



Opportunity North East Delivery Plan Update 2022

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A message from the Regional Schools Commissioner, North of England

Opportunity North East (ONE) launched in October 2018 as part of the Department for Education's commitment to improve education and boost productivity in the North East of England. This delivery plan update sets out how the programme is tackling the key challenges the region has faced to achieve this ambition and the progress that has been made.

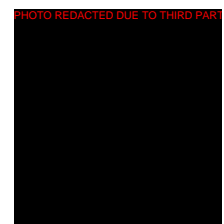
While needing to adapt its work due to the pandemic, the programme has achieved so much in such a short space of time. Schools across all 12 North East local authorities are benefitting from the projects being delivered, supporting them to drive forward school improvement, improving the transition from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 3, and developing their teachers. I'm incredibly proud that 7 of our ONE Vision schools have been judged by Ofsted to be good, and over half of all secondary schools in the region are either receiving or providing support through the programme.

We are now in the final year of ONE, and the Strategic Board's priority is to maximise the impact of all funded projects, and to ensure that the programme leaves a positive legacy. To sustain ONE's impact, we will share the learning and evidence generated by the programme to support more schools and inform how we work in the future.

In the government's Levelling Up the United Kingdom White Paper published in February 2022, we announced how we will continue to further drive school improvement in England by delivering a package of measures in new Education Investment Areas (EIAs). Six of the North East's 12 local authorities will continue to receive support over the next 3 years as EIAs, and two of these areas (Hartlepool and Middlesbrough) have been named as Priority Areas in the Schools White Paper, building on the strong foundations set by ONE.

Strong collaboration across the education landscape has been at the heart of making sure the ONE programme delivers in the region. Thank you to all schools involved, board members and delivery partners who have worked tirelessly throughout. We will continue to work with you to help achieve our ambitions of realising the potential of the North East and maximising the programme's impact.

Katherine Cowell
Regional Schools Commissioner North of England



ONE Strategic Board members

The ONE Strategic Board is now chaired by Baroness Barran and Robin Walker MP. The board brings together senior leaders from academy trusts, colleges, universities, business, and central and local government. They bring expertise, experience, insight and ambition for the North East and its young people, along with the networks, connections, and expertise we need to succeed in meeting our 5 challenges.

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Baroness Barran
Minister for the School System

Kathryn Boulton
Corporate Director for Children and Families, Redcar & Cleveland

Professor Rob Coe
ProfCoe Limited, ONE evidence and evaluation champion

Jill Colbert
Director of Children's Services, Together for Children, Sunderland

Katherine Cowell
Regional Schools Commissioner North of England

Julie Gilhespie
Chief Executive, Tees Valley Combined Authority

Helen Golightly OBE
Chief Executive, North East Local Enterprise Partnership

Nick Hurn OBE
Chief Executive Officer, Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust

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Robin Walker MP
Minister for School Standards

Cath McEvoy-Carr
Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Children's Services, Northumberland

Martyn Oliver
Chief Executive Officer, Outwood Grange Academies Trust

Professor Jane Robinson
Pro Vice-Chancellor, Engagement and Place, Newcastle University

Edward Twiddy
Chief Innovations Officer and Company Secretary, Atom Bank

Dr Lindsey Whiterod CBE
Chief Executive, Tyne Coast College

Chris Zarraga
Director, Schools North East

ONE School Sub-board members

The Strategic Board is supported by the ONE school sub-board, a group of experienced trust leaders and our evidence champion, who bring school leadership and improvement expertise to ensure the programme is robust and evidence led.

Professor Rob Coe ProfCoe Limited, ONE evidence and evaluation champion

Mark Hassack Regional Executive Principal (North), Outwood Grange Academies Trust

Nick Hurn OBE CEO, Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust

Lesley Powell CBE CEO, North East Learning Trust

Dame Maura Regan CEO, Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust

What is Opportunity North East?

Opportunity North East (ONE) is a 3-year programme (2019-2022) to improve education and employment outcomes and boost the aspirations of young people across the region.

