

# RAISE Evaluation Framework

September 2025



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# RAISE Evaluation Framework

## Purpose of Document

This document sets out the approach to the Evaluation of the RAISE Programme.

## Introduction

The RAISE Programme is a whole community, place-based approach in 18 localities across Northern Ireland to support the Department of Education’s vision that “every child is happy, learning and succeeding”. It helps to deliver on the mission, set by the report ‘A Fair Start’, to ensure all children and young people regardless of background are given the best start in life.

Bespoke local Strategic Area Plans for each RAISE Locality identify what is needed to support delivery against the Strategic Objectives of the Programme and propose actions based on research and evidence of what works. To drive forward the development of the Strategic Area Plan, a Locality Reference Group was established in each RAISE Locality. To deliver against the objectives and high-level actions set out in RAISE Strategic Area Plans, a series of Locality Led Projects will be identified through an open call for projects.

In order to propose a project for consideration by the Assessment Panel, organisations will complete a Project Identification Template. The information provided will be used to assess and score the proposal in line with the process set out in the guidance notes for completing the application. The Strategic Area Plan will cover a four-year period. In the first instance, Locality funding will be made available for up to two years subject to available funding and positive evaluation.

RAISE Strategic Area Plans will be complemented by a series of Cross-Cutting Initiatives that will span across RAISE areas and beyond to address common issues and complement Locality Led Projects.

To date, seven Cross-Cutting Initiatives identified in the first tranche to be delivered in the 2025/26 and 2026/27 academic years are as follows:

- **A Supporting Effective Professional Learning Clusters Programme** will aim to support collaborative professional learning clusters in partnership with Higher Education Institutions.
- An **Online Science of Learning Programme** will deliver an online professional learning programme for teachers on the Science of Learning.
- A new **research study evaluating how AI tools can support literacy** will be taken forward during the 2025/26 academic year.



- A **Learning to Code Schools Programme** will provide opportunities for children and young people to improve their digital literacy.
- A **Primary Literacy and Numeracy / Transitions Support Programme** will support schools to run high-quality primary literacy and numeracy revision and support classes during the Halloween and Easter holidays and after schools for pupils preparing to transfer to post-primary schools (Year 6 and 7).
- A **Holiday Revision Support Programme** that will support schools to run high-quality revision schemes during the Halloween and Easter holidays for pupils preparing for public examinations (GCSEs, A-Levels and equivalent qualifications).
- An **Alternative Education Models Pilot** will include research into alternative models of education and a small-scale pilot testing potential approach.

Further RAISE Cross-Cutting Initiatives will be announced in due course.

Further information on the RAISE Programme can be found on the Department of Education website: [www.education-ni.gov.uk/articles/raise-programme](http://www.education-ni.gov.uk/articles/raise-programme).

Robust evaluation is required to understand the impact of the Locality Led Projects and Cross-Cutting Initiatives against the Strategic Objectives. Evidence and needs based practice will be supported through the RAISE Programme to ensure that investment is targeted at those interventions/activities that make an impact. This will inform long term policy decisions on where the 'Return on Investment' can make the greatest difference. RAISE will also provide opportunities for shared learning across Localities and other government departments.



## Benefits Realisation Approach

The RAISE Programme uses a Benefits Realisation Approach. This measures outcomes, change and collective impact. ‘Benefits’ are positive and measurable change. At the top of this approach are the two RAISE Programme Strategic Objectives.

### Strategic Objectives:

- **Raising achievement and addressing educational disadvantage; and**
- **Raising aspirations through a whole community approach to education.**

No single Project or Cross-Cutting Initiative can deliver against these objectives. It requires interventions across a range of Intermediary Benefits that ultimately feed into the Strategic Objectives. Figure 1 below outlines the Intermediary Benefits against the Raising Achievement and Raising Aspirations Strategic Objectives.

**Figure 1: RAISE Strategic Objectives and Intermediary Benefits**



RAISE will be monitored using a combination of indicators and performance measurements. The indicators as outlined in Table 1 will be sourced from published official statistics to provide baseline information for the Localities in the RAISE Programme. Where possible the same data will be gathered locally during project delivery to support measurement at project level. These will be aligned to Intermediary Benefits where appropriate.



