RAISE Portadown

Call 2 for Locality Led Projects – updated 16 April 2026

RAISE
ASPIRATIONS & ACHIEVEMENT

Department of Education
www.education-ni.gov.uk

RAISE Portadown

Call 2 for Locality Led Projects

This document should be read in conjunction with the following:

- **RAISE Portadown Strategic Area Plan**
- **RAISE Locality Led Projects – Identification of RAISE Locality Led Projects and RAISE Locality Led Project Identification Template Guidance Notes**
- **RAISE Assessment Panel Scoring Guidance**
- **RAISE Evaluation Framework**

Introduction

The RAISE Programme is a whole community and place-based approach to tackling educational disadvantage in 18 localities[1] across Northern Ireland, supporting the Department of Education's vision that "every child and young person is happy, learning and succeeding".

TransformED NI, a Strategy for Educational Excellence in Northern Ireland, outlines the Minister of Education's priorities in a comprehensive strategy for the transformation of teaching and learning in Northern Ireland. The RAISE Programme is the signature approach to tackling educational disadvantage in this regard and will complement existing school-based programmes.

The RAISE Programme's Strategic Objectives are:

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

The RAISE Programme helps to deliver on the mission set by the 'A Fair Start' report to ensure all children and young people regardless of background are given the best start in life. It aims to raise educational achievement and aspirations using a combination of Locality Led Projects and Cross-Cutting Initiatives.

A series of Locality Led Projects will be identified through an open call to deliver against the objectives and needs set out in the Strategic Area Plan for each RAISE locality. Cross-Cutting Initiatives will complement Locality Led Projects by responding in a strategic way to priorities common to several localities and bringing additional opportunities to communities around key themes.

The RAISE Portadown Strategic Area Plan sets out the context for this locality and identifies the key issues that underpin educational disadvantage in the area, highlights potential proposals on how to address the identified gaps in provision and support the educational achievement of children and young people in the locality.

The Portadown Strategic Area Plan has been developed through a co-design process involving public engagement and creative approaches to give voice to organisations, children and young people and parents in the locality.

The Locality Reference Group has played a critical role in informing, shaping and developing this Strategic Area Plan on behalf of the locality. It was produced in accordance with the guidance on the development of a Strategic Area Plan which can be found here[2]. The Plan is owned by the locality and the Locality Reference Group.

The *RAISE Portadown Strategic Area Plan* is available here.

RAISE Portadown Locality

Whilst the Locality Reference Group has indicated that the RAISE Programme will benefit children and young people across Portadown, there are core SOA's within the Portadown locality where particular needs have been identified relating to educational underachievement. It is acknowledged by the Locality Reference Group that there will be a requirement first and foremost that the needs of children and young people that live within the identified RAISE SOAs must be prioritised.

RAISE Portadown is located within the District Electoral Area's (DEA's) of Portadown and is part of Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council. The Super Output Areas (SOAs) identified are - Annagh 2, Ballybay, Corcrain 1, Corcrain 2 and Tavanagh.

RAISE Portadown - Call for Locality Led Projects

Nine priority objectives have been identified within the RAISE Portadown Strategic Area Plan. These have been ranked and prioritised by the Locality Reference Group.

The total available budget for RAISE Portadown Locality Led Projects is **401,803**. Projects being delivered following Call 1 are outlined in the table below. An overview of the projects can be found here.

Call One Projects

Objective	Project Title	Amount Awarded
1. IMPROVE ATTENDANCE BY STRENGTHENING LINK BETWEEN HOME, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY	PAKT Parents and Kids Together	£79,750
2. LEARNING SUPPORT FOR KEY STAGE 2 & 3	Beyond the Bell	£99,984

[2] Developing a Locality Strategic Area Plan, Department of Education

The Department of Education is now seeking proposals for further Locality Led Projects to deliver against a number of the identified objectives. In some cases, additional projects are being sought to fully deliver on the objective within the locality. Further information is set out below.

For this second call for Locality Led Projects, RAISE Portadown has a remaining budget of **up to £222,000** which will be available to deliver Locality Led Projects to the end of August 2027. Further funding may be made available at a later date.

