



## Autumn Preview

After a short break in August, the team at GMPA has a very busy few months ahead. We're using the front page of this week's newsletter to update you on our autumn activities.

Firstly, thank you to everyone who booked onto our Understanding Poverty Data course taking place later this month. This course is now fully booked. However, we have several places remaining on the [Exploring the Poverty Premium course](#) (October 18th). Please look at the training page of our website for details of how to book a place.

On October 26th we are delighted to be hosting an event looking at child and family poverty strategies. **Lisa Nandy MP** will be speaking at the event and we're being hosted by Kellogg's in Media City. We'll be presenting research looking at which local authorities across England have poverty strategies in place. With the Westminster Government no longer having its own child poverty strategy and seemingly having abandoned this agenda, it is increasingly important that local authorities and their partners work to fill the vacuum. The event is free to attend and open to all, but places are limited so please book as soon as possible via [EventBrite](#).

Next Wednesday (September 19th) we will be launching research looking at **crisis support provided through local welfare assistance schemes**. These schemes, operated by local authorities, replaced the old central government Discretionary Social Fund in 2013 and, despite the best efforts of many local councils, are under huge pressure in many parts of the country. We'll be sending the report out to newsletter recipients next Wednesday morning. In advance of this, tomorrow I'm speaking at a workshop being organised by the Children's Society where we'll be looking at approaches to providing crisis support. Later on in the day I'll be speaking at Child Poverty Action Group's annual welfare rights conference (I hope to see some of you there).

The beginning of November marks this year's **Living Wage Week**. As hosts of the Greater Manchester Living Wage Campaign we'll be announcing our plans for Living Wage Week in the next couple of newsletters.



The work of our **Food Poverty Alliance continues apace**, and it isn't too late to get involved. Please take a look at our [Food Poverty website page](#) for full details, and please fill in the [Food Poverty action surveys](#) if you haven't already.

As most of our readers will be aware, [GMPA provides a map of Greater Manchester showing the locations of food providers for people in need](#). Following recommendations from members of the Food Poverty Alliance, we have amended the map to highlight the growing number of food pantries, food clubs and meal offers in the city region. When we launched the map in January 2017 there were 136 locations, now there are more than 170, but increasingly the new pins represent pantry-style options. This is an encouraging sign as while emergency providers such as food banks are a vital lifeline for people in moments of crisis, this provision must be matched by more sustainable approaches that can support people before they reach crisis point. You can read more about the pantry model on the following page.



Graham Whitham

And lastly before I sign off. Thank you to everyone who engages and supports the work of GMPA. Without your interest, advice and support we wouldn't be able to do our work. A big thank you from Tom, Chris and myself.

I hope to see you soon.

Graham Whitham  
Director, GMPA

## “It’s more than just a full tummy, it’s a massive link in the community”

Written for GMPA by Anna Jones, Stockport Homes

Stockport Homes opened the doors to its first pantry in 2014. This was a time of welfare reform and the surge in food bank vouchers allocated in Stockport made it apparent that there needed to be another option available, one that would help and support people before they reached crisis point. It was hoped that the pantry model could help relieve financial pressure in people’s lives, and be a sustainable resource that would bring communities together.



The pantry is a volunteer led, community food resource with local residents signing up as members and paying a small weekly subscription fee (£3.50 in Stockport). In return for this, members can visit the pantry once a week and select their own items from a wide variety of goods. This includes chilled, frozen, dairy, fresh meat and fish, fresh fruit and veg and all the usual store cupboard favourites. These items are often worth in excess of £15.00 at retail value.

The ethos of the pantry is to offer dignity and choice:

- Offers a hand up not a hand down – we are not a foodbank or crisis provision, we aim to prevent people from reaching this point.
  - Provide access to holistic, wrap around support linked to areas such as money advice, housing, health and employment and skills
- Community led – members and volunteers keep our shelves stocked and our pantries open and as such must be at the heart of pantry development empowering themselves and their local communities by co-running their own Pantries.
  - The volunteer scheme supports people back in to paid employment



All money raised is reinvested straight back in to the project, paying for the day-to-day costs as well as raising a small surplus. This surplus allows the pantry to buy additional stock and essential equipment where required. The majority of our stock comes from FareShare, a national charity who redistribute surplus stock from large supermarkets and food manufacturers to projects like ourselves.



As at September 2018, four pantries were open in Stockport, with a further one scheduled before the end of the financial year.

The pantry network has a significant impact on local communities, with 9266 individual visits to the four pantries in 2017/2018 generating a collective saving of £115,825.

Its 25-30 strong group of volunteers from the local community and Stockport Homes’ staff have donated 4,735 hours during 2017-2018, covering everything from the cash office, supporting customers with their pantry shopping, behind the scenes administration and receiving/sorting deliveries.

Many other social landlords and community groups are now interested in replicating our model through the Your Local Pantry social franchise. Over 30 pantry style schemes are now operating in Greater Manchester with many more coming on board from across the UK.

The package includes help and support setting up from a dedicated officer, bespoke software, volunteer hand book and a full operations guide. To find out more about this exciting opportunity contact [Anna Jones](#) 0161 474 4760

## Greater Manchester Housing Providers Summer 2018 Anti-Poverty newsletter



This issue includes articles by Athena and Motiv8, Bolton at Home, First Choice Homes Oldham, ForViva, Irwell Valley Homes, Jigsaw Homes Group, Regenda, Salix Homes, Southway Housing Trust, Stockport Homes, Wythenshawe Community Housing Group, plus news from the University of Salford and GM Poverty Action.