**Table 1: Programme and Locality Indicators**

Intermediary Benefit	Indicators	Data owner
(IB1) - Raising standards with a focus on increasing literacy, numeracy, and digital skills outcomes for all pupils.	5+ GCSEs (A*-C) incl Eng & Maths.	DE School Leavers data.
(IB2) - Reduce the gap between FSME and non-FSME pupils.	5+ GCSEs (A*-C) incl Eng & Maths. 5+ GCSEs (A*-C).	DE School Leavers data.
(IB6) - Increase pupil attendance, engagement, confidence and aspiration.	Annual pupil attendance data.	DE attendance data.
(IB7) - Increase the proportion of school leavers going to positive destinations.	Annual school leaver destination data.	DE School Leavers data.

Performance Measurements outlined in Table 2 will be created for each of the nine Intermediary Benefits, and these will be gathered at project level, to allow for analysis at Project, Locality and Programme level. This will help to achieve a consistent approach to measurement across each Locality and across the Programme and help to build an understanding of the collaborative impact. The list of measurements is not exhaustive.

In addition, it is expected that a wide range of supplementary data will be collected by Project Leads to allow each Project to be robustly evaluated and delivery against the Intermediary Benefits to be fully demonstrated. The Intermediary Benefits and associated approach to measurement at Project and Locality level will ensure consistency of approach, thereby aligning and feeding into the RAISE Programme's Strategic Objectives.



**Table 2: Project Measurement**

Intermediary Benefit	Project measurement	Data owner
(IB1) - Raising standards with a focus on increasing literacy, numeracy, and digital skills outcomes for all pupils.	End of Key Stage assessment in Communication, Using Maths, and ICT. Standardised tests in literacy and numeracy (e.g., PTE/PTM, CCEA CAT).	KS and Standardised test data sourced by Project Lead.
(IB2) - Reduce the gap between FSME and non-FSME pupils.	End of Key Stage assessment in Communication, Using Math, and ICT. Standardised tests in literacy and numeracy (e.g., PTE/PTM, CCEA CAT).	KS and Standardised test data sourced by Project Lead.
(IB3) - Improve pathways for children which motivate and support learners at risk of exclusion, marginalisation and underachievement.	Pupil attitudinal survey such as the Pupil Attitudes to Self and School (PASS).	Pupil attitudinal survey data sourced by Project Lead.
	School data on transition from nursery to primary, primary to post-primary, sixth form, and onward.	Data on school transitions sourced by Project Lead.
	Bespoke Programme start and end survey to include data collection on school transitions. Bespoke questionnaire on school transitions.	DE & Project Lead to generate bespoke questionnaires - Project Leads to source data.
(IB4) - Increase opportunities and empower education professionals through professional learning programmes.	Bespoke start and end survey to create a baseline and measure impact Participant survey data to assess the impact of the training.	Bespoke forms generated by DE & Project Leads. Project Leads to source data.
(IB5) - Increase the value of education to families and children.	Bespoke Programme start and end survey to include data collection on the value placed on education. Bespoke questionnaire on value of education.	Bespoke forms generated by DE & Project Leads. Project Leads source data.
(IB6) - Increase pupil attendance, engagement,	School attendance data.	Attendance data sourced by Project Leads from schools.



confidence and aspiration.	Bespoke Programme start and end survey to include data collection on pupil engagement, confidence, and aspiration. Bespoke questionnaire on pupil engagement, confidence and aspirations.	Project Leads to generate data for engagement, confidence & aspiration.
(IB7) - Increase the proportion of school leavers going to positive destinations.	Available school leaver records. Bespoke Programme start and end survey to include data collection on leavers intentions on leaving school. Bespoke questionnaire on leavers intentions on leaving school.	School data sourced by Project Leads. Data generated by Project Leads on pupil intentions on leaving school.
(IB8) - Improve relationships between education settings and children and young people, parents and community.	Data on relationships and attitudes between schools and children and young people and families, for example through pupil attitudinal surveys. Bespoke Programme start and end survey to include data collection on relationships with school. Data on collaboration between schools and community.	Project Leads to source and/or generate data.
(IB9) - Build capacity within communities and increase collective impact through a whole community approach.	Data on Locality Reference Group collaboration. Data on engagement by RAISE Programme Team, and capacity in communities and schools. Data on the level and impact of collaborative, integrated, or multi-agency approaches.	Project Leads and DE to generate data on the development of whole-community approaches.

Each locality has followed the Benefits Realisation Approach as a template for framing their Locality Objectives within the Strategic Area Plan, ensuring that each objective matches an Intermediary Benefit, and ultimately contributes to a Programme Strategic Objective, thereby facilitating effective delivery. Each Cross-Cutting Initiative will also follow and align with the Benefits Realisation Approach where appropriate.

