



North East Child Poverty Commission (NECPC)

- Cross-sector network of organisations from across the North East, established 2011.
- Hosted by – but independent of – Newcastle University.
- Aim to influence policy and practice locally, regionally and nationally.
- **‘Child poverty in the North East is not inevitable and ending it is worth working for, together’.**

**NO TIME
TO WAIT:**

NORTH EAST

**CHILD
POVERTY
COMMISSION**

**AN AMBITIOUS BLUEPRINT FOR TACKLING
CHILD POVERTY IN THE NORTH EAST**

AMANDA BAILEY | FEBRUARY 2024

No time to wait - overview

<https://tinyurl.com/52fzuyba>



- Makes the case for using devolution to take a **‘public health approach’** to tackling the structural drivers and impacts of child poverty in our region – **convened by our combined authorities**, but a **collective effort** in which organisations across all sectors – and particularly our **anchor institutions (NHS included)** – must play their part.
- Sets out a **blueprint** for what an **ambitious, solutions-focussed programme of co-ordinated, cross-sector, regional action** to tackle child poverty could look like.

Some key new findings

- Around 1/5 North East children are in **‘deep poverty’**, including the 1/10 North East children that are in **‘very deep poverty’**.
- Around 1/5 North East children are living in households that are **‘food insecure’**.
- 7/10 children in our region are living in families with **zero or little savings to protect them from economic shocks or unexpected bills**.
- Around 63% of children living in poverty across the North East are in **‘work-constrained families’**.

Key themes from our conversations

- The **vast amount of time, energy, capacity and resources** now focussed on dealing with the impacts of poverty.
- The extent to which **parents and carers affected by poverty are supporting their communities.**
- The way in which low income families can be **treated ‘by the system’,** and the **lack of understanding for people’s circumstances.**
- A collective agreement that **tackling child poverty must be a regional priority.**

Our four strategic priorities

Priority 1: Maximising family incomes now

e.g. through regional take-up campaigns, and ramping up investment in welfare rights/advice (£1.33bn annual unclaimed benefits/social tariffs - <https://tinyurl.com/ycxpbfh9>)

Priority 2: Making work a route out of poverty

e.g. by making the North East and Tees Valley CA areas Living Wage Places

Priority 3: The best start in life for the next generation

e.g. by expanding FSMs to all on UC, Baby Boxes and creating 'Youth Guarantees'

Overarching priority: Securing a region-wide anti-poverty commitment

e.g. through Socioeconomic Duty, social value, Poverty Proofing & national advocacy

Thank you



<https://nechildpoverty.org.uk>



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