

New local child poverty figures show worrying rises in poorest parts of the UK

By Graham Whitham

Today the End Child Poverty coalition launched updated local child poverty figures. With around three in ten children living in relative poverty in the UK, the local figures allow us to understand what those numbers mean at a local authority, parliamentary constituency and ward level. Not surprisingly there are huge variations across the country. Worryingly the figures show that child poverty is rising particularly rapidly in the most disadvantaged parts of major cities, especially London, Birmingham and Greater Manchester.



We are used to seeing figures that show Greater Manchester is home to some of the highest levels of poverty and deprivation in the country. These figures show that in some wards in our city region more than 50% of children are living below the poverty line.

The figures also details huge variations within Greater Manchester. A staggering 62% of children are living below the poverty line in Werneth in Oldham, compared to 13.4% in Worsley in Salford.

There are also major variations within individual boroughs. The ward with the highest level of child poverty in Bolton is Great Lever, with a child poverty rate of 55%. The ward with the lowest rate in the same borough is Bromley Cross at 18.5%. Despite these variations, all ten boroughs in Greater Manchester are home to thousands of children living in poverty. The main figures are detailed at the end of this article.

The increases in child poverty seen across the UK in recent years are largely the result of cuts to working age benefits. Parents have seen the value of tax credits, Child Benefit and other support cut in recent years. The figures also underline how seemingly positive employment figures – low unemployment and record employment levels – aren't translating into reductions in poverty and improved living standards. Too many people are trapped in low paying jobs or unable to get sufficient hours to work their way out of poverty.

Chancellor Phillip Hammond recently hinted at another significant increase in the minimum wage. This would be welcome but must sit alongside reversals in cuts to benefits and measures that increase in-work progression.

Alongside launching the local child poverty figures, End Child Poverty is calling on the Government to set out an ambitious and credible child poverty-reduction strategy, including:

- Restoring the link between benefits (including housing support) and inflation, and then making up for the loss in the real value in children's benefits as a result of the 4-year freeze and previous sub-inflation increases in benefit rates.
- Ending the two-child limit on child allowances in tax credits and universal credit and reforming Universal Credit;
- Reversing the cuts and investing in children's services such as mental health, education, childcare and social care.



As a member of End Child Poverty, Greater Manchester Poverty Action these calls. We would also like to see the Government provide more support for local stakeholders to tackle poverty in their area. A national poverty strategy could help create a framework and provide guidance for local authorities and their partners to address child poverty locally.

Graham Whitman,
Director,
GM Poverty Action