

ACTION – Policy Team to investigate why National Tutoring Programme delivery is lower in Yorkshire than nationally.

The National Tutoring Programme (NTP) is a government-funded, sector-led initiative to support schools to address the impact of Covid-19 school closures on pupils' learning. It supports pupils across England by providing one-to-one and small group, subject-specific tuition for those whose education has been most impacted by the pandemic. Mentors work closely with a school's Senior Leadership Team to focus on areas that are in most need of support, helping pupils achieve their learning outcomes.

Analysis presented to the LEP Board on 12th Jan 2023 showed a large variation in take-up of the NTP across England. Schools in the South were more likely to have enrolled their pupils than those in the North. The NTP says that in spite of the regional differences, in all regions it is on track to hit targets for the number of schools enrolled, although it didn't disclose targets for each individual region, but nationally it is 70%. Currently Yorkshire & Humber is at 59%.

NTP has directly responded to these statistics with the following insights:

- The use of private tuition has historically been more prevalent in the south, and schools in the regions “may have more familiarity with using tutoring to support their pupils”.
- Northern England had seen greater disruption during the pandemic “preventing schools from putting plans in place and knowing when interventions can be successfully deployed”

Several reasons have also been proposed by commentators in the sector for the difference:

- *Sarah Mulholland, head of policy at the Northern Powerhouse Partnership:* NTP has a very narrow definition of subject tutoring, meaning providers who had asked schools what they actually wanted which was often to address the specific issues caused by the pandemic, such as mental health problems, were cut out.
- *Chris Zarraga, director of Schools North East:* A “one-size-fits all approach” doesn't take account of huge regional differences in long term disadvantage which has been made worse by the pandemic.