Figure 2 overleaf shows an overview of the flow of data from Locality Objectives as set by Strategic Area Plans matching an Intermediary Benefit and the associated Programme Strategic Objective. Each Strategic Area Plan is unique to one of the 18 RAISE Localities and may contain objectives aligned to some but not all the nine Intermediary Benefits.



The figure includes only those Locality Objectives prioritised for project funding applications.

A Strategic Area Plan may also have multiple Locality Objectives against a single Intermediary Benefit.





# Benefits Realisation Approach

Strategic Objectives	Raising <b>achievement</b> and addressing educational disadvantage (31 Local Objectives)				Raising <b>aspirations</b> through a whole community approach to education (32 Local Objectives)				
	IB1 Raising standards with a focus on increasing literacy, numeracy and digital skills (13 Loc, 20 Obj)	IB2 Reduce the gap between FSME and non-FSME pupils (2 Loc, 2 Obj)	IB3 Improve pathways for children which motivate and support learners at risk of exclusion, marginalisation and underachievement (7 Loc, 9 Obj)	IB4 Increase opportunities and empower education professionals through professional learning programmes (0 Loc, 0 Obj)	IB5 Increase the value of education to families and children (8 Loc, 8 Obj)	IB6 Increase pupil attendance, engagement, confidence and aspiration (12 Loc, 17 Obj)	IB7 Increase the proportion of school leavers going to positive destinations (1 Loc, 1 Obj)	IB8 Improve relationships between education settings and children and young people, parents and community (4 Loc, 5 Obj)	IB9 Build capacity within communities and increase collective impact through a whole community approach (1 Loc, 1 Obj)
Intermediary Benefits (IB 1 to 9)									
Antrim (5 Obj)	*				*	**			*
Ballymena (4 Obj)			*				*	**	
Carrick (4 Obj)	**				*	*			
Coleraine (2 Obj)	*				*				
Derry/L'Derry (4 Obj)	*				*	**			
Dungannon (2 Obj)			*			*			
East Belfast (4 Obj)	***						*		
Enniskillen (2 Obj)			*			*			
Limavady (2 Obj)	*					*			
Lisburn (3 Obj)	*		*		*				
Lurgan&B'low (4 Obj)			**		*	*			
M&D'dee (3 Obj)	**		*						
Newry (2 Obj)		*				*			
N'Abbey (6 Obj)	***					**		*	
North Belfast (4 Obj)	*				*	**			
Portadown (4 Obj)	*		**			*			
South Belfast (3 Obj)	*	*					*		
West Belfast (5 Obj)	**				*	**			

# Approach to Operationalising the Benefits Realisation Approach

## Locality Led Projects

Investment will be spearheaded by support to Locality Led Projects that are designed to address the highest priority needs that have been identified in each RAISE Locality. The Strategic Area Plan for each Locality will rank Locality Objectives in order of priority and explore potential models for delivery in the form of high-level solutions that could be brought forward to address each objective.

Delivery of Locality Led Projects to meet the Strategic Area Plan Locality Objectives will be subject to an open call for grant funding applications against the Strategic Area Plan. The supported Projects will link to the Benefits Realisations Approach and therefore the Intermediary Benefits and ultimately the Strategic Objectives of the Programme.

A Project Identification Template will be completed by the Project Lead, who will outline the project details and how the project will deliver against the local Strategic Area Plan Objectives.

Each Project will be assessed against agreed baseline measurements and targets in line with, and building upon, the approach to measurement set out in the Benefits Realisation Approach.

Project Leads will be responsible for generating data, and for securing access to data, to underpin successful evaluation in line with the Benefit Realisation Approach. A collaborative approach to project design, delivery and evaluation is therefore encouraged.

Funding will be subject to the conditions outlined in a Letter of Offer that will include monitoring and evaluation requirements, establishing baseline, targets, and outcomes per intervention.

Regular progress reports will be submitted by Project Leads.

## Cross-Cutting Initiatives

The Department of Education will implement a series of Cross-Cutting Initiatives under the RAISE Programme. These will complement Locality Led Projects by responding in a strategic way to priorities across Northern Ireland and bringing additional opportunities to communities around key themes.



Opportunities will also be identified to pilot innovative approaches and support research methodologies and build evidence for sustainable change. These Cross-Cutting Initiatives will also strengthen support mechanisms in each place by spanning, connecting, and amplifying delivery and programme outcomes across Northern Ireland. In common with Locality Led Projects, Cross-Cutting Initiatives will align with and deliver against the RAISE Programme Strategic Objectives and Intermediary Benefits.



