

Training courses – book now!

We have three more [training courses](#) scheduled for the remainder of 2019. The next one is our one day 'Understanding poverty data' course on Thursday June 5th.

This course is for organisations and individuals who wish to strengthen the case for their work by presenting accurate and relevant data about poverty to funders, supporters and policy makers. It is suitable for researcher, third, public and private sector organisations.

The multitude of data and reports about poverty that are out there can make accessing the right data difficult. The contentious nature of poverty makes it particularly important to understand how poverty is measured and which figures are the most appropriate to use. By the end of this one-day course participants will have developed an understanding of what key poverty datasets tell us, how best to access data sources and how to use this knowledge to support the work that they do.

It is the third time we have run this course. Please [book now](#) to secure your place as the course was fully booked when we ran it in September 2018 and March 2019. Feedback from the course has been really positive with comments including:

"A complex and in-depth subject was covered in an interesting and informative manner"

"Great work – learnt loads"

"Good balance of presentation and group discussion"

Later in the year we will be running our 'Exploring the Poverty Premium' (September 11th) and 'Risk of poverty among different groups' (November 6th) courses.

About Exploring the Poverty Premium: Low income consumers in the UK face several disadvantages in the marketplace – known as the poverty premium. This course supports service providers, businesses and policy-makers to identify changes in policy and practice that can help mitigate the impact of the poverty premium, minimising the risk of debt and financial hardship among people on low incomes. This half day course will run on Wednesday September 11th.

About Risk of poverty among different groups: This course looks at trends in poverty in the UK among different groups. It is designed for organisations seeking to strengthen the case for existing projects or develop new projects aimed at tackling and preventing poverty and will also be of interest to researchers and policymakers seeking to develop a better understanding of poverty in the UK. Next available date is Wednesday November 6th.

Further information and booking forms for all these courses are available on our [website](#)

We have discounted rates for students, third/VCSE sector and public sector attendees.

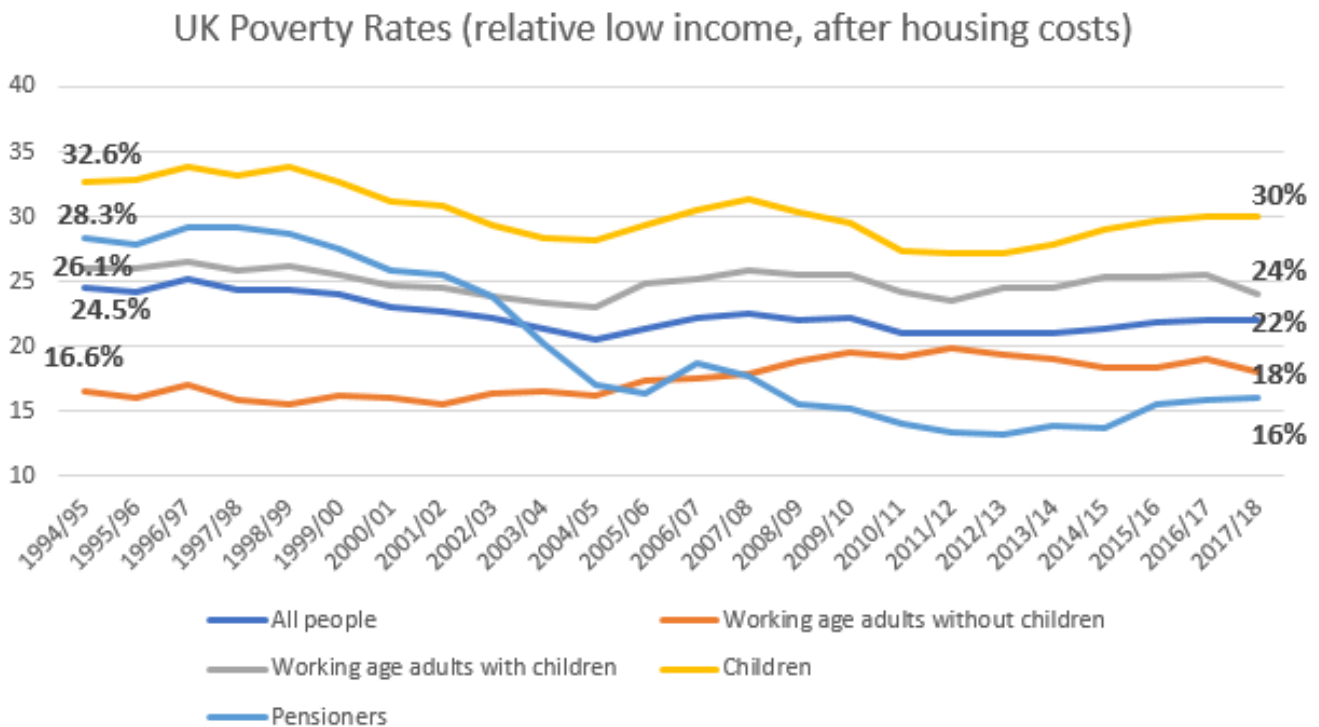
All courses take place at Church House on Deansgate in the city centre, just a short walk from Manchester Victoria and from Exchange Square Metrolink station.

