

Children & Young People
Overview and Scrutiny

Child Poverty in County Durham

7th January 2025

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Data and Intelligence

The percentage of children living in relative poverty (aged 0-19) 2022/23 in County Durham is 19.3% compared to 20.5% in the Northeast and 19.5% in England.

23,200 (31.9%) pupils were eligible for Free School Meals in County Durham in the Spring 2024 Census, up from 17,200 (23.9%) in the Spring 2020 Census

Areas within Peterlee, Easington, Woodhouse Close, Shildon and Newton Aycliffe West consistently experience high levels of child poverty.

County Durham is ranked 48 out of 151 upper tier local authorities in England.

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

**Co production
activities**

2

Skills and knowledge

3

**Promote social
inclusion and build
resilience**

4

**Raise
aspirations**

Support Available for Families



Advice in
County
Durham Portal

Period Poverty Scheme

[Help with your money webpage](#)

Feeding Families

The Bread and Butter Thing

Free School Meal Auto Enrolment

Family Hubs

Stronger Families Grant and
Greggs Foundation Trust Fund

Start for Life Fund

Household Support Fund

Financial Inclusion Support Officers

Healthy Start Scheme

Cutting the Cost of the School/Pre School Day

Fun & Food



[Help with items for school - Durham County Council](#)



Free help and advice to families
Social Inclusion Team 

**Financial
Inclusion Support
Officer (FISO)
Programme**



Benefits Advice: Universal Credit, Disability Benefits, Council Tax, Carers Allowance

Help with Debt

Budgeting

Welfare Benefit Appeals and Tribunals



Signposting for Emotional support, mental health and wellbeing

Employment and Training

Fuel support and grants

Education Entitlements: Free School Meals, Uniform Grants, Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA)



2024 Fun & Food



● Targeting children and young people in receipt of benefits related free school meals

● Fun & Food Tickets

● Online Booking System and support available

● Additional funding (Summer and Christmas 2024)

 Funded by
UK Government



Easter 2024

DfE Funding

1,330 children
89% FSM eligible 5509
sessions booked

Summer 2024

DfE Funding

2,481 children
87% FSM eligible
26849 sessions
booked

HSF/UKSPF

2,505 children
9,835 sessions
booked

The Bread and Butter Thing

Family Trips: 5 trips
across Family Hubs,
389 places booked

Start for Life fund

The aim of the fund is to ensure our most vulnerable families (with children 0-5 years) who are facing financial difficulties have access to safe sleeping and home safety equipment to keep children warm, safe and secure.

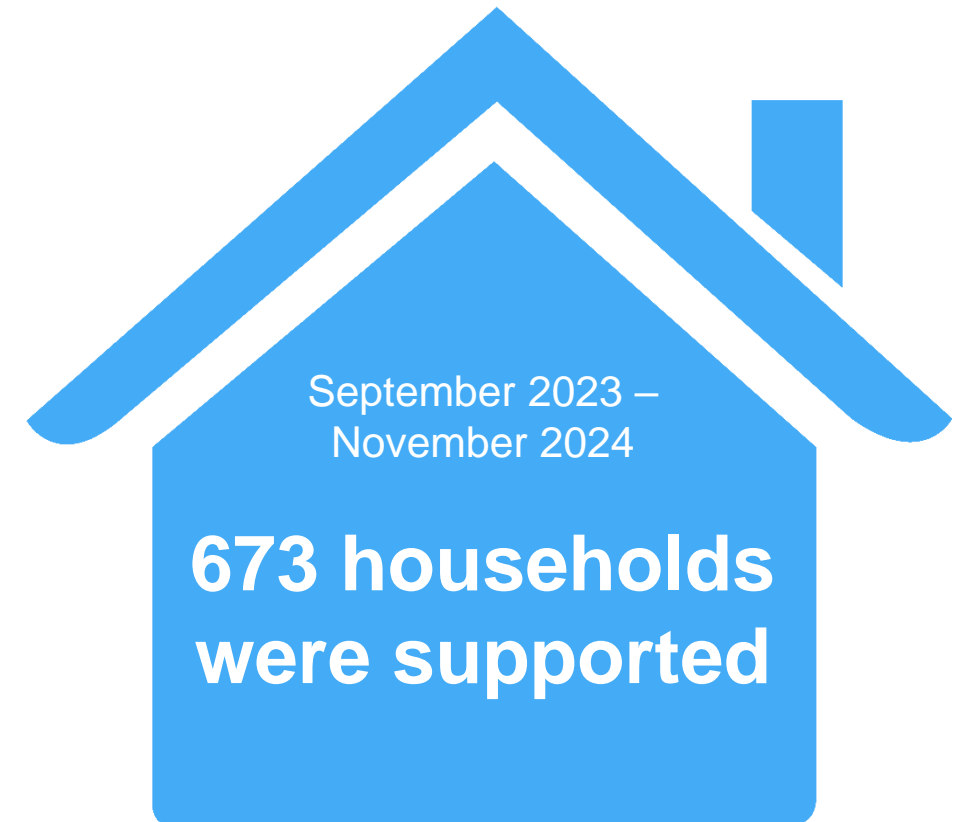
Funding to provide safe sleeping and home safety equipment to families most in need.