## Evaluation

There will be measurement and evaluation of the RAISE Programme at multiple levels from overall Programme level to Locality, and Project or Cross-Cutting Initiative level. Evaluation will include quantitative data on the number of children and young people, families, education professionals, and communities that have benefited from the Project or Initiative, along with changes from the baseline measurement to expected target(s).

As well as quantitative data the Programme will also record qualitative data on the quality and impact of the provision offered by the Projects and Initiatives. This will form an important part of the evaluation process and will include participant accounts and experiences, including those of children and young people.

The qualitative approach will also include individual case studies, with each Project Lead producing a series of representative accounts illustrating the type of benefits being delivered through their Project and the outcomes achieved, alongside insights and lessons learned. All Project or Initiative data will be captured against the Benefits Realisation Approach.

The evaluation will be supported by an online Platform that will process Project and, where appropriate, Initiative data. This will help with monitoring Programme implementation and impact in each Project and at Locality and Programme levels. Ongoing evaluation and monitoring of impact will help to establish which Projects and Initiatives are working effectively and support decisions on improvements and alternative approaches.

### Project level

When the Department issues an open call for RAISE grant funding applications, interested organisations will complete the required online Project Identification Template. The information provided in the completed template will be used to assess and score the proposed Project in line with the process set out in the guidance notes for completing the application.

Locality Co-Ordinators will liaise with, and support Project Leads as they develop appropriate baseline measurements aligned to the Benefit Realisation Approach and Strategic Area Plan.

The final Letter of Offer will include details of the agreed monitoring and evaluation requirements, setting out baselines, targets, and outcomes for each Project. Where appropriate projects shall establish targets at participant level to allow detailed understanding of impact.



Within the first four weeks of the commencement of all RAISE Projects, the Project Lead will gather demographic details regarding all participants. This will be updated on the Platform quarterly. To maintain a consistent approach the demographic data will be specified by the Department of Education.

Within the first four weeks of the commencement of all RAISE projects, the Project Lead will also ask all participants to complete a start of Project form. The Project Lead will upload the aggregated data to the Platform. The Project Lead will repeat this exercise for each year of the project. On completion of a Project the Project Lead will ask participants to complete an end of Project form.

As outlined in Table 1, baseline measures at Programme and Locality level have been established against some Intermediary Benefits where data is available. For other Intermediary Benefits the baseline data and measurement at Project level will be arranged and collected by Project Leads, for example from participating schools, or from data generated within the Project. The Department will work with Project Leads to develop an approach that is consistent across Projects, for example, using standard monitoring forms generated by the Department. To monitor implementation, Project Leads will upload Progress Reports to the Platform on a quarterly basis. The Project Lead will submit mid-point (if project exceeds 12 months) and final reports for the Project to the Platform. This will allow outcomes to be communicated in an appropriate and accessible format.

## Locality level

Strategic Area Plans identify the needs within each Locality based on comprehensive local engagement, available data, evidence, and research. They set out the Locality Objectives and how these align to the nine Intermediary Benefits and two overarching Programme Strategic Objectives. While both Strategic Objectives will be relevant in all Localities, each Locality has prioritised Locality Objectives to meet the specific needs of children and young people and families in the locality. This means that some but not necessarily all Intermediary Benefits are relevant in each locality. The evaluation at Locality level will reflect this.

In the first instance, measures employed to evaluate impact of prioritised Locality Objectives should reflect those set out in this Framework where possible. Additional measures should also be established within Localities to reflect the range and types of Projects or Initiatives being implemented. To support the measurement and evaluation in the Locality the requirement for consistent baselines across all Projects and Initiatives, along with appropriate targets and timescales, will be key element of Letters of Offer.

In addition to the impact of individual Projects and Initiatives, the collaborative approach in Localities is an essential element of the RAISE Programme and will help to raise



children and young people's aspirations and achievement through collective impact. The Programme can effect system level change by influencing ways of working across current and future Government programmes and services. Very substantial investment is available in Localities outside the RAISE Programme and improvements in delivery has the potential to contribute to achievement of the Programme Strategic Objectives.

By reviewing the Locality Led project data on the platform, Locality Co-Ordinators will monitor Projects and evaluate progress against targets. As all projects are matched to a primary Intermediary Benefit with some having secondary Intermediary Benefits, Co-Ordinators will also be able to monitor and evaluate the contribution of the Projects against Intermediary Benefits at the Locality level of the Programme.