Through ONE, we are investing £12 million towards addressing these 5 challenges:

- **Challenge 1:** too few children continue to make good progress from primary to secondary.
- **Challenge 2:** to unlock the potential of key secondary schools in the North East.
- **Challenge 3:** some schools struggle to recruit, retain and develop great teachers.
- **Challenge 4:** too few young people find a pathway to a good career.
- **Challenge 5:** too few young people progress to higher education, particularly to the top tier universities.

Schools involved in Opportunity North East

Over half of the region's secondary schools across all 12 local authority areas are now actively involved in the ONE programme.

This includes 28 schools taking part in our ONE Vision school improvement programme and 30 schools participating in our ONE Maths project. These schools are listed in Annex B and C.

A further 26 secondary schools and over 80 primary schools have been benefiting from our transitions or higher education work.

The ONE Vision schools are all being supported to improve by partner schools from across the region and wider North.

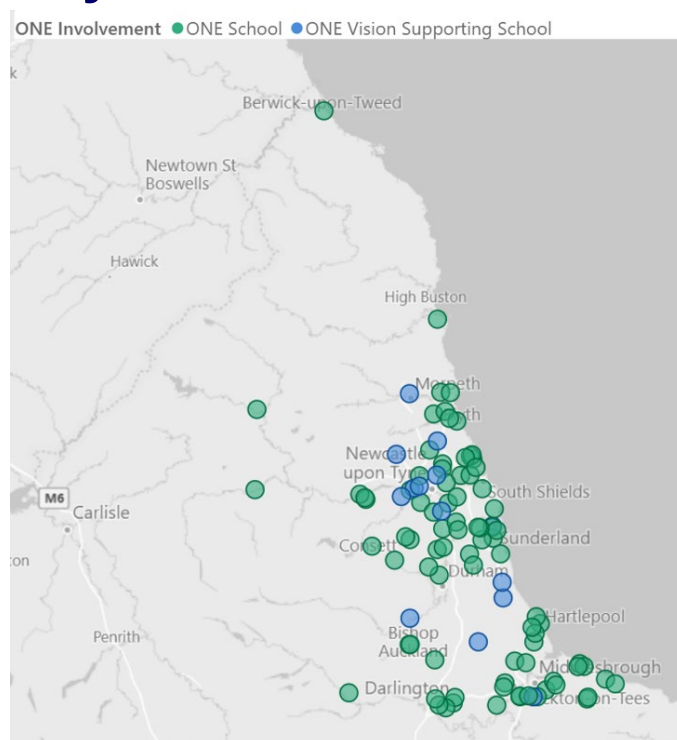


Figure 1 Map of secondary schools involved in ONE

Challenge updates



Challenge 1: Transitions

Too few children continue to make good progress from primary to secondary

How we are tackling this challenge

- ✓ We are funding 4 transition projects (listed in Annex A) that are testing different ways to support young people to continue to achieve well from key stage 2 to key stage 3. They are focusing on areas such as joining up the primary and secondary curriculum, developing a more consistent teaching approach and supporting vulnerable children more effectively.
- ✓ We have commissioned an independent evaluation from King's College London, due to report in autumn 2022, of the interventions in these 4 projects to better understand what is effective in helping children maintain good progress from key stage 2 to key stage 3.

We set these targets for the end of 2021/22

- For pupils involved in funded pilot projects to make greater progress during year 7 than control groups/comparable cohorts.
- To share what we learn from these projects by developing practical advice for schools in the region that will benefit future cohorts of pupils and contribute to our knowledge of what works.

