

Greater Manchester Living Wage Campaign

Greater Manchester Poverty Action is now hosting the Greater Manchester Living Wage Campaign, having taken it on from Church Action on Poverty. We want to thank Church Action for having convened and hosted the campaign for the last four years. It has been a real success story for Greater Manchester with around eight times more accredited Living Wage employers than at the time of its launch.

Following the resignation of campaign coordinator Alec Spencer, whom we also want to thank for his strategic and unwavering dedication to the cause, we are delighted to announce the appointment of Dr Lynn Sbaih as the new coordinator, and therefore the newest addition to the GMPA team. She was already a core team member of the GM Living Wage campaign, and chaired last year's National Living Wage Week event.

If you would like to support the campaign or to find out more, please contact Lynn at lynn.sbah@gmlivingwage.org or 07948 549 485



Dr Lynn Sbaih chairing the National Living Wage Week event in 2016. Pictured with Amy Hulme, Programme Manager at the Living Wage Foundation and Clive Memmott, CEO at the GM Chamber of Commerce.

[Photo Credit: Christopher Worrall Photography](#)



This is a side note, but a very important one! Coincidentally – we started the accreditation process before being approached by Church Action on Poverty about hosting the campaign – GMPA is now an accredited Living Wage employer.

We would encourage every employer, large or small, to commit themselves to paying the Living Wage (currently £8.45 per hour outside London) to all of their directly employed and contracted staff by becoming accredited through our partners the [Living Wage Foundation](#).

A Message from [Street Support](#): EndHomelessnessMCR digital community

Tuesday September 12th, 2017 from 5.30 - 9.30pm at Code ComputerLove, Dale Street, Manchester M1 1JB

This is a community for digital folk who share our mission to End Homelessness in Manchester (and beyond). We are working as part of Manchester Homelessness Partnership, but we have a backlog of features that have been requested by people with lived experience of homelessness and frontline workers. We are looking for DotNet, front end and ionic app developers, designers, content writers, testers, project managers and anyone with time and passion that wants to work with us to deliver these benefits and make a real difference.



The recent [Manchester #HomelessHack](#) showed there are others working in digital wanting to make a difference, so we wondered.. can we create a sustainable digital community that comes together to co-produce features that we know are really needed. If you aren't sure if your skills are useful, the answer is likely to be 'yes' but if you want to check please [email](#) us. We have been developing StreetSupport.net and app versions in Manchester since 2015 with a tiny core team, led by Vince Lee and are now supporting other areas of Greater Manchester, working closely with the GM Homelessness Action Network (set up by Andy Burnham and his team). **There is far more to be done than we can handle alone, so in the spirit of Manchester worker bees, how about a regular 'raising bee' to get this thing built?**

#Stronger Together [More information](#)

State of the VCSE Sector 2017 report

GMCVO and 10GM have published an excellent report into the state of the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector. With opportunities presented by devolution and ongoing challenges presented by austerity, it is no surprise to see a mixed picture.

GMCVO Chief Executive Alex Whinnom says, "Although there are considerable pressures on the VCSE sector and on individual organisations, and it remains potentially fragile, on the whole the sector continues as a large, diverse and active movement with considerable social and economic impact across the city region. There is also good evidence that many organisations are adapting and developing to meet new needs and ensure their own sustainability. There is much to be hopeful about."



Alex Whinnom

He also notes "rising poverty and inequalities, with neither public nor VCSE sector able to meet the increasing levels of need and demand. To make matters worse, the incidence of poverty, poor health, low skills, poor housing and poor opportunities correlates largely with existing structural inequalities experienced by disadvantaged groups such as BME communities, disabled people etc. thus increasing them further"

With the VCSE sector the refuge of last resort for many people in poverty, these statistics give an indication of the great value of the sector to our city region. [The full report and reports for each of the ten boroughs are available here](#)

10 things you should know about the Greater Manchester Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Sector

