

## Appendix 1 Outcomes of the discussion of youth poverty within education.

A discussion was held around the impacts of poverty on youth educational attainment. The table below shows how many times each problem came up (verbally and written word) within the Poverty in Education seminar. The 'frequency' each topic arose is a good indicator of the strength of feeling within each group.

Frequency	Issue
6	Parent not being able to dedicate time and money to support their child/tutoring/Family situations.
15	High School work costs and not enough money to get extra help/uniforms/school supplies
2	Not enough sanctions for correct uniforms
8	Less socialising/ low-no lifestyle
3	Lack of food/hunger
14	Lack of environmental/adult responsibilities and independent life education in schools
9	Lack of school funding/ high costs/prices for trips
12	Take a while to reach school every day/ lives far from school/ access to education reduced/ Covid
13	Poor mental Health support

Participants were asked what they felt was important to them for example what they wanted to change or add. Here were the top 10:

- Uniform prices
- Prices for school trips
- Tutoring
- Counselling/someone to talk to.
- Calm and friendly/supportive learning environment / careers advice
- Good opportunities
- Safe place
- Place to vocalise/relax in school
- Social/Educational opportunities
- More resources
- Diversity of different groups and recognising in community

Participants told us what needed to be changed within schools to better support young people and improve their experience within education:

- More support in financial/emotional/physical/school situations
- More school meals accessible to all
- More money budgeting
- Mental Health support and more accessibility to resources
- Learning to be independent and managing money responsibly
- More resources
- More funding for schools to create more opportunity for us.

What this tells us is that there is a cost attached to a lot of things required at school. Even something as simple as school lunches are not cheap, and with more than one child attending school this can become very expensive. There are added costs for public transport if schools are not within walking distance. MYC felt that all students under the age of 18 should have these heavily subsidised.

Schools do not spend enough time on teaching independent living skills to prepare students for adulthood. Schools expects students to wear uniform, again these are costly, and if there is more than one young person in the family the cost mounts up. With families struggling to put food on the table and to heat the home this is an added pressure on parents/carers.

Schools also organise trips abroad where the costs are in the thousands. Because of this many students will not be able to participate which puts them at an unfair disadvantage and we feel that they are discriminated against because of this.

Students who are already struggling with their mental health after covid are now trying to cope with the everyday struggles their families are dealing with so this does not help their mental health but can further impact them with little support for them to turn to.