



Powered by Schools North East, SHINE Trust, and the Education Endowment Foundation.

Committed to improving the futures of children in the North through effective education.

## Where we are now

- Widening north-south divide in attainment, with a **gap of 8.5%** at the top grades between the North East and London in 2018
- Children in the North East received the **lowest GCSE scores** in the North in 2016
- Poor performance at secondary level has resulted in the biggest **slump in achievement between the ages of 11 and 16**
- Lack of success against the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP)
- Numbers of teachers in the North East has fallen, with over **500 teachers leaving** in 2017
- Children from deprived backgrounds in the region **lag an entire GCSE grade** behind children in London by the age of 16

## What we'll do

1. Create a vision
2. Communicate the vision
3. Form a powerful coalition
4. Establish a sense of urgency
5. Empower others to act on the vision
6. Plan for and create short term wins
7. Consolidate improvements and produce still more changes
8. Institutionalise new approaches

## Our Future

- Empowered teachers who put a stop to practices that don't work and have the freedom and confidence to try new approaches
- A community of teaching practitioners from across the North sharing evidence-based practices, promoting a culture of collaboration
- Schools working in partnership with universities and organisations to create a 'Centre of Excellence' for educational thinking and showcasing of cutting edge research
- Teachers equipped with the skills and tools needed, helping to drive recruitment and retention
- Leading the way regarding evidence-based education, helping to drive regional and national policy-making
- Bridge the gap in attainment and help children in the North to build better futures

In 2018, the gap in attainment between the North East and London at the top grades (7-9) stands at 8.5%, having gradually widened over the last 4 years.

Children in the North East are falling behind those in other parts of the country, with children in the region receiving the lowest GCSE scores (based on the attainment 8 measure) in the North.

Compared with the rest of the North, the North East's primary schools perform well, but the situation is reversed at secondary level with the biggest slump in achievement between the ages of 11 and 16.

Children from disadvantaged backgrounds in the North East are more likely to lack skills in reading, communicating and socialising and therefore be unready for school than their peers elsewhere in the country, leading to poor success against the EYFSP.

Increasing pressure on schools and multiplying teacher workload only serves to frustrate teachers and drive good people from the profession. The number of teachers in the North East has fallen with over 500 teachers leaving in 2017, and head teachers have warned that they struggle to recruit staff to fill vacant roles.

The North East has the highest number of pupils entitled to free school meals in the country – free school meals is often used as a measure of how many children are living with some level of disadvantage, and there is a strong link between poverty and lower results. Only 46% of the North's disadvantaged pupils achieve the expected standards in reading, writing and maths compared to 69% for all other pupils, and lag an entire GCSE grade behind children in London by the age of 16.

## Where we are now

## Our Future

A shift towards an evidence-based education will help to bridge the gap in attainment between pupils in the North and in other parts of the country, and help to maintain the success's achieved at primary level through to secondary and beyond, helping children in the North to build better futures.

Sharing the successes and failures of evidence-based approaches regionally and nationally will help to grab the attention of government and drive regional and national policy-making towards evidence-based education.

Teachers are equipped with the skills and tools needed to provide effective learning, increasing the retention of teaching practitioners currently in the North while attracting greater numbers from all over the country.

Schools working in close partnership with universities and other organisation in order to to keep up to date with the latest research and practices, and develop skills in analysing research; helping to create a 'Centre of Excellence' for educational thinking and showcasing of cutting edge research.

Teaching practitioners across the North are joined together by a community in which evidence-based practices can be shared, shaped and discussed, promoting a culture of collaboration.

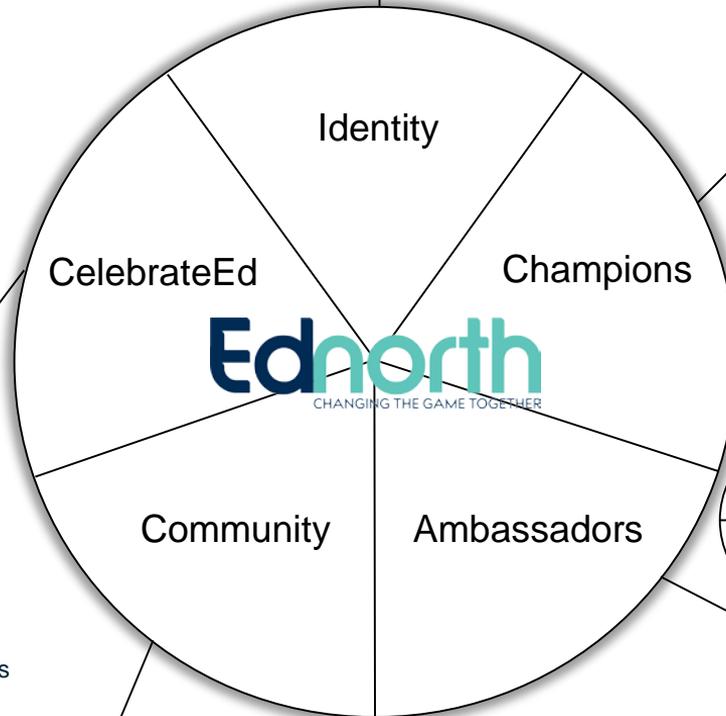
Empower teachers to put a stop to zero-sum improvements and try new approaches informed by research, debate, collaboration and excellence, fostering a long-term shift towards a culture of evidence-based education.

# What we'll do - Ednorth Programme

5. CelebrateEd will celebrate and showcase the outstanding practice of teachers across the North East, re-stimulating interest and passion in teaching, and providing the rest of the country and beyond with a window into our teaching community's excellence. The event will be the focal point for the Evidence Champion's work throughout the year, and enable practitioners to share, connect, debate, and challenge evidence-based practices with their colleagues and researchers.

4. Launch a virtual community to provide a platform on which Ednorth Champions and teaching practitioners throughout the region can meet virtually, share good practice, seek advice and guidance, share resources and network without having to leave school.

Also, develop a comms pipeline with key stakeholders (e.g. funding bodies, Dept. for Education, think tanks) as well as teaching practitioners who are active on social media (e.g. facebook, twitter), in order to generate awareness and interest and to influence policy making.



1. Develop a distinct brand which will act as an umbrella and a magnet for all evidence-based activity taking place in the North, and create a greater feeling of 'community' around this project. It will be a neutral brand that can be used by all organisations.

2. Recruit practitioners from each area in the region and at all levels of teaching, with a passion to develop and be part of a culture of excellence in teaching, to become 'Ednorth Champions'. They will be key in driving this agenda forward, and creating an extensive network in which evidence-based practices can be shared, shaped and discussed. They will also help implement evidence-based practices and follow a cycle of implementation.

3. Recruit key players in the field of evidence-based practices in teaching, to become 'Ednorth Ambassadors'. They will help to spread messages and advertise events, as well as to support the Ednorth Champions and deliver sessions.