- 1 15,890 voluntary organisations, community groups and social enterprises
- 2 77% are micro organisations (annual income under £10,000)
- 3 8% identify as being a social enterprise
- 4 £1.3 billion total income of the sector (2014/15)
- 5 84% of organisations have at least one source of non-public sector funds, bringing significant added value
- 6 28,600 full time equivalent paid staff (42,600 people), valued at £905 million per year
- 7 461,800 volunteers (including committee/board members), giving 1.1 million hours each week, valued at £973 million per year
- 8 21.9 million interventions made with beneficiaries each year
- 9 90% have contact with other VCSEs in their area. 37% with others across Greater Manchester; 84% have dealings with at least one local authority and 62% with private businesses
- 10 50% of organisations report increasing expenditure, but only 40% increasing income (2014/15) and 46% have less than 3 months of running costs in reserves

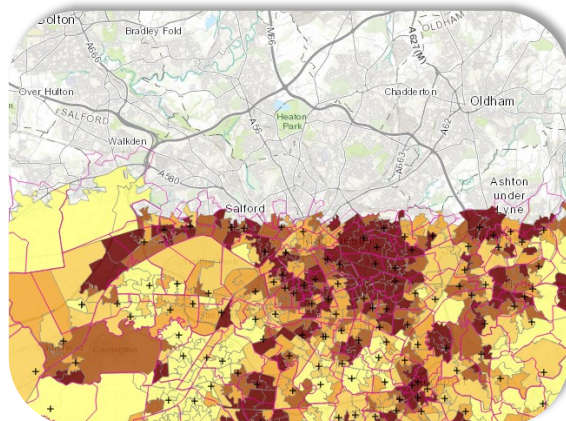


The Church Urban Fund (CUF) was established by the Church of England as a practical response to unmet need and has been active in local communities for over 30 years. They work through the Church of England's local parish networks, and alongside other faith-based and secular organisations, to bring about positive change in neighbourhoods.

In Greater Manchester, an independent charity [Greater Together Manchester](#) is a joint venture between CUF and the Diocese of Manchester that aims to tackle poverty by working with communities to support the vulnerable, building the capacity of individuals and changing lives for the better.

CUF have recently published a map that visualises the Index of Multiple Deprivation* 2015 data within parishes, showing areas of relative deprivation or affluence. The map, a GM snapshot of which is shown here, is available on their [website](#)

*The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015 (IMD) attempts to measure a broader concept of deprivation by bringing together 7 domains: income; employment; health and disability; education; housing and services; crime; and living environment. It is a relative measure that is used to compare areas; it is not a direct measure of deprivation. Other direct measures, such as child poverty or working age poverty, are necessary to develop a full understanding of an area. It is important to note that not every person in a deprived area will themselves be deprived. Equally, there will be some deprivation even in more affluent areas.



Poverty, living standards and inequality

A recent [report from the Institute for Fiscal Studies](#) looked at changes in household incomes in the UK. The report contained a number of worrying findings, including strong geographical concentrations of poverty and strong regional variations in incomes. Findings include:



- Poverty is especially geographically concentrated for working-age households and households containing children. One in four poor children live in the 10% most deprived local authorities.
- Average (median) income in the highest-income region in Britain (the South East) is 25% higher than in the lowest-income region (West Midlands).
- Average incomes in the south of England (excluding London) and Scotland have grown faster than in Britain as a whole over the last 40 years. This means the South East is now nearly twice as far above the national average as it was in the 1970s (13% compared with 7%).

On household incomes nationally, the research found that improvements in household income have been limited since the financial crash of 2008:

- Average (median) income in 2015–16 (the latest data available) was only 3.7% higher than before the recession (2007–08).
- Absolute poverty (according to the official government measure) has changed little over the last decade. This lack of progress is historically unusual and reflects the more general lack of real income growth. It follows especially large reductions in poverty over the preceding decade as the incomes of low-income households grew strongly.

Between 2010–2011 and 2014–2015, 37% of people experienced a fall in their household income of more than 5%, and 50% saw a rise of more than 5%.

The research suggests that the incomes of the highest earners have been hardest hit since 2008, falling by more than 10% since 2008. The consequence is a fall in income inequality, but as the Resolution Foundation have recently found, when you look beyond income at household wealth, inequality has actually grown as the richest have seen the value of their assets increase considerably over the last ten years.