Latest government data shows a worrying rise in child poverty

By Graham Whitham

At the end of last month the government released the latest [UK poverty statistics](#). The child poverty figures gained the most attention with the data showing a rise in the number of children living in deep or 'severe' poverty. This means that of the 4.1 million children in relative poverty, 2.8 million are in 'severe' poverty. There are 3.7 million children in poverty under the alternative absolute poverty measure.

Whilst pensioner poverty has remained low over recent year, there are signs that this is also starting to increase. The graph below shows how the poverty rate varies for different household types:



Many readers will be aware of the rise in in-work poverty in recent years. An incredible 70% of children living in poverty are now in households where at least one adult is in work. Whilst children in households where no one is in work are still at greater risk of poverty, the rise of in-work poverty is a sign that employment is not an effective route out of poverty for many families.

The figures also showed a rise in inequality, with the incomes of the rich growing at a faster rate than those on lower incomes.

Some are projecting that the child poverty rate will reach a record 37% by 2022, breaking the record high of 34% set in the early 90s, unless action is taken. In response to the figures being published, End Child Poverty (ECP) called on all the major political parties to develop an ambitious and coherent child poverty reduction strategy ahead of the next General Election. ECP also wants to see an end to the benefit freeze and a full reversal of the two-child limit in his November budget.



Graham Whitham

GMMA is a member of End Child Poverty and supports these calls. We are highly concerned about the impact of ongoing welfare cuts in Greater Manchester, where an estimated 620,000 residents are living in poverty.



Greater Manchester Takes Action Together on Food Poverty

In the month since we launched the [Food Poverty Action Plan](#), we have been meeting leaders, businesses, and charities to ask what they will do to make the plan a reality. The response has been very positive, with over 30 organisations covering most of Greater Manchester's boroughs, making more than 70 pledges of action and funding. The pledges will be published when the new Food Poverty Alliance coordinator is in post, so far they include:



- Salford City Council and the Salford Food Share Network pledging to better coordinate and strengthen food support services across the city, while giving advice to other localised food support networks
- Wigan Council influencing education providers to teach good food on a tight budget, rolling out a nutrition and hydration training programme with Domiciliary Care Staff, and many other pledges
- Kellogg's supporting 100 school breakfast clubs in Greater Manchester with cash grants totalling £100,000, helping to feed at least 5000 children
- The Roman Catholic Diocese of Salford contributing £2,500 towards the cost of employing a Food Poverty Alliance coordinator
- Many smaller organisations pledging to take action however they can, such as setting up food pantries, becoming accrediting Real Living Wage employers, and developing toolkits to help people and organisations tackle food poverty where they are

These pledges show Greater Manchester's resolve to take action on hunger, and more than that, it shows an understanding that through coordinated strategic action we can start to address the underlying causes and ultimately work to eradicate food poverty in our city region.