The maximum amount available against each objective is outlined below against objectives 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9 outlined in the Portadown Strategic Area Plan.

Objectives for Call Two Projects

Priority	Objective	Available Budget
3	**EMOTIONAL HEALTH & WELLBEING SUPPORT FOR PUPILS DISENGAGED FROM LEARNING**	Up to £50k
4	**SPEECH, LANGUAGE & COMMUNICATION**	Up to £80k
5	**IMPROVE PATHWAYS FOR PUPILS POST-16**	Up to £40k
6	**PROFESSIONAL LEARNING**	Up to £25k
8	**CULTURAL AWARENESS & ANTI RACISM PRACTICE**	Up to £12k
9	**DRUG AWARENESS & SAFETY AWARENESS**	Up to £15k

Project proposals are invited from organisations with experience of successful working in the locality, schools serving those pupils who live within a RAISE locality or area identified within the locality's Strategic Area Plan (excluding independent and preparatory schools), early years providers, colleges and properly constituted community groups and voluntary organisations. Examples of which include Associations, Trusts, Companies limited by Guarantee, Community Interest Companies, Charitable Incorporated Organisations or Industrial and Provident Societies. Proposals from Churches will also be considered.

As one of the key objectives of the RAISE Programme is raising aspirations through a whole community approach to education, collaborative/consortium proposals are encouraged.

Submitting a proposal for a Locality Led Project

To propose a Locality Led Project organisations will be required to complete a Locality Led Project Identification Template.

The *RAISE Locality Led Projects – Identification of RAISE Locality Led Projects and RAISE Locality Led Project Identification Template Guidance Notes* document is available here.

The template should be completed on the RAISE online platform via the following link:

https://raise.whole.school/project-bid-form/signup

Organisations will be asked to create an account on the RAISE online platform. This will allow access to the platform and the creation of a project proposal template. Organisations will be able to view all the project proposals they have created on the platform dashboard.

Organisations should regularly save any changes by pressing the save button at the bottom of the page. Completed project proposals must be submitted by pressing the submit button on the bottom of the page. Submitted project proposals can be viewed and edited up until the call deadline.

Organisations may also withdraw a submitted project proposal from consideration by the Assessment Panel by pressing the withdraw button at the bottom of the page. Pressing the withdraw button will not permanently delete the project proposal and it can be reversed by pressing the submit button again.

A project will deliver against one Locality Objective, and a specific template must be completed for each project proposal. Several proposed projects may be submitted against a Locality Objective. An organisation can propose multiple projects by completing the template for each proposed project.

Please note, within the RAISE Portadown Strategic Area Plan details have been included to outline what the Locality Reference Group feel might be potential solutions for the delivery of the objective within the locality. This is not exhaustive and there may be other evidence based approaches to deliver against a specific objective.

Each Locality Objective has been linked in the Platform to a specific RAISE Intermediary Benefit as set out in the Strategic Area Plan.

Careful consideration should be given to the scope of each objective to ensure full implementation, for example, in terms of the geographical area covered. The information provided will be used to assess and score your proposal in line with the process set out in the attached guidance notes for completing this application.

Funding is available for projects up to 31 August 2027.

For any technical queries with the RAISE online Platform, please contact Wholeschool on 028 90 610220 or e-mail support@wholeschool.ie

Assessment Process

All project applications will be assessed by a panel. The panel will include officials from the Department of Education and at least one external member with experience of education or locality-based programmes.

The *RAISE Assessment Panel Scoring Guidance* is available here.

Timescales

All project applications must be submitted via the online platform **by 29 April 2026, 12 noon**. Late applications will not be accepted.

An Assessment Panel will consider applications in April/May 2026, and it is anticipated that successful projects will be notified by the end of May 2026. Letters of Offer will be agreed thereafter, with the expectation that the majority of projects will commence no later than September 2026.

Appeals

This process does not include an opportunity for unsuccessful applicants to appeal the outcome of the call. The decision of the Assessment Panel will therefore be final.

Locality Co-Ordinator

The Locality Co-Ordinator for the Portadown locality will be available to offer help and advice throughout the call process and can be contacted at Helen.Donnelly@education-ni.gov.uk