

# ADDRESSING POVERTY WITH AND THROUGH EDUCATION SETTINGS

## Guide for Local Authority Colleagues

### The problem

- Poverty has a cumulative impact on health and education, contributing to increased psychological distress, poorer self-rated health, higher rates of smoking and obesity, greater school absence, and lower educational attainment.
- Child poverty drives economic stagnation, greater welfare reliance, and pressure on social services. Associated health inequalities are estimated to cost £36-40 billion each year through lost taxes, welfare payments and NHS expenditure.
- Significant geographic and demographic inequalities persist in child poverty rates.

### What you can do at a local level

- Adopt **place-based community approaches** to addressing issues of poverty, focusing on tailored approaches based on the insights provided by people with lived experience.
- Implement **poverty strategies in local schools and nurseries** that address the barriers children living in poverty face.
- Emphasise **community-based interventions**, working with and through schools and nurseries to offer broad educational opportunities in local areas of deprivation.
- Strengthen **partnerships between local services and voluntary organisations** to ensure coordinated support for families, informed by community needs and lived experiences.
- **Invest in early years programmes** that provide wraparound support for families, integrating health, education, and social care to reduce the impact of poverty on young children's development.

## Evidence-based insights

**4.3 million** children in the UK were living in poverty in 2019-20.

Mitigating inequality in early childhood would reduce the number of children experiencing multiple adversities by more than **80%**.

## Examples of good practice that you may wish to explore:

### Poverty Proofing© the school day

Promotes positive-sensitive practices within schools, ensuring that no activity or planned activity in school should identify, exclude, or make assumptions about those with fewer financial resources.

### Department for Education Opportunity Areas

A place-based programme to support social mobility and reduce regional inequality through the convening of resources, applying evidence-based practices and testing innovative approaches.

### North of Tyne Combined Authority's (NTCA) Child Poverty Prevention Programme

The programme pilots a range of approaches, including school-based poverty interventions, welfare support delivered at the school gate, and employer engagement to develop workplace anti-poverty strategies.

### Tackling poverty and disadvantage through a multi-academy trust

A multi-academy trust, including a mixture of primary, secondary and special education schools, implemented a wide range of approaches to better understand and tackle poverty, such as developing a social justice and equity in education charter.

Check out the innovative approaches outlined in this briefing and **consider implementing these practices into your local area/constituency.**



Scan the QR Code for the report

**Please share this guide and start a discussion in your organisation about how we can all play our role in building a country that works for all children and young people.**