We are also working to raise funds for a full-time coordinator, so would welcome pledges of financial support such as that made by Salford Diocese. The coordinator will:



- drive forward the recommendations in the Action Plan at the Greater Manchester level
- work in-depth in some neighbourhoods to pilot place-based approaches to tackling food poverty
- keep the Alliance working together and bringing out the best in Greater Manchester's response to food poverty

Can you pledge to take action on food poverty by starting to implement one or more of the actions in the [Plan](#)? Please email food@gmpovertyaction.org with PLEDGE in the subject line

Tom Skinner, Director, Greater Manchester Poverty Action

Trafford Housing Trust Call for projects to tackle Holiday Hunger - Summer 2019

Trafford Housing Trust want to hear about projects that can delivered within Trafford during the 2019 school summer holidays, to provide children with food during the daytime, when otherwise they would go without.



They will award grants to projects that meet the following requirements:

- Projects will run in areas of high deprivation where holiday hunger is a known problem
- Projects will run for a minimum of 4 weeks during the summer holiday period
- All food will be prepared in an environment that meets H&S standards
- All expressions of interest must be submitted via survey monkey before **April 30th, 2019 at 5pm.**

[Submit your interest here](#)

All submitted grants will be reviewed by the Trafford Housing Trust board and notified of their outcome in May. Any queriers can be emailed to [Zoe Taylor](#)

National Minimum Wage and National Living Wage

HMRC wishes to raise awareness of the new rates of pay that will come into force when the National Minimum Wage and National Living Wage increase on 1 April 2019 to ensure that all employers are at least paying their staff the legal minimum.

A [website](#) to assist employers is available and employers and employees can contact [Acas for advice and support](#) on a wide range of employment rights and responsibilities (or call 0300 123 1100 from Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm but check your call costs first as they vary from 3p to 40p per minute).

HMRC also want to encourage low-paid workers to come forward to make sure they are getting the wages they are legally entitled to. They are looking to raise worker's awareness of their entitlement and asking them to report any under-payments for HMRC to investigate if necessary.

HMRC believe that many people who are paid the National Minimum Wage or National Living Wage still lose out on their full entitlement because of a series of common errors made by their employers. Workers often don't realise that they are being short-changed and that it's possible for them to get back the money they are owed.

The new rates of **pay per hour** after 1 April 2019 will be:

For Apprentices in their first year or under 19:	£3.90	For employees under 18:	£4.35
For employees aged 18 – 20:	£6.15	For employees aged 21 – 24:	£7.70
For employees 25 and over:	£8.21		

Comment from GMPA, "*Under-payment of the minimum wage is a major issue of in-work poverty, particularly exploiting workers from marginalised groups. We fully support HMRC in encouraging low-paid workers to come forward to make sure they are not being underpaid. However we take issue with the description of the minimum wage as a "National Living Wage", which is misleading and confusing for employers and the wider public and does not reflect what is needed to achieve a decent standard of living.*

The real Living Wage is an hourly rate independently calculated to be enough for a decent minimum standard of living. That rate is £9/hr outside London, a new rate is calculated and announced every November in Living Wage Week, and we encourage employers to voluntarily commit to paying all of their staff that rate, and to become [accredited as Living Wage Employers](#). Almost 150 employers across Greater Manchester have been accredited as Living Wage Employers, including Salford City Council, the GM Chamber of Commerce, and many businesses and charities.

The so-called National Living Wage is a rebrand of the minimum wage, but it is not a living wage as it is not based on the cost of living. It could also be argued that it is not truly national as it does not apply to people under the age of 25. This distinction is important because both the minimum wage and the real Living Wage are valuable tools in the bid to end in-work poverty, and should not be allowed to confuse or to distract from each other. Please see the [Living Wage Foundation's explanation](#) for further information."