## Programme level

The impact of the Programme will be measured and evaluated against the two Strategic Objectives and nine Intermediary Benefits.

Aggregated data from all completed demographic monitoring, and start/end of project forms, sourced or generated by Projects and uploaded to the platform will enable demographic statistics, and quality data to be generated and published at all levels of the Programme.

As each project baseline measurement(s) and target(s) has been framed against a Strategic Area Plan Locality Objective and matched to a primary Intermediary Benefit with some secondary Intermediary Benefits, results can be generated at all levels of the Programme. The results of all Projects as matched to the same Intermediary Benefit can be concatenated to provide an overall cumulative evaluation. For example, if several of the RAISE Localities have agreed projects framed against Locality Objectives matched to the first Intermediary Benefit then the combined results from all these projects will provide a cumulative result for this Intermediary Benefit.

The overall results for Intermediary Benefits one to four can be further concatenated to provide a cumulative evaluation of the Programme at the Strategic Objective for achievement. This will be the same for the combined overall results for Intermediary Benefits five to nine that will provide an evaluation of the Programme at the Strategic Objective for aspirations.



## RAISE Platform

A bespoke online monitoring and measurement platform will facilitate the tracking of all Locality Led Projects and appropriate Cross-Cutting Initiatives against the RAISE Strategic Objectives and Intermediary Benefits. The platform will allow access to real-time analysis and reporting to facilitate an evidence-informed approach to the evaluation of each project. The Platform will help to demonstrate effective practice and inform policy recommendations as well as identifying gaps regarding the targeting of funds.

The evaluation and monitoring of the data through the platform will help establish what projects are working effectively, other projects that may need to be re-considered, and what projects may require an alternative approach. It is envisaged that the Platform will also facilitate the use of artificial intelligence, bringing about innovative live data analysis techniques. The tool will be central in illustrating Return On Investment.

The Platform will also provide project data, analysis, and reports to monitor how the Programme is working in each Locality and at a whole Programme level. A dashboard will present information on the delivery status of projects and progress towards meeting their targets.

Project data will be uploaded to the RAISE platform by Project Leads supported as necessary by Locality Co-Ordinators. The data will be analysed automatically within the system and used to populate reports on the progress of projects against project targets, Locality Objectives, Intermediary Benefits, and Strategic Objectives. The project data will also be accessed by the RAISE Statistician for further analysis.



## Roles

The evaluation of the RAISE Programme will be undertaken as outlined below.

### Locality Project and Cross-Cutting Initiative Leads

As mentioned above Locality Led Project and appropriate Cross-Cutting Initiative Leads will monitor and evaluate their respective Projects and Initiatives based on the detailed terms of the Letters of Offer. Locality Led Project and appropriate Cross-Cutting Initiative Leads will generate baseline data and regular monitoring data which they will upload to the RAISE Platform. RAISE Projects and Initiatives will need to liaise closely and share data where necessary to facilitate a jointed-up collaborative approach in Localities.

### Locality Co-Ordinators

Locality Co-Ordinators will assist Project Leads in establishing and monitoring Projects. At the outset Co-Ordinators will organise project induction meetings to bring together all delivery organisations to create a coherent approach across delivery within the locality, build relationships and maximise collective impact by encouraging collaborative working between projects. They will also establish the monitoring and evaluation details to be included in Letters of Offer and oversee the capture of data supplied by Project Leads in the RAISE Platform showing how projects are meeting the Intermediary Benefits and Strategic Objectives. They will use this to evaluate the impact of the Programme at the Locality level and Programme level.

### RAISE Statistician

A specialist NISRA statistician has been embedded within the RAISE Programme team. This Programme Evaluation Lead will plan, design and deliver the RAISE Evaluation Framework. Evidence developed will inform the development and delivery of interventions. The statistician will also provide research and analysis to inform delivery of the RAISE Programme, this will include learning from other programmes, practice and strategies in other jurisdictions.

### Independent Evaluation (IE)

Independent Evaluation forms an essential part of the overall assessment of the Programme. The purpose is to review and assess the impact of the RAISE Programme in delivering the Strategic Objectives and Intermediary Benefits, and to provide ongoing evidence and assessment to assist the Programme Board and Locality Reference Groups in refining the Programme throughout its delivery and the delivery of their Strategic Area Plans.