This includes:

- Cots , Moses Baskets, Single Beds
- Mattresses
- Bedding
- Pushchairs/buggies
- Home safety equipment (fire guards/safety gates).

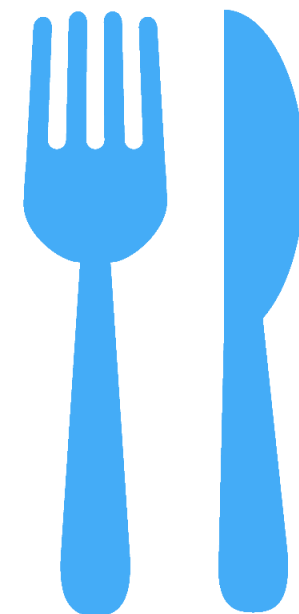
Online application forms can be found at:

[Early Help Stronger Families and Start for Life Grants - Do it online](#)



Free School Meal Auto Enrolment

- Pilot scheme held in August/September 2024
- 2,254 children were identified as in school-based education and eligible for Free School Meals
- The 2,254 children represented a 9.6% increase from the January census
- On average families save £400 per year from being on Free School Meals
- Total increase in pupil premium £3.025million



Raising 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 (Not in Education, Employment or Training) in County Durham is 5.6%, compared to an average rate of 5.5% for the North East and an average rate of 3.5% for England.

A range of support is provided to young people including:

- DurhamWorks Programme for Schools
- Workplaces Project
- DurhamWorks Re-engagement Programmes for young people aged 16-24 who are NEET.

<https://durhamworks.info/>



Communication

- Briefings for members

- Newsletters and updates to internal staff

- Newsletters for external colleagues including schools, health visitors and school nurses

- Weekly Voluntary and Community Sector Alliance bulletins

- Fun & Food Facebook Page

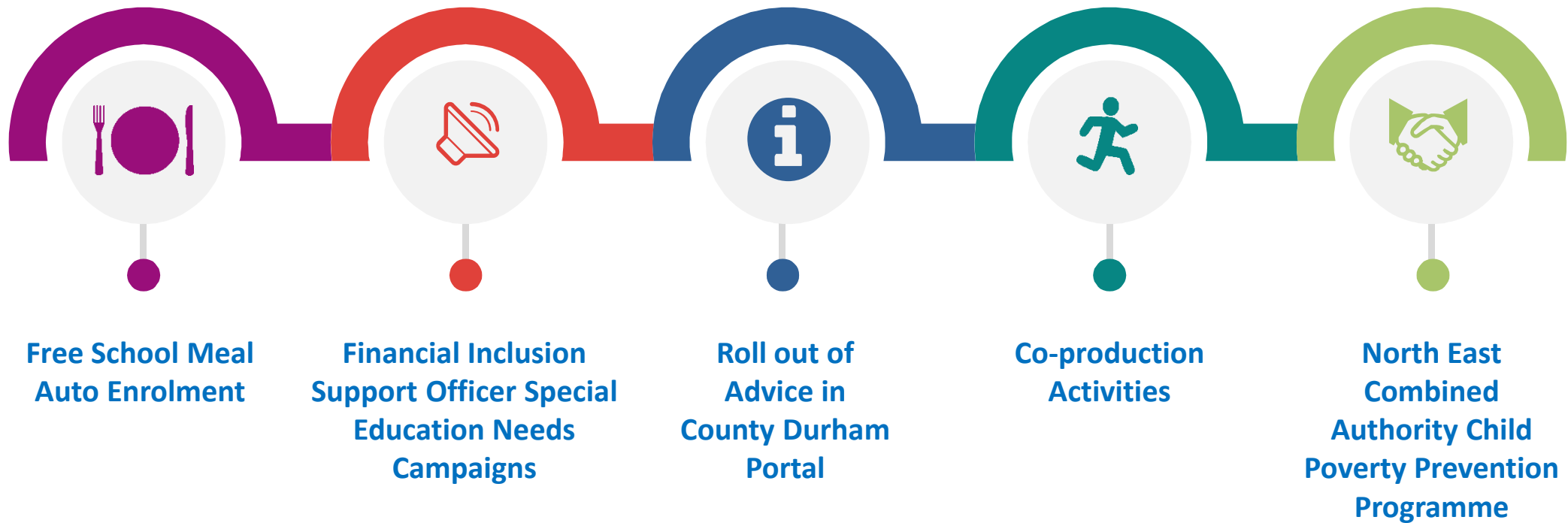
- Schools and Governors portals

- Durham County Council Online platforms and social media

- Training for frontline practitioners



Future Developments





Any Questions?