Snippets

In our June 28th editorial 'Poverty exposes people to greater risks', Tom Skinner wrote that indications were that Councils would be reimbursed for any building work carried out to minimise fire risks in tower blocks. Central Government had promised to "put a financial package in place". However several councils are now petitioning the Government for financial help and the Communities Secretary is believed to have responded "*Our expectation is that, as landlords, you will fund measures designed to make a building fire safe, and will draw on your own existing resources to do so.*" [Read more](#)



After losing a High Court ruling in June, the Government are now going to the Supreme Court to defend the case brought by four lone parent families who said the benefit cap would have a disproportionate impact on them. [Read more](#)



A new report by the Education Policy Institute [Closing the Gap?](#), makes for grim reading. Children who are persistently disadvantaged are on average more than two years behind their peers by the end of secondary school. [Read More](#)



The IFS have reported that more than a million women in their early 60s have become poorer as a result of delays to their state pensions - absolute poverty had increased from 15% of women aged between 60 and 62 to 21% [Read More](#)



At last week's AGM of [Living Rent](#) (Scotland's tenants' union), after listening to stirring tales of defeating bad landlords, they planned the next campaign. They came up with a wish-list. [Read more](#)

Forthcoming Events:

The Clatter of Clogs

On Wednesday September 6th, 2017 starting at Salford Museum and Art Gallery, The Crescent, Peel Park, Salford M5 4WU followed by a walking tour and visiting Wood Street Mission

Meandering tales of Salford slums, literary genius, temperance, gangland violence, and a fight for human rights. A look at the museum archives followed by a walking tour concluding at Wood Street where the mission, moved to this site in 1873, is still based. A tour of the mission and refreshments complete the event. [More information and to book.](#)



EndHomelessnessMCR digital community

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See front page for details.

Emmaus Mossley's 20th Birthday Bash

Saturday September 16th, 2017 from 10am– 4pm at Emmaus Mossley, Longlands Mill, Queen Street, Mossley OL5 9AH

The event aims to be the biggest in the charity's history, with a programme of music and activities that will appeal to all ages. The community is looking forward to celebrating this significant landmark at Emmaus Mossley. They have some fantastic entertainment lined up: special guests including Terry Waite CBE, President of Emmaus UK, local musicians and lots of activities for kids to enjoy. [More information](#)



Ambition for Ageing for All

Tuesday September 26th 10.15am - 3pm at the Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount Street, Manchester M2 5NS

Are you keen to make Greater Manchester a better place to grow old? Are you interested in how inequalities and discrimination shape old people's experiences? This is the first public event hosted by the Ambition for Ageing Equalities Board. [More information and to book.](#)



On Friday 10th November the Manchester Sleepout will return, and they'd love you to join in.

They're asking you to take on the challenge of sleeping out, for one night only, to highlight the hardships faced by homeless people every night. By taking part you'll help raise vital funds to support homeless people in our community. [Register now](#) to receive an Early Bird discount, places are limited!



Any events you'd like GMPA to publicise? [Email us with the details](#)

Why GM Poverty Action?

In the Recommendations Report of the Greater Manchester Poverty Commission, 2.4 *Maintaining Momentum on Poverty* called for the formation of a Poverty Action Group to help take forward the work of the Commission.

A small number of public, private and civic sector individuals came together to form GMPA. This group has since grown to over 700 individuals from more than 200 organisations plus Local Authorities and MPs and an increasing number of members of the public.

GMPA is based upon principles of cooperation between organisations.

For more information about Greater Manchester Poverty Action

please visit our [website](#), follow us on [Twitter](#) or visit our [Facebook](#) page. You can also visit our YouTube channel [Community Voices](#)

All these platforms are there to share news and opinion from our readers, from GM Poverty Action and from the community.

We want to celebrate our successes, find new ways of working together and provide a voice for the people living in poverty in our region. But we can only do this with your help and support.

For more information or to share your news please contact [Chris](#)

Copies of previous newsletters are available on our [website](#)

If you would like to contact us or submit an article for inclusion in a newsletter please get in touch in one of the following ways:

Post: c/o 5th Floor Church House, 90 Deansgate, Manchester M3 2GH

Or contact our Communications Manager: Chris Bagley
T: 07419 774537 [Email](#)
and we will reply as soon as possible.

NB GMPA does not have full-time dedicated administrative support so please do not expect an immediate response.

