

"We would like to send a heartfelt thank you to all those who have supported Right to Succeed's work throughout this incredibly challenging year."

"Your commitment means a huge amount to our school and community partners, and ultimately, to the children and young people they work with."

Graeme Duncan, Chief Executive

Learning through a pandemic

Teachers have been on the frontline throughout Covid-19, supporting children and young people not only to continue learning, but also to access food, the internet, mental health services and social support. Throughout the pandemic, we have seen our partners in schools relentlessly go above and beyond.

Many of our partner schools have developed new systems to monitor the welfare and academic progress of the most vulnerable. Nevertheless, all have struggled to prioritise long-term development, when simply staying open is a daily challenge.

The *Right to Succeed* programme team has worked closely with our partners to mitigate the impact of Covid-19. Barriers include project leads being deployed to other schools; inclusion units being closed due to staff shortages; and teachers and pupils missing training or assessments. Most strikingly, in the case of the North Birkenhead Cradle to Career programme, an entire community-wide programme with four steering groups and a multi-agency team has been launched while adhering to changing Covid-19 guidance.

Our programme team has adapted by being proactive in communicating with partners and strengthening relationships; being flexible to prioritise partners' immediate support needs; delivering remote training; and running multiple assessments to accommodate illness or absence. We are currently assessing partner needs for the coming term, in the context of the new lockdown.

We are incredibly proud of all our staff and partners working on the frontline to prioritise the needs of the children and young people in their communities throughout the pandemic.

Programme Updates



Photo kindly provided by our partners at North Birkenhead Development Trust



North Birkenhead - Cradle to Career September saw the launch of our first community-wide project, Cradle to Career, in partnership with the **Steve Morgan Foundation, SHINE, UBS Optimus, the North Birkenhead Development Trust and Wirral Council.**

This pioneering programme will put the people of North Birkenhead at the heart of decision-making about education, support services and their community. Cradle to Career will help improve literacy standards among children, give every family easier access to the support they need, improve quality of life for all and create new opportunities for local children and young people. Once circumstances allow, the new multi-disciplinary team will be based in the heart of the community, in a dedicated Cradle to Career workspace in North Birkenhead.

During the Identify phase of the programme, 1,081 pupils across years 5, 6, 7 and 8 have been assessed for reading, cognitive ability and attitudes to self and school, to help identify those who need additional support.

Further to this, the **Steve Morgan Foundation** and the **Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport** have funded an exciting development project in partnership with the non-profit organisation ImpactEd, that builds on our existing BrighterBase data project, supported by **Credit Suisse EMEA Foundation**. Our work with ImpactEd will collate data from multiple sources into dashboards, allowing schools to monitor progress and draw insights in real-time. We will pilot this with Cradle to Career, with the aim of rolling it out to other programmes in the future.

City of Manchester - Every Child The Every Child programme takes an asset-based approach to increasing inclusion and reducing the risk of exclusion in key stage 3. The programme, in partnership with **Manchester City Council, SHINE Trust** and **Four Acre Trust**, entered its delivery phase in April and is a key early intervention strand of the city-wide Inclusion Strategy.

Adapting to circumstances, an online interventions fair was held, and seven different training sessions were provided for project leads, including adverse childhood experiences, research, GL Assessments, and behaviour. In September, seven schools started the Nurture UK National Nurturing Schools Programme, and **2,244 pupils in Years 7 and 8** across the city were assessed for reading, cognitive ability and attitudes to self and school.

Blackpool - Pathways for All, Sustained post-16 destinations for excluded young people *Right to Succeed* has worked with schools across Blackpool this year to develop a framework for assessing children at risk of falling out of education, employment or training (becoming “NEET”) after their GCSEs. As a result, **144 Year 11 pupils were identified and supported by Engagement Coaches to transition into positive post-16 destinations.**

The programme’s steering group is now focusing on structural barriers to staying in education or employment and as such, has initiated conversations with multiple stakeholders across the town about working collectively to improve both NEET governance arrangements and data-sharing systems and processes. The Pathways for All project was also included in the DfE’s toolkit for reducing the risk of NEET during Covid-19. Funders supporting the programme are: **Blackpool Opportunity Area, The Dulverton Trust and Porticus.**

“Thank you so much for everything you do. I appreciate it so much, on a genuine note I don’t know where I’d be if you weren’t supporting me.”

Pupil involved in Pathways for All

Blackpool - Closing the Literacy Gap In this programme's third year of delivery, **294 staff were trained to deliver literacy interventions and 4,379 pupils were assessed and given access to literacy support.** Our annual literacy survey in 2019 identified continued professional development as an area that programme staff felt least confident with when it came to literacy support so it was positive to see that, in 2020, staff reported a significant increase in confidence within this area.

