



Northumberland County Council

Wellbeing and Community Health Services Group
Education and Skills Service

Anti-Racist Education in Northumberland Schools

1. Northumberland County Council has funded SRtRC workshops for schools since 2010. The cost to the Equalities and Schools Budget in 2018-19 was £16,800. The workshops were introduced at a time prior to the Equality Act 2010. The original Service Level Agreement was to provide a football related workshop and anti-racist education for 1500 pupils each financial year. We found that if SRtRC visited large secondary schools they could reach the limit of 1500 pupils very quickly. In 2017 we changed the terms of the SLA to ensure that 25 schools were visited.
2. The workshops are by no means the only anti-racist work taking place in our schools, and the recent press coverage that we plan to stop safeguarding children from messages of racism is sensationalised, politically motivated and misleading. A small team of equality workers based in Education and Skills support the 87% of schools that are not eligible for a funded Show Racism the Red Card workshop, engaging hard to reach Traveller and asylum seeker communities and supporting the Early Years workforce. This team draws on the support of a wide range of partners and statutory providers to challenge and respond to incidents of hate, bullying, discrimination and inequality. The team strives to do the best for all children, and was recognised by Stonewall in 2019 as one of the Top 5 local authorities for anti-discriminatory LGBT inclusion.
3. In recent years Newcastle, North Tyneside and Sunderland Councils have all discontinued funding for SRtRC workshops in their schools. Show Racism the Red Card did not seek publicity to try and reverse these decisions. Only Gateshead and South Tyneside continue to renew funding annually. In 2018, [a public message of thanks](#) appeared on the SRtRC web site thanking South Tyneside Council for their renewal. No recognition of Northumberland's decision to renew funding in any of the 10 preceding years was published.
4. Northumberland County Council has not funded any other type of anti-discriminatory work in schools. Disability-related, religious and homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying are all being tackled by teachers and voluntary organisations. The attached grid of support demonstrates what is available and who funds it.
5. Anti-racism teacher training was an expectation of each school booking, and specified in the contract between SRtRC and the council. There was extremely low take-up of this potentially valuable resource. In 2018-19 fewer than 30 teachers accessed this training. It is by

developing a strong ethos of equality that schools eliminate racism and other forms of discrimination. The contract was not meeting our needs in this respect.

6. The Show Racism the Red Card website has no pricing structure for schools wishing to [book workshops](#). Workshops were previously listed on the website as costing £500 per school, suggesting that we were being overcharged by at least £5,800 per annum. We questioned this in 2017 and were told that the £500 price is a 'starting cost'. Any school that has valued the SRtRC workshops in the past will be able to book them and pay for them in the future, potentially paying less per workshop than we were being charged, especially smaller Northumberland schools. We explained to Show Racism the Red Card that we would continue to promote them to schools, although the recent negative coverage could lead schools to consider that the relationship is at an end. Since the decision was announced, some schools have been in touch to tell us that they had found the workshops to be unreliable; cancelled at short notice, late to start and that sometimes no-one at all had arrived to deliver them. No school has contacted us to say that they are disappointed about the decision.
7. In addition to the schools that have a 'free' SRtRC workshop annually, there are 21 primary schools that have commissioned Newcastle United Foundation's Primary Stars Programme. Active Northumberland also work with the foundation. One head teacher described this alternative to SRtRC:
8. *'Newcastle United Foundation use the context of sport to engage the children in critical thinking about a range of topics promoting equality and diversity. Our pupils have really enjoyed the sessions and welcomed the opportunity to consider these issues over a number of weeks rather than as a one off session. This approach has definitely deepened their understanding.'*
9. The new Ofsted framework places a high level of importance on challenging all forms of discrimination, building character, resilience and the ability to recover from setbacks. We know that we can do more to reach every one of our 165 schools with this resource than spend it on workshops that reach only 13% of schools annually.
10. To use resources fairly, we reviewed what is available and whether it meets the needs of all schools. NCC has paid just under £170,000 over 10 years for SRtRC to work with up to 25 schools per year, often the same schools.
11. We have consulted with schools about the needs they identify and will now fund regular, quality-assured training and staff development. Schools, quite rightly, will make the choice about which their preferred providers are for workshops delivered in school to children. We aim to ensure that schools see and hear about the broad range of free and costed provision that helps them to develop good or outstanding provision in the areas of Behaviour and Attitudes and Personal Development that now constitute half of the Ofsted inspection judgement, and to prepare for the introduction of statutory Relationships and Sex Education. This new approach has been welcomed, in principle, by Northumberland schools.