



## Wallsend Schools Partnership

June 2016 – Present

### Brief

Wallsend Schools Partnership is a partnership of all seventeen schools based in Wallsend, serving children aged 2 through to 19. It includes two secondary schools, both with sixth form colleges, thirteen primary schools and two specialist schools – one for young people with severe learning difficulties and profound and multiple learning difficulties aged 2 to 19 years of age & the make of those and the other is a SEMH school in North Tyneside, which caters for the needs of students between the ages of seven to sixteen who experience social, emotional, and mental health (SEMH) difficulties.

The partnership is a long established one with a focus on education and transition between schools. The partnership has an established charity called Wallsend Action for Youth, through which is supports play and youth work beyond the school gates.

The brief was to support school connectedness to the community, building hyper local demographic and cultural intelligence to enable better overall outcomes for children and young people.

### Implementation

The partnership meets termly and has traditionally focused on curriculum and transition. The additional support and resource WCC bring, alongside its partnership with Wallsend Action for Youth, has overtime, shifted the focus of the meetings. Whilst education is still at the heart of its core aims, time is spent understanding the community to ensure that each school is clear on the barriers to learning and both collectively and collaboratively with other partners, working to address these barriers, creating enablers in every way possible.

This has resulted in significant additional intervention and initiatives over the years which have included, but in no way limited to:

- Several initiatives on transition, including play in transition, year seven strategy trialling different intervention for those not settling, the Wallsend Intervention and Transition Team, and a full transition programme in the summer of 2021. Support with transition continues through a variety of interventions.
- At the request of our community, our schools and Save the Children, WCC delivered an attendance survey to gain community understanding and clarity on perceptions and reality around attendance. The analysis was shared with Parent Governors, Community members and schools, with an agreement to re-run in October 2022 and a report submitted to the Government's Attendance Action Alliance. Subsequently funds have been raised (£45k) to trail a whole family approach connecting families with community services. This also acts as a research initiative, learning through families where the system of services support or otherwise and where there are gaps or significant delays or access issues to provision. Final analysis and conclusions will be published May 2025.
- Pupils surveys, supported each school to understand its pupils perception of the school, their learning and teaching, their ambitions, their view on where they live and their own perception of their health. This in turn offered schools the opportunity to adjust their schools development plan.

- Support throughout COVID-19 with weekly community insights, surveys, galvanising additional partnerships and funds to support intervention.
- Support with the impact of poverty and connection to the North of Tyne Combined Authority's Poverty Prevention Programme, bringing welfare officers into nine schools, and intervention into a further three.
- Support schools to access Opening Schools Facilities fund since its inception in 2022. Nine schools are now engaged bringing £296k additional funding for extra-curricular activities into Wallsend Schools creating opportunities for economies of scale across schools and supporting local organisations to connect with schools.
- At the request of schools, WCC are undertaking a significant piece of research regarding the community's attitudes to LGBTQAI+. Analysis will support the community's co-creating its own response
- Support to understand the impact of mental health, developing a pilot around a whole schools approach to mental health and wellbeing
- Enhancing their ability to support families in need through the Emergency Response Programme/Early Years Grants and their connection with the wide voluntary community sector partners
- Supporting both secondary schools to enable young people to co-create and produce a film to address Child Poverty from the perspective of young people – [Potential not Poverty](#)

## Success Criteria

Having completed a series of surveys over the last few years, each school now has uber local intelligence on their immediate area they serve and the uniqueness of their cohorts. This has enabled them to continuously refine their school development plans, bid for and create additional interventions that are bespoke to their school – such as food co-operatives, breakfast clubs, after-schools clubs etc.

It has helped them to connect with their community positively and with a level of intimacy, overcoming the previously held attitudes of schools as a figure of authority to be wary of. Of particular note is the coordinated approach around free school meals through the pandemic, the delivery of emergency response grants, the implementation of a wide range of food/clothe cooperatives inside schools, and the transition between school and holiday periods.

With a major focus on transitions, schools are better equipped to support the transition of children between nursery and primary and primary and secondary, as well as secondary into sixth form. Work continues on this theme as new challenges emerge – such as the impact of COVID-19.

A number of schools who have recently been through OFSTED, utilising all of the resources and tools developed with the support of WCC, have been able to clearly evidence, articulate and demonstrate how and why they have developed strategies, and in turn, have both gained a 'Good' OFSTED rating.

## Stats

<i>No. School</i>	<i>Pupils No</i>	<i>No Initiatives</i>	<i>Approx Funding</i>
<b>17</b>	<b>7000 (approx.)</b>	<b>30+</b>	<b>£1.2m</b>