



**‘Gap is the wrong word,
what we are talking about
is a disadvantage chasm’**

Frank Norris

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It's not getting better!

Northern Powerhouse Partnership report published early last year drew attention to long term disadvantaged pupils.

Defined as students in secondary school spending at least 80% of their school “career” on free school meals. We also focused on the group that Education Datalab viewed as being a “high impact” group in that a disadvantaged background appeared to have a greater impact on their educational outcomes. This was primarily children from White British and Black Caribbean ethnic groups.



Pupil Premium Fit for Purpose?

Regional breakdown of schools with a high proportion of pupils in the long-term disadvantage high impact group – 2018/19

Region	Number of Secondary Schools	Proportion of total	Change since 2019 analysis
East Midlands	45	8%	7 (18%)
East England	30	6%	9 (43%)
London	23	4%	2 (10%)
North East	75	14%	6 (9%)
North West	136	25%	-1 (-1%)
South East	43	8%	11 (34%)
South West	40	7%	19 (9%)
West Midlands	73	14%	0 (0%)
Yorkshire and Humber	72	13%	7 (11%)
England total	537	100%	74 (16%)



North East has the greatest proportion of its total pupils in the long-term disadvantage high impact group at 10.1%, almost double the national average.

But, something odd is happening!

Overall, the increase in the actual number of students identified as long term disadvantaged is more modest.

Why is this, and how do we address it?





The actual distribution

Distribution is uneven and changes in recent years indicate this is getting worse.

Some secondary schools are much more 'isolated' than others...look at Oxford or Exeter and Cambridge. How much support are local schools offering to these 'isolated' schools?

Is the accountability Framework engineering this?

Map 1: Long-term disadvantaged secondary schools

No one solution

North East issue is different to South West

- We have seen positive impact from some Opportunity Areas
- But, we need more localized solutions even down to two or three wards
- Eligibility for Pupil Premium is going up but will this direct funding to those in greatest need?
- Digital Devices and internet access still a major problem
- Tutoring a good idea without mentoring?

What we want to see

- Significantly increased funding for long term disadvantaged pupils, more funding for all pupil premium pupils with no reduction for other pupils
- Continuation of Opportunity Areas for concentrated disadvantaged areas and the development of micro opportunity areas for the likes of Oxford, Cambridge and others
- Greater expectation that all schools have to support others in their immediate area and held to account if they don't.
- Revise National Tutoring Programme even more so that more mentoring can be provided and funds given locally for local solutions



Thank you

<https://www.TheNorthernPowerhousePartnership.co.uk>

Long-term disadvantage

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