Growing Up North

Time to leave the North-South divide behind
I want all children in the North to have the best possible opportunities to look forward to happy, healthy and prosperous lives. Yet the statistics tell us that for too many of them, this will only ever be a dream. For reasons which are not fully understood, early promise – as evidenced for instance in great primary school results – doesn’t translate into lifetime success. The North East has the best primary schools in the country, yet the region has the lowest adult employment rate. A higher proportion of children in the North West go to Russell Group universities than anywhere else in the country, yet the region has the lowest adult employment rate. I believe these regions have the opportunity to develop integrated industrial, educational and social mobility strategies, and I want to identify how this can best be done. I want to put children - the future economic and social prosperity of our communities – at the heart of regeneration.

“I want to put children - the future economic and social prosperity of our communities – at the heart of regeneration.”

This project will identify differences not just between but within regions, in children’s progression and outcomes at what age, and in which towns and cities, do outcomes diverge? Things may look very different for a child in Oldham and a child in Leeds. We will talk to children to understand how they see their prospects and opportunities, and how this reflects the availability and quality of local services. I want to develop a more nuanced appreciation than the headline statistics allow, of the interaction between social mobility and where you grow up, to really understand how growing up in a particular area impacts on a child’s chances in life.

Themes:

Growing Up North will...

- look at the progression of children from early years to early adulthood across different areas
- increase our understanding of children’s attitudes, aspirations and expectations and how these relate to locality
- assess the opportunities available to young people between and within different regions
- make clear recommendations to local, regional and national government

Growing Up North will look at the progression of children from early years to early adulthood across different areas. There is extensive data collected and published on children’s outcomes. Young people’s decisions are influenced by their immediate environment and ambitions for the future. Through qualitative work with children, I will look at the ways in which children’s ambitions are shaped by their experiences and try to appreciate the choices facing young people when they plan for their future, considering sometimes competing aspirations relating to career, well-being and family.

That’s why I want children to be at the heart of the regeneration debates. I want every child to have the brightest future possible, wherever they live.

Anne Longfield, OBE
Children’s Commissioner for England
Informed by the experiences and ambitions of young people throughout.

Guided by existing research
This project builds upon work by academics, public bodies, think tanks and businesses.

Supported by evidence
Where necessary, I will look to add to existing research by commissioning analysis of data and cohort studies to increase our understanding of children’s progress and the regional differences.

Illuminated by regional discussions and visits
I will undertake regional visits to meet with policy-makers and practitioners; systematically gathering information and examining regional plans for children. I will also visit projects and institutions which are making a real difference to the lives of young people, and hearing directly from the young people involved.

Informed by the experiences and ambitions of young people throughout.

Growing Up North will be...

...guided by existing research
This project builds-upon work by academics, public bodies, think tanks and businesses.

...supported by evidence
Where necessary, I will look to add to existing research by commissioning analysis of data and cohort studies to increase our understanding of children’s progress and the regional differences.

...illuminated by regional discussions and visits
I will undertake regional visits to meet with policy-makers and practitioners; systematically gathering information and examining regional plans for children. I will also visit projects and institutions which are making a real difference to the lives of young people, and hearing directly from the young people involved.

...informed by the experiences and ambitions of young people throughout.

There are over 3.6 million children growing up in the North of England.

Liverpool’s is home to more than 7000 creative and digital firms, contributing £4.4bn to the local economy. Despite this, Liverpool has the lowest employment rate of any UK city.

In 2015, a pupil from a disadvantaged background was 41% more likely to get 5 A*-Cs in London than in the North of England.

The North East region consistently has amongst the best primary school results in the country, but the lowest average adult incomes.

In Redcar a woman earns an average of £277 a week while a man typically earns £514. In Camden a woman earns an average of £560 a week, while a man typically earns £679.

In 2015 the economy of Leeds City Region was worth £60.5bn. This is more than the GDP of Bulgaria, Lithuania or Ukraine. Despite this, more than 30,000 children in Leeds are believed to be living in poverty.

Manchester is less than 40 miles from Leeds, Sheffield and Liverpool. More than eight million people live within this area.

A young person leaving school or college in London or the South-East is 57% more likely to go on to a top university compared to the North.

Just 4% of young people leaving school in London go on to an apprenticeship. In the North East it is 11% and in Hartlepool it is 20%.

Liverpool’s is home to more than 7000 creative and digital firms, contributing £4.4bn to the local economy. Despite this, Liverpool has the lowest employment rate of any UK city.

In 2015, a pupil from a disadvantaged background was 41% more likely to get 5 A*-Cs in London than in the North of England.

The North East region consistently has amongst the best primary school results in the country, but the lowest average adult incomes.

In Redcar a woman earns an average of £277 a week while a man typically earns £514. In Camden a woman earns an average of £560 a week, while a man typically earns £679.

In 2015 the economy of Leeds City Region was worth £60.5bn. This is more than the GDP of Bulgaria, Lithuania or Ukraine. Despite this, more than 30,000 children in Leeds are believed to be living in poverty.

Manchester is less than 40 miles from Leeds, Sheffield and Liverpool. More than eight million people live within this area.

A young person leaving school or college in London or the South-East is 57% more likely to go on to a top university compared to the North.
The Growing Up North Advisory Group:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position and Experience</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cllr Sean Anstee</td>
<td>Leader, Trafford Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof Denise</td>
<td>Deputy CEO, Everton Football Club and Chief Executive, Everton in the Community, board member, UK Sport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barrett-Baxendale MBE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brian Barwick</td>
<td>Chair, Rugby Football League; previously Head of BBC Sport, Controller of ITV Sport and Chief Executive of the FA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucy Beaumont</td>
<td>Award-winning comedian and former teacher, writer, 'To Hull and Back'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luciana Berger MP</td>
<td>MP for Liverpool Wavertree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cllr Judith Blake</td>
<td>Leader, Leeds Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ian Douthwaite</td>
<td>CEO, Dubit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lord Haskins</td>
<td>Chair, Humber LEP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Holroyd CBE DL</td>
<td>Businessman; founder, ‘Onside’ youth zones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leanne Kirkham</td>
<td>Director of Learning, Northern Ballet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heather Lander</td>
<td>Executive Director, Co-Op Bank, trustee National Museums Liverpool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Richard Mantle OBE</td>
<td>Chief Executive, Opera North</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rt. Hon Esther McVey</td>
<td>Entrepreneur and broadcaster; former MP for the Wirral and Minister of State for Employment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isabelle Trowler</td>
<td>Chief Social Worker for Children and Families</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof Emla Fitzsimons</td>
<td>Director of the Millennium Cohort Study, Institute of Education, University College London</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof Ruth Lupton</td>
<td>Head of the Inclusive Growth Unit, University of Manchester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof Anna Vignoles</td>
<td>Director, Institute of Education, University of Cambridge</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“What we are seeing is nothing short of a divided nation after the age of 11. Children in the North and Midlands are much less likely to attend a good or outstanding school than those in the rest of the country.”


“There is a new geography of disadvantage in Britain - where the chances of a child doing well in life depends massively on where they come from, rather than where they aspire to get to.”

Rt. Hon Alan Milburn, Chair of the Social Mobility Commission.