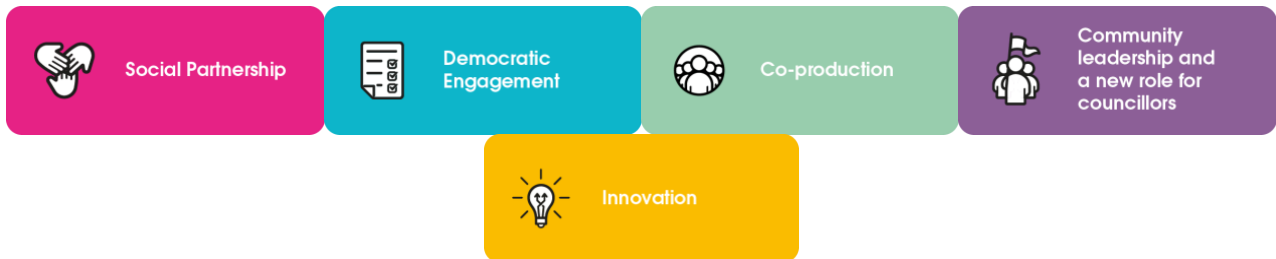


POVERTY



South Tyneside Council

South Tyneside Council's Co-Production Approach to Tackling Child Poverty

South Tyneside Council recognises that child poverty is a complex challenge that can only be tackled by working together closely with different services, multi-agency partners, community groups, businesses and residents.

That's why, in October 2024, the Council convened the North East's first Child Poverty Summit, bringing together more than 100 organisations from across a range of sectors and services to work collaboratively to understand local issues and identify impactful actions.

South Tyneside's Youth Council helped shape the Summit and led a debate to stimulate discussion. Speakers from North East Child Poverty Commission, VCS organisations, schools, and the ICB presented on the direct link between child poverty and health inequalities. A Q&A panel and a practical workshop signposted to available local support.

Insights and actions collected at the Summit informed the Council's Child Poverty Strategy, launched in March 2025, which is also influencing the North East Combined Authority's regional Child Poverty strategy.

Key themes included food insecurity, expanding free school meal provision, the cost of the school day, challenges facing families, health inequalities, and reducing in-work poverty.

As a result of the Summit, the Council has already committed to: raising these key issues with the Combined Authority and Government; supporting local schools to reduce the cost of the school

day; promoting Free School Meals uptake; distributing baby boxes to new parents; providing further welfare support within Family Hubs; and expanding advice on money matters and sustainable cooking to parents within school settings.



South Tyneside Child Poverty Summit 2024

All attendees completed a 'promise card' and made a pledge, resulting in action including increased stops for the 'community food bus', 13 schools engaging with South Tyneside's 'reducing the cost of the school day' audit and Citizen's Advice providing welfare support beyond the school gates within 12 schools.

The Council's Child Poverty Strategy was launched in March 2025.

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