

Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Child Poverty in County Durham 22 September 2023

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Child Poverty Working Group

Aim: To use all available resources to help prevent, reduce, and mitigate the impact of poverty on children, young people and their families in County Durham.

4 Key priorities:

- 1. to understand the current level and impact of poverty on children, young people and families in County Durham in order to better target support and resources;**
- 2. to support all those who have contact with children, young people and families in County Durham to have the skills and knowledge to identify and support children and families affected by poverty at the earliest opportunity;**
- 3. promote social inclusion to ensure all children, young people and families have access to health, educational and wellbeing activities which build resilience and supports children and families to thrive and**
- 4. raise aspirations and resilience of children and young people making the move into further education, training or employment.**



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Priority 1: To understand the level and impact of poverty on children, young people and families in County Durham in order to better target support and resources



**48th most
deprived local
authority**

**23.6 % of children
live in poverty (19.2%
across England)**

**18% of children live
in the top 10% most
deprived areas**

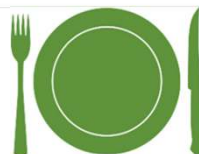
**50% of children live
in the top 30% most
deprived areas**



**27.1% of children
aged 0 to 4 live in
poverty (18% in
England)**



**11 to 15 age
group
24.4%(Up by
57%)**



**Children claiming free school
meals 30.9% 22,000**

Priority 2: To support all those who have contact with children, young people and families in County Durham to have the skills and knowledge to identify and support children and families affected by poverty at the earliest opportunity

- **Financial Ability Training** for frontline staff
- **Advice in County Durham Portal**
- **A dedicated web page [Help with your money](#)**
- **[Help with buying items for school - Durham County Council](#)**
- **Healthy Start promotion**
- **Family Hub offer** - pre-loved clothes and baby equipment, access food hampers, signposting community pantries, access CAB etc



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Priority 3: Promote social inclusion to ensure all children, young people and families have access to health, educational and wellbeing activities which build resilience and supports children and families to thrive.

- Leisure Centre transformation programmes –ongoing co-production with young people
- Poverty awareness training for all Leisure Centre staff
- 'Splashability' free holiday and weekend sessions- April to June=
20,666 SEN/D = 1067
- Improving access to Leisure Centres –free gym membership targeted at young people aged 11 and over =92 memberships
- Physical activity framework health inequalities /affordability



Fun and Food programme

Throughout 2022 a total of 46,000 children and young people engaged in Fun and Food provision

Arts and crafts, environmental and wildlife activities, STEM activities and sports & physical activity, yoga and wellbeing.
Healthy meals and snacks were provided with each activity.

Development of specific and Fun and Food provision for children with SEND and older young people 11 +

<https://www.durham.gov.uk/funandfood>

<https://www.durham.gov.uk/article/25530/Videos-of-previous-fun-and-food-activities>



FUN & FOOD

Holiday activities with healthy food

Funded by the Department for Education



Priority 4: Raise aspirations and resilience of children and young people making the move into further education, training or employment.

- Young people aged 16-17 who are NEET in County Durham is 5.6%, Northeast= 5.4% England= 3.2%
- Durham Young People 'Not Known' = 0.5%, North East=0.7% England= 1.8%
- **DurhamWorks** Programme for Schools
- **The Workplaces Project**
- **DurhamWorks 3**
- **DurhamWorks Futures**
- <https://durhamworks.info/>



Additional support

Household Support Fund 2022/23

- ✓ FSM food vouchers= 69,072 vouchers total of £3.9 million
- ✓ A School support fund of £115,700 providing essential school items,
- ✓ Care Leavers (£100) & Kinship Carers (£100)
- ✓ Christmas Hampers = 1,400

Household Support Fund 2223/24

- ✓ FSM food vouchers £150 per child over x2 instalments
- ✓ School Support Fund
- ✓ Care Leavers (£100) & Kinship Carers (£100)
- ✓ Start for Life Fund+£195k = safe sleep and safety equipment
- ✓ Christmas Hampers = 2000

✓ Education Fun Fund

- ✓ Stronger Families Grant and Greggs Fund - Home safety equipment/cots and beds/washing machines
- ✓ Free School Period Products Scheme-national scheme
- ✓ Feeding Families Food Parcels and Hygiene Packs
- ✓ Reducing Food Waste -The Bread-and-Butter Thing (TBBT)

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Next Steps

- (a) Continue to investigate FSM automatic enrolment and potential pilot to change biometric system
- (b) Continue to develop and innovate County Durham's **Fun and Food programme** in co-production with young people and families;
- (c) provide all schools, nurseries and college with '**Cutting cost of school/ pre-school day**' information and target education establishments in area of high deprivation/ low uptake of FSM for additional help and support; digital poverty
- (d) Introduce and **pilot Financial Inclusion Support Officer** role within a number of secondary schools
- (e) Continue to develop and implement Family Hub and Start for Life programme;**
- (f) Roll out Start for Life Fund- safe sleeping and home safety equipment**
- (g) Work with Public Health, CST, young people and families to explore the impact of **transport costs for young people and families** accessing cultural, leisure and wellbeing activities.

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Any Questions ?



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