You can access the newsletter [here](#). For more information about Greater Manchester Housing Providers please visit their [website](#)

### The poverty *issue*



**Greater Manchester Housing Action** are looking to engage a freelance project coordinator for their *Let's Talk About Housing* project.



If you are passionate about working to address the housing crisis in Greater Manchester and want to be part of the movement for change, then you may be interesting in applying for this role.

With the fight for decent, secure, affordable housing more urgent than ever, Greater Manchester Housing Action is looking to engage a freelance coordinator for the Let's Talk About Housing project. The coordinator will work alongside Steering Group members and other housing activist groups to promote public understanding of the housing crisis.

Deadline: 26th September 2018

[Further details on how to apply](#)

## Forthcoming events

### From Developer Regeneration to Civic Futures: A new politics for foundational service provision in Greater Manchester

On Thursday September 13th, 2018 from 5pm - 7.30pm at the Manchester Cathedral Visitor Centre, 10 Cateaton Street, Manchester M3 1SQ

For decades, the approach to fixing the problems of de-industrialisation in Greater Manchester has been private sector developer led regeneration, with the intention that property-led regeneration will deliver economic growth. Transport is designed to carry people to jobs. But this approach neglects the provision of social infrastructure and foundational services, such as, access to affordable housing, social and health care, and non-commuting journeys.

A new [report](#) by the Alliance Manchester Business School develops the notion of 'civic futures' as a vision about the future of GM that recognises the rights of all citizens to universal basics. To launch the report, a public event will address the broad question – what can local politicians, council officers, the media and concerned citizens do to effect such change? [More information or to register](#)

### The Many Faces of Fuel Poverty

September 17 - 19th, 2018. Early booking discounts end August 31st



**NEA's annual conference** and exhibition provides a national forum to debate key issues relating to domestic energy efficiency and fuel poverty to inform future policy and practice. Approximately 300 participants from across government, the energy industry, health sector, local authorities, housing associations and other non-profit agencies attend. This year's themes are: helping the worst first and ensuring consistent outcomes for the most vulnerable; enhancing preventative health action; clean growth and innovation; and enhancing co-operation across the nations. [More info and book.](#)

**Manchester BME Network and Greater Manchester BME Network** will be holding their next joint networking event on Thursday 27th September 2018 at St Thomas Centre, Ardwick Green North, Ardwick, M12 6FZ starting promptly at 10am (registration from 9.30am).

Further details and to book online please click [here](#)

## Love for the Streets using music, art and culture to tackle homelessness: Party for a Purpose!

Love for the Streets (LFTS) is hosting a party for a purpose on Sunday September 23rd, 2018 at Hidden nightclub for their next event 'Hidden Behind the Headlines'. The all day festival will bring together a combination of music, food and fashion stalls, live art and creative workshops. This event will mark the launch of their campaign raising awareness about 'Hidden Homelessness'.



Organised by a passionate group of students and ex-students, club promoters and artists, LFTS helps Manchester's community bring social issues to the surface in an engaging environment. This campaign raises awareness about sofa-surfing families, people hidden in temporary housing, and short-term accommodation, who make up 64% of homelessness.

LFTS are also collaborating with local charities who support hidden homelessness, such as Women's Direct Access Centre, to direct new volunteers to their services and fundraise for them.

Check out Facebook to find out more about the [event at Hidden](#) on 23rd September, or the [Love for the Streets campaign](#)

## Harpurhey Together

Tuesday October 16th, 2018 from 12.30 - 3.30pm at Harpurhey Neighbourhood Centre, Carisbrook Street, Harpurhey M9 5UX.

Bringing together local people, North Mancunians with new residents from Central and Eastern Europe sharing ideas, experiences and future plans. A partnership project between Parasol - bringing hope and friendship for European nationals and Harpurhey Neighbourhood Project - working with the community for 40 years.

To book a free place contact Graeme on 07460 988361 or email : [harpurhey@aol.com](mailto:harpurhey@aol.com) Free lunch on arrival and free parking

## Course in October



TRAINING

Greater Manchester Poverty Action provides training to organisations working to address poverty across the city region and the rest of the UK. We aim to support organisations to better understand some of the complexities around poverty. This includes training in how poverty is measured and how to identify data, to understanding the recent history of welfare reform and how it affects different groups of people.

**One course is open for booking:** Exploring the poverty premium, a half day course on October 18th. [More information and booking](#) (The September course on Understanding poverty data, is fully booked but do let us know if this course is of interest to you as we are likely to be offering it again.)



At Manchester Cathedral on November 9th, 2018 to raise funds and awareness to support people experiencing homelessness in Manchester.

Last year, 400 people braved the cold and rain to raise a stunning **£120,000!** This year, they are asking you to help them smash that figure. Sleep out for one night so others don't have to every night.

[Register now](#) The money we raise allows us to provide fresh, healthy meals every week, offer expert advice and a huge range of arts and activities to improve wellbeing and self-esteem

**Do you have any events that you'd like GMPA to publicise? Please [Email us](#) with the details.**

## For more information about Greater Manchester Poverty Action

please visit our [website](#), follow us on [Twitter](#) or visit our [Facebook](#) page.

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

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

If you would like to submit an article for inclusion in a newsletter please [get in touch](#)

For more information please contact us by [email](#) or call 07419 774537 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.



Views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily the views of GMPA. We try to fact-check all articles and events, but if you notice an error please [let us know](#) so we can correct it in a future newsletter.