The team is now setting up a SENDCo community of practice to support pupils with low reading scores, as well as working with the DfE Opportunity area and Blackpool Council to develop their Cradle to Grave literacy strategy. As part of the Opportunity Area's twinning initiative, which involves sharing effective approaches across the country, the project has been asked to showcase its work across several other areas in the North of England. Funders supporting the programme are: **Blackpool Opportunity Area, John Laing Charitable Trust and Porticus.**



Photo taken by student at Educational Diversity

Blackpool - Reach, Reducing risk of exclusion, supported by The National Lottery Community Fund (Reach, TNL Community Fund) In Blackpool, trauma was identified last year as a significant driver behind behavioural and mental health issues in the cohort at high risk of exclusion. To address this, a multi-agency Trauma-Informed Care Strategy has been piloted in the Reach schools. Through a fantastic partnership with the National Lottery's Better Start programme in Blackpool, a joint-funded Implementation Manager for Trauma-Informed Schools was appointed in September, to roll out the strategy and start connecting services and organisations. This collaboration ensures that the messaging and training on trauma is research-informed and consistent across the town.





North Belfast - Reach, TNL Community Fund Throughout 2020, our North Belfast Programme Manager has worked hard to prioritise youth voice and youth engagement, working collaboratively with three local youth-work organisations to consult with young people at risk of exclusion.

Our partner schools have continued to focus on behaviour training, and four are taking part in the National Nurturing Schools programme. In Summer 2020 the local Programme Manager designed and disseminated the Northern Ireland Teacher Survey, the findings of which will be used to inform future programme delivery and direction.

Looking forward, we are thrilled to be working with Belfast City Council to start the process of planning a literacy project in North Belfast.



New therapy room at Balby Central School, Doncaster

Doncaster – Reach, TNL Community Fund During 2020 Doncaster’s strategic focus was on reducing the number of ineffective interventions and identifying what works to improve pupils’ outcomes. Following this work, three partner organisations were chosen by schools to deliver interventions: *Fortis Therapy and Training* has helped schools create therapy rooms and provide access for pupils, staff and parents to a trained counsellor; *Bags of Character* has delivered face-to-face (Covid-safe) training in developing pupils’ character; and *Enable* has trained school staff and leaders in how to take a whole-school approach to working with at-risk pupils, to create long-term, systemic change.

All Areas – Reach, TNL Community Fund We recognised early on, that the need to effectively support our cohort of young people was becoming greater than ever as a result of Covid-19. After applying to the National Lottery in the summer, we were delighted to receive further funding as part of their Covid-19 response funding. The uplift grant awarded is allowing us to expand support available through the Reach programme to the most vulnerable young people in Blackpool, Doncaster and North Belfast.

Influencing Policy

Our ultimate aim is to strengthen the knowledge, expertise and decision-making capacity in the areas where we work, in order to improve outcomes for children and young people. This is why we are delighted to have worked with **the DfE Opportunity Area and Blackpool Council** to help develop the Blackpool Literacy and NEET Strategy, which will guide the town's education providers through the next 10 years. Similarly, we feel privileged to be in discussion with **Manchester City Council** about their city-wide Inclusion Strategy, which will involve all schools and a wide range of key public and voluntary services.

Nationally, we continue to liaise with key players in place-based change, to build consensus around how best to facilitate local transformation projects going forward, generously supported by the **Esmée Fairbairn Foundation** and **Big Change**. The government's levelling-up fund has so far focused on building infrastructure, but a "people strategy" is sorely lacking - we are lobbying to make sure that future government spend on place-based projects have a sound methodology that sets them up to have real, lasting impact.

Our Trustees

Since we were founded almost six years ago, we have had a strong group of trustees who have guided the charity through its start-up phase, helping it grow to a place where we now have 25 staff, seven programmes, and are projected to triple in size in the next two years. Last year we appointed five new trustees to the board, and two more will join the board in January 2021. March 2021 will see the remaining four founding board members retire, and the predominantly new group take the helm. We are incredibly fortunate to have such a wealth of expertise to accompany us on the next leg of our journey.

Our plans for growth

We continue to see demand for rapid scale-up of our community programmes, particularly with the political focus on levelling up and supporting communities to recover in the wake of the Covid-19 crisis.

We are committed to maintaining quality as we scale, and we have developed a three-year organisational development plan, that will allow us to:

- Codify our practice and develop a training programme to rapidly train new staff and external partners in our programme delivery methods.
- Strengthen our existing organisational infrastructure, including HR, finance, communications, data analysis and evaluation capabilities.

We are grateful to all the funders who are supporting our growth. As well as the funders mentioned above, these include: **Allan & Gill Gray Philanthropy, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Garfield Weston Foundation, Montpelier Trust, Peter Cundill Foundation, Swire Charitable Trust and Treebeard Trust.**



Team Member Profile - Rekha Patel-Harrison, Programme Director. We have been pleased to welcome twelve new staff members to the Right to Succeed team this year, who bring with them a wealth of skills and experience. One such team member is our fantastic new Programme Director for Manchester, Doncaster & North Belfast, Rekha Patel-Harrison. Rekha has over 30 years of experience in both the public and charity sectors, having worked with young people and families in social care, education and community settings.

"I am passionate about Right to Succeed's vision and mission, as my whole career has been wrapped around challenging poverty to create a more equal society and I do not shy away from this life challenge." - Rekha Patel-Harrison

With thanks to

We would like to recognise and thank our team members, who are moving on from Right to Succeed this month, for their wonderful commitment and contributions - Belinda Logan, Programme Director for Reach, Nicki Whiteman, Senior Communications Advisor and Tom Shirley, Senior Analyst - we are sad to see you go!