specific interventions which can target poorer families and children, supporting residents towards more productive futures.

8. Climate Change Implications

There are no direct climate change implications for this report.

9. Consultation and Engagement

- 9.1** Under the direction of Portfolio holders, with the agreement of NTCA's Inclusive Economy Board Independent Chair, the Board received a joint presentation from IPPR North and the North East Child Poverty Commission in November 2020. The Board asked officers to explore where NTCA could add value to work already underway in this area. Consultation with the North East Child Poverty Commission, Children North East and the North East Chamber of Commerce helped inform this proposal, moving from a series of workshops (already planned by wider stakeholders) to the proposed programme of activity. The Inclusive Economy Board then provided comments on an outline of proposals at their subsequent meeting in February 2021, noting in particular the need to make the poverty-proofing work with both schools and employers practically focused and provide sufficient support to implement change meaningfully.
- 9.2** Initial consultation has also taken place at an officer-level with: the Assistant Director: Education & Skills at Newcastle City Council, Director of Education and Skills at Northumberland County Council, and the Assistant Director for Education at North Tyneside Council, the communities and/or poverty leads with our three local authorities and several education specialists via Adrian Dougherty, NTCA's Strategic Lead - Education Challenge.
- 9.3** NTCA officers are particularly grateful to Cabinet members from across the three authorities who helped improve these proposals with specific advice and insights.

9.4 A scoping review has been commissioned and completed by Rocket Science, in respect of pillar 1 of the programme. This review surveyed school leaders and engaged with school poverty leads on a 1:1 basis to review best practice and need across the North of Tyne region. This has informed the interventions to be funded, including the work which is proposed to be funded by this grant to Children North East.

9.5 Further consultation and review has taken place during April 2022 at Assistant Director and Officer-level with education, communities and/or poverty leads at Newcastle City Council, Northumberland County Council and North Tyneside via Joanna Unthank, NTCA's Child Poverty Prevention Pilot Programme Manager. We have engaged with relevant leads within the voluntary and community sector, school leaders and leaders of multi academy trusts to provide a comprehensive understanding of existing interventions, need and local/regional providers.

9.6 The Child Poverty prevention pilot programme pillar 1 steering group has been consulted on the framework of proposed interventions to be included within pillar 1, which includes 'Poverty Proofing the school day' and 'school uniform policy into practice'.

10. Appendices

None

11. Background Papers

Child Poverty Prevention Programme Cabinet Report June 2021

12. Contact Officers

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13. Glossary

DfE – Department of Education
LA – Local Authority

11. Sign-off

1) Portfolio holder Yes/No	2) Director/SMT Yes/No	3) Chief Finance Officer: Yes/No	4) Monitoring Officer: Yes/No
Yes 24/6/22	Yes 24/6/22	Yes 8/6/22	Yes 8/6/22