The evaluation will be undertaken throughout Programme delivery with ongoing evaluation during the delivery phase of the RAISE Programme in RAISE Localities with regular reporting and feedback. Annual evaluation reports will be produced at the end of each year of the Programme.

The independent evaluation will have the voice of the child at the centre of any assessment, demonstrating how RAISE has made a difference to them. Innovative methods, including drawing on effective practice elsewhere, will be used in the evaluation process in capturing the Programme's outcomes from the perspective of children and young people. This will test innovative approaches to measuring the impact of interventions, building outcome-focused skills and capacity in local organisations.

The output of the evaluation will provide an independent and professional evaluation that will be used by the Department to:

- Support decisions on programme implementation with an understanding of what is working well and anything that could be improved upon to enhance the impact of RAISE within Localities; and
- Assess and demonstrate the effectiveness of the RAISE Programme in meeting its objectives with an understanding of impact that will help to inform decisions on continued funding.

The Independent Evaluator will be given autonomy to determine their own form of engagement at Locality and project level, while adhering to the agreed terms of the contract. The following functions and outputs will be required to be delivered by the IE.

- Attendance of the progress review meetings with Departmental representatives to provide assurance that the detailed requirements of the contract are being met.
- Biannual reports in each Locality outlining the progress being made, findings to date and any recommendations to deliver the Objectives and Intermediary Benefits.
- An interim report at the mid-point each year to demonstrate the progress being made and (emerging) findings to date including any recommendations to deliver the Programme Strategic Objectives and Intermediary Benefits.
- A final report at the end of each year to demonstrate the cumulative progress made and findings to date and any recommendations to deliver the Programme Strategic Objectives and Intermediary Benefits. These will initially be submitted in draft for agreement of the Programme Board.



## Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI)

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) will form a key part of the evaluation methodology in respect of the educational elements of the RAISE Programme. The ETI will report in line with its statutory functions to monitor, inspect and report on the standard of education services provided. The evaluation will cover the identification of need, quality of delivery, assessment of impact, compliance with child protection and safeguarding, participation of children and young people, and standards and criteria. The ETI will undertake district visits to a sample of schools and settings taking part in the RAISE projects and approved Initiatives and provide ongoing feedback on the standards of interventions, uptake and impact.

**Table 3: Summary of evaluation roles**

Independent Evaluation	Education and Training Inspectorate	Statistician	Locality Co-Ordinators	Locality Led Project and Cross-Cutting Initiative Leads
Review the impact of the Programme against Strategic Objectives and Intermediary Benefits. Provide ongoing evidence and assessment to refine Strategic Area Plans.	Evaluate the standards of interventions, uptake and impact of educational provision offered to children and young people and others in terms of its delivery against the RAISE Programme's Strategic Objectives and Intermediary Benefits.	Plan, design, and deliver the Evaluation Framework. Provide research and analysis to inform delivery of RAISE Programme activity. Review the IE feedback and ETI report and implement any required changes.	Assist Project Leads to monitor Projects and Initiatives. Input to Letters of Offer and oversee capture of data in the RAISE Platform. Assess impact at Locality level.	Monitor and evaluate Projects and Initiatives ensuring a consistent approach across the Programme. Generate baseline and regular monitoring data. Upload to the RAISE Platform. Share data with other Leads where necessary.

## Purpose of the evaluation

The evaluation findings will allow the RAISE Programme to ensure that investment is targeted at those interventions and activities that are making the greatest impact on children and young people. It will further inform the Department where the best return on



investment may make the greatest difference and thereby aid in any future long-term policy decisions.

The findings will also identify opportunities for shared learning between RAISE projects and Localities, other Department of Education initiatives and across government Departments or public bodies.



## Next steps

The next stage of the Evaluation Framework will be to embed the RAISE Programme evaluation requirements into all project proposals. The details of these requirements will be outlined in the open call for grant funding applications and further emphasised and reiterated by Locality co-ordinators.

Locality co-ordinators will organise project induction workshops to bring together all interested organisations to discuss the details expected and outlined in a project identification template, including those emphasised through this Evaluation Framework. Each project will be expected to appoint a Project Lead who will manage the uploading and regular updating of all project information onto the platform. This will include but not be limited to, participant numbers, demographic details, setting realistic timelines, financial arrangements, prioritising agreed goals and targets as outlined in the Strategic Area Plan, and the setting of a project baseline consistent with all other programme wide projects contributing to an Intermediary Benefit.

