

**Child of the North APPG**  
**Education Report Launch**  
**11 September 2023, 15:30 -16:30**  
**Room R, PCH.**

**Attending**

- Emma Lewell-Buck MP – Co-Chair of the APPG
- Cat Smith MP
- Liz Twist MP – Officer
- Rachael Maskell MP – Officer
- Mary Glendon MP – Officer
- Kim Johnson MP – Officer
- Hannah Davies, Health Equity North
- Anne Longfield, Chair of the Commission on Young Lives
- Mark Mon-William, Leeds University
- Megan Wood, Leeds University
- Rebecca Natton, Office of Emma-Lewell Buck MP
- Funmilola Stewart, Dixons Academy
- Maryam Kapree, Dixons Academy
- Phill Sage, Associate Community Organiser, Citizens UK
- Alexis Darby, Health Equity North
- Becky Plumber, Office of the Bishop of Durham
- David Taylor-Robinson, Liverpool University
- Kate Pickett, York University

**Apologies**

- Sharon Hodgson MP
- Peter Gibson MP
- Catherine McKinnell MP
- Mary Foy MP
- Ian Mearns MP
- Simon Fell MP

ELB: Welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked members to introduce themselves. Handed over to Hannah Davies, Health Equity North.

HD: Thanked the authors of the report and MPs for their input – please with the quality of the report and the great media coverage the report has generated.

MMW: Report is a cumulation of research from nine Universities across the North and is coproduced to give a voice to young people. We have shown children in the North of England are at a structural disadvantage with poor health and poor educational outcomes. We need to give the next generation the skills through education. This report shines a light on health barriers. The report is a beacon of light on the innovative approaches we have used in the North. We are working with high school absences and a mental health epidemic – we need to work together to address these urgent problems. We need to work together we can't have silos. We need central government to get behind the recommendations in the report. We need connected public service delivery. There is huge potential for schools to act as health hubs and be our anchor institutions. The report is

endorsed by the Royal College – now is the time for action. Data-driven, place-based approaches are key.

DTR: The report sheds light on the pressing issue of these inequalities. The report shows that over the last 10 years schools in the North of England have received less funding on average than children in the South. Internationally the UK is 26<sup>th</sup> for schools and education out of 38- we don't do well on average because of these large inequalities in the UK. These inequalities are growing – we know educational attainment is shaped across early lives, and a key reason for poor outcomes for children in the North is higher exposure to child poverty. We are 19<sup>th</sup> for spending on education and this report shows the inequalities in the allocation of this funding. The cuts on pupil spending were bigger in the North. NFF has provided bigger real terms increases for the least disadvantaged areas – we need further rebalancing. So, in the report there are a number of recommendations – we need more funding allocated, especially for secondary school children. None of this is inevitable and we need to invest – it is a matter of national importance.

MW: The recommendations, the report is full of evidence – we do need to allocate additional funding but this alone isn't enough, additional things we need to, we need government support. We need to connect health and education – not siloed. We need the creation of connected data sets to support public service delivery and we argue this should be done across the North.

MK: It is an honour to be here, the pandemic has shown that inequalities have deepened and this is impacting attainment. We need young people to live healthy and successful lives, our actions make a difference – we need to ensure we help young people escape the cycle of inequalities.

ELB: Thanks for the report and your hard work. We have a hard-hitting report and these recommendations are based on evidence.

KJ: Has the report been sent to the Education Minister and the Education Select Committee?

HD: Yes, it has been sent to both of them.

FS: We are keen to highlight different people's experiences across the North and to identify these inequalities.

AL: We can work with the Northern Powerhouse Partnership to get this on the agenda and take a pan Northern approach.

ELB Summing up we need to do everything we can and get this on the governments agenda.

AL: There are mayoral opportunities and I will go to them with this report.

HD: we have got meetings lined up. Kim McGuinness is speaking at our Labour conference event and Alexis will draft PQs etc. and we will keep you updated. We will produce a public affairs plan and we will support this.

Meeting ends and time for a photo opportunity.

ENDS

