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NORTH TYNESIDE ATHLETES BACKED FOR MAJOR CHAMPIONSHIPS Twenty-three young North East athletes heading for the English Schools Track and Field Championships, have received financial support from North of Tyne Athletics Network (NOTAN) Members of Blyth Running Club and North Shields Polytechnic Club (NSP) have been selected for the prestigious event, taking place this weekend (July 10 and 11) in Birmingham. Athletes represent their county teams in three age group categories; junior, intermediate and senior. It will be the 95th English Schools' Track and Field Championships. The athletes, who are from Cleveland, Durham and Northumberland Schools Athletic Associations, have been selected after achieving extremely challenging entry standards. NOTAN was formed as a charity in 2011 to promote community participation for the benefit of keen athletes in North Tyneside. The financial support will go towards travel, accommodation, and entry costs for attending the iconic event. Many of the athletes started their athletics journeys at NOTAN's summer grand prix competition, which allows athletes from ages 8 to 12 from across the county, to get their first taste of competing in track and field events. Tommy Brannon, Chair of NOTAN, said: "The experience gained at those events has helped set them on this journey and allowed them to reach the level they are at today. It is testament to the hard work of these athletes and their support teams and we wish all of them the best of luck this coming weekend in Birmingham." The next NOTAN grand prix event, which is open to school years 3 to 6, takes place this Saturday (July 11) at Churchill Athletics Track in Whitley Bay. The last meet in June saw just under 100 young athletes run, jump and throw, gaining competition experience in a fun, friendly and supportive environment. For more information, visit www.notanathletics.co.uk

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