Forthcoming events

Social Value UK & Inspiring Impact Roadshow Stockport

On Monday April 29th, 2019 from 9.30am - 12.30pm at Stockport Homes, Cornerstone, 2 Edward Street, Stockport SK1 3NQ

Greater Manchester Social Value Network (GMSVN) exists to influence stakeholders, policy and strategy at the Greater Manchester level around social value. The steering group of GMSVN is made up of activists who want to ensure that all intervention whether that be through the behaviour of business, the devolution agenda, commissioning and procurement, or the delivery of projects and services, brings maximum social value.

Social Value Roadshow - The roadshow will give an overview of the wider international and national contexts, as well as the local partners knowledge of Stockport and the surrounding areas. We will look at what social value is, why it is important to you, and how to take action. Social Value UK and GMSVN will bring sector specific knowledge to guide attendees from public, private and civil society in how to navigate the social value landscape.

Local Networking - This is an opportunity for networking with local organisations from across all sectors, to share problems, opportunities, skills and resources from a local perspective.

Inspiring Impact - This is a VCSE focused workshop looking at impact management with practical exercises, case studies, and tools that can be taken back to be used in attendees work and organisations.

Register online [here](#). For more information please visit the [website](#)



More forthcoming events

TOMORROW: Greater Manchester Law Centre manifesto launch

On April 11th, 2019 from 6 - 8pm
at Thompsons Solicitors, 55 King
Street, Manchester, M2 4LQ



Maxine Peake

Access to legal advice, representation and justice can empower people, reduce homelessness and poverty, challenge the hostile environment against claimants and migrants, enforce people's rights and prevent inequality and exclusion.

The manifesto will set out their demands for change, declare what they stand for, celebrate their work so far and call on others to fight with them for free access to justice.

With Richard Burgon MP Shadow Justice Secretary and GMLC Patrons Maxine Peake and Robert Lizar

Get your £5 ticket [here](#)

Co-Creating Public Services with stories of Lived Experience

Thursday June 6th 2019 from 9.45am - 4.30pm at The Engine Room,
People's History Museum, New Court Street, Manchester M3 3ER

The stories that people choose to tell about their own experience are of increasing importance in decision-making processes and are key to creating new ideas, ways of doing things and ultimately bringing about social change. With concepts such as 'co-design', 'co-production' and 'co-creation' becoming increasingly more popular, it is vital to explore what they mean and how they bring about – or not – the inclusion of a wider diversity of people's voices into decision-making realms.

[More information and book](#)

Peer Support and Solidarity in Manchester

Wednesday June 12th, from 12.30 - 3.30pm at the International Anthony Burgess Foundation, Engine House Chorlton Mill, 3 Cambridge Street, Manchester M1 5BY

No matter what community you are part of or working with, there are disabled people who are part of it. The event aims to provide an opportunity for people to exchange ideas and strategies around empowering individuals and local communities through fostering peer support, linking communities and building solidarity.

This event is aimed at third sector organisations and service providers in the Manchester City Region. Book your place [here](#)



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

What's on at Diversity Matters in Hyde



At the Hyde Healthy Living Centre,
20 Great Norbury Street, Hyde
SK14 1BR

Women's and men's health check, health walk and talk events, arm chair exercise classes, learn English Café, coffee mornings and one to one employment support. As well as training for women in food hygiene, first aid, basic IT skills, confidence building, enterprise training and employment workshops. Also for women, the Bright Future Volunteering Project.

For more information ring 0161 368 3268 or visit the [website](#) At the centre they speak Bengali, urdu and punjabi.

Support us

Greater Manchester Poverty Action (GMPA) exists because of the support of likeminded organisations and individuals across Greater Manchester, and beyond, who share GMPA's desire to see an end to poverty in our city region.

There are three ways you can support GMPA's work, either through individual donations, signing up as a supporter or becoming a GMPA Principal Partner.

[More information](#)

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 please [get in touch](#)

For more information please contact us by [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.



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.