Our progress and what the evaluators, Ofsted, and headteachers are saying

- *“We continue to be **impressed with the projects’ resilience to COVID-19 and the extent of implementation as the pupils’ have transitioned into Year 7...The findings of these [Project Lead] interviews suggest a range of benefits for students and staff, ongoing buy-in for schools, and **signs that the activities will be sustained.**”***
EDIT, King’s College London (Interim evaluation findings, March 2022)
- *“The recent **partnership work with secondary colleagues to develop the curriculum in geography and history has been a triumph.**”*
St Aloysius Catholic Junior School Academy (Ofsted report, October 2021)
- *“For too long we’ve had wasted years, where pupils repeated content in secondary school that they had already covered in key stage 2. **This transition project has brought coherence, so that the key stage 2 curriculum is a springboard for greater challenge and progress at key stage 3.**”*
Dame Maura Regan, CEO Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust



Challenge 2: ONE Vision

To unlock the potential of key secondary schools in the North East

How we are tackling this challenge

- ✓ The ONE Vision programme is a 3-year offer of targeted improvement support in 28 schools (listed in Annex B). All schools started the programme with Ofsted judgements of requires improvement or below.
- ✓ Each ONE Vision school started by completing a comprehensive analysis of need, focusing on the quality of education, governance, and finance. We agreed bespoke improvement plans to meet the needs of each school, with support and mentoring for headteachers provided by an experienced and proven school leader. We reviewed progress at the end of year 2 to measure impact to date, and to identify the areas that needed further support.
- ✓ The ONE Vision schools have had expert guidance from the Education Endowment Foundation on effective implementation, and have had opportunities to learn from high performing schools in a similar context.

We set this target for the end of 2021/22

- For the ONE Vision schools to achieve national average Progress 8 scores and an Ofsted judgement of at least good (subject to Ofsted inspection schedule).

Our progress and what headteachers and Ofsted are saying

- By February 2022, Ofsted has judged 7 of the ONE Vision schools to be good which means that over 5,000 more pupils are now in a good school (see Annex B for details).
- ***“ONE Vision has helped trustees to look at the right things because it helps to focus on the right questions. Having one school improvement plan means they know what to look at and what questions to look at.”***
Nicole Gibbon, Principal St Aidan’s CE Academy, Darlington
- ***“The building of partnerships has been absolutely transformational.”***
Craig Knowles, Headteacher Hetton School, Sunderland
- ***“Support through the Department for Education’s ‘Opportunity North East’ improvement programme has focused on improving the quality of teaching, both in school and, throughout the pandemic, remotely. Leaders’ confidence in addressing these areas has been strengthened by this support.”***
Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy, Gateshead (Ofsted monitoring inspection, October 2021)



Challenge 3: Teachers

Some schools struggle to recruit, retain and develop great teachers

How we are tackling this challenge

- ✓ We are working with the region's 2 maths hubs (Archimedes and Great North) to deliver the ONE Maths project. The project is supporting maths teachers and leaders in 30 secondary schools (listed in Annex C) through effective CPD and specialist maths support to improve the quality of maths teaching. Shotton Hall Research School have been appointed to independently evaluate the impact of the project.
- ✓ We have expanded the reach of the department's Teaching Internship programme by piloting modern foreign languages as an additional subject in the North East. We are offering up to 25 Teaching Internships to give undergraduates the opportunity to experience teaching before they commit to it as a career.

We set this target for the end of 2021/22

- Schools involved in the ONE Maths project report that funded activity to support them in their maths teaching has a positive and measurable impact.

Our progress and what people are saying

- 30 schools from 10 local authorities are receiving structured support through the ONE Maths project benefitting over 90 maths teachers and 26,000 pupils. The support involves an analysis of need, cluster and bespoke training from a maths specialist to support the development of maths teaching in each school.
- *"The ONE Maths project provided our school with **bespoke CPD, which tied together our whole school teaching and learning focus while being subject specific**. It provoked deep discussions amongst staff and enhanced our pedagogy to support lesson planning."*
Eddie Hunter, Head of Maths, Longbenton High School
- *"The **ONE Maths project gives us a tremendous opportunity to transform teaching and learning across the North East**. Colleagues who have not typically engaged with maths hub work are now really embracing the mastery curriculum and enriching their provision with improvements to pedagogy and lesson design. This will undoubtedly help to improve pupil progress across the region."*
Gavin Whyte, Specialist Leader of Education, Archimedes NE Maths Hub



Challenge 4: Careers

Too few young people find a pathway to a good career

How we are tackling this challenge

- ✓ We are funding the North East and Tees Valley Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) to deliver an enhanced offer of personalised advice and guidance for up to 30 young people in each ONE Vision school to help them to make the best of their strengths, interests, and aspirations. This support will help to ensure they find a better pathway to a good career.
- ✓ We are working with the careers service at Oxford University to offer schools a bespoke version of their Litmus Survey – a tool to learn more about pupil career aspirations in the North East, and what support they need to take next steps.

We set these targets for the end of 2021/22

- All ONE Vision schools to meet all 8 Gatsby benchmarks.
- Increased percentage of young people from ONE Vision schools in a sustained education, employment or training destination after key stage 4 and key stage 5.

Our progress and what pupils and delivery partners are saying

- *“I found the webinars really informative. I didn’t realise how many options were available in these careers. I am interested in learning more about these careers for my future. Thank you.”*
Y10 student, Laurence Jackson School feedback on the LEPs enhanced offer of careers and business engagement
- *“We are pleased to have been able to apply the Careers Service Litmus system for the benefit of pupils and schools in the North East. This exercise has shown the power of collaboration with colleagues at Trinity College, Oxford, our software suppliers gti, and in the DfE and Local Enterprise Partnerships in the region. **The results have confirmed the positive effect the ONE programme has had, and point the way to even greater benefits if we were to roll this out more widely.**”*
Jonathan Black, Director, Oxford University Careers Service



Challenge 5: HE Access

Too few young people progress to higher education, particularly to the top tier universities.

How we are tackling this challenge

- ✓ We have expanded all aspects of the 2019 to 2022 Future Me programme, run by the North East Uni Connect Programme (NEUCP), to include all ONE Vision schools and a further 7 secondary schools, so that 112 schools in the region are now participating in the programme.
- ✓ We are working collaboratively with key partners including universities, colleges and schools to improve access to higher education from the supported schools and to embed the improvements beyond the programme.
- ✓ Establishing an approach by The Elephant Group (TEG) to improve access to the top third universities for non-selective state school students.

We set these targets for the end of 2021/22

- To secure an increase in the rate of North East applications and entry to higher education of at least the national rate of increase.
- That the number of additional young people accessing Future Me activities increases as a result of ONE investment.

Our progress and what pupils and headteachers are saying

- Through ONE's expansion, 14 schools are being offered a dedicated Project Coordinator to access the [FutureMe programme](#) and resources including HE Ambassador assemblies, campus visits, undergraduate mentoring, a motivational speaker, an inter-school enterprise challenge, and a residential event.
- ***"We welcomed the support from Future Me and were delighted to finally have the offer made available. Before Opportunity North East, Biddick were ineligible under the Office for Students eligibility criteria but through Opportunity North East we have been able to access it."***
Kate Morris, Principal, Biddick Academy, Sunderland
- ***"I really enjoyed the Summer School hosted by The Elephant Group, in particular I enjoyed the opportunity to take part in a team group presentation. As a result of working with TEG during Y12 and the summer school, I now feel confident about knowing which Uni courses I want to apply for and also on planning my applications."***
Southmoor Academy Y13 pupil

Annex A – Challenge 1: Transition projects

Our 4 transitions projects	Areas with participating schools
<p>Curriculum Continuity (Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust)</p> <p>This project aims to ensure that there is continuity across KS2 and KS3 in terms of the curriculum around core subjects, particularly literacy and extended writing. The project aims to reduce discontinuity between primary and secondary schools, to create greater collaboration between schools. In the first phase of the project, history and geography curriculums were developed; other subjects will follow.</p>	<p>Darlington Durham South Tyneside Stockton-on-Tees</p>
<p>Reciprocal Reading (The Legacy Learning Trust)</p> <p>This project aims to introduce the Reciprocal Reading programme, which has had a favourable Education Endowment Foundation efficacy evaluation already, to improve reading skills among Year 7s. It is based around group reading and discussion.</p>	<p>Hartlepool Middlesbrough North Tyneside Northumberland Redcar and Cleveland Stockton-on-Tees Sunderland</p>
<p>Together to Succeed (Hartlepool Borough Council)</p> <p>This project aims to deliver pupil centred plans for students who are identified by their Year 6 teachers as being vulnerable in the transition to secondary schools. Designated transition leads at schools work with the parents of vulnerable children to develop transition plans for these students.</p>	<p>Hartlepool</p>
<p>Transition through Talk (Churchill Community College)</p> <p>This project aims to improve pupil confidence and engagement in discussion through improving their oracy skills. This project is focused on students' ability to express themselves fluently in spoken English, rather than reading or subject skills.</p>	<p>Newcastle upon Tyne North Tyneside South Tyneside</p>

Annex B – Challenge 2: ONE Vision schools

ONE Vision school name	Local Authority
Haughton Academy (Judged good in February 2022)	Darlington
Polam Hall School (Judged good in October 2021)	Darlington
St Aidan's Church of England Academy (Judged good in January 2020)	Darlington
Wyvern Academy	Darlington
Bishop Barrington Academy	Durham
Greenfield Community College, A Specialist Arts & Science School	Durham
Durham Community Business College for Technology and Enterprise	Durham
Tanfield School	Durham
Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy	Gateshead
Manor Community Academy (Judged good in September 2021)	Hartlepool
St Hild's Church of England Voluntary Aided School	Hartlepool
Trinity Catholic College	Middlesbrough
Unity City Academy	Middlesbrough
Excelsior Academy	Newcastle upon Tyne
Kenton School	Newcastle upon Tyne
Monkseaton Middle School (Judged good in December 2021)	North Tyneside
Berwick Academy	Northumberland
James Calvert Spence College	Northumberland
NCEA Duke's Secondary School	Northumberland
The Blyth Academy (Judged good in October 2021)	Northumberland
Freebrough Academy	Redcar and Cleveland
Laurence Jackson School	Redcar and Cleveland
Rye Hills Academy	Redcar and Cleveland
Thornaby Academy	Stockton-on-Tees
Biddick Academy (Judged good in November 2021)	Sunderland
Farrington Community Academy	Sunderland
Hetton School	Sunderland
Monkwearmouth Academy	Sunderland

Annex C – Challenge 3: ONE Maths schools

School name	Local Authority
Consett Academy	Durham
North Durham Academy	Durham
Park View School	Durham
Seaham High School	Durham
St John's School & Sixth Form College - A Catholic Academy	Durham
Grace College	Gateshead
Heworth Grange School	Gateshead
High Tunstall College of Science	Hartlepool
Benfield School	Newcastle upon Tyne
George Stephenson High School	North Tyneside
John Spence Community High School	North Tyneside
Longbenton High School	North Tyneside
Norham High School	North Tyneside
North Gosforth Academy	North Tyneside
Haydon Bridge Community High School and Sports College	Northumberland
St Benet Biscop Catholic Academy	Northumberland
Huntcliff School	Redcar and Cleveland
Outwood Academy Normanby	Redcar and Cleveland
Sacred Heart Catholic Secondary	Redcar and Cleveland
St Peter's Catholic College	Redcar and Cleveland
St Joseph's Catholic Academy	South Tyneside
Ian Ramsey Church of England Academy	Stockton-on-Tees
Northfield School and Sports College	Stockton-on-Tees
St Patrick's Catholic College, A Voluntary Catholic Academy	Stockton-on-Tees
Academy 360	Sunderland
Kepier	Sunderland
Southmoor Academy	Sunderland
Thornhill Academy	Sunderland
Venerable Bede Church of England Academy	Sunderland
Washington Academy	Sunderland



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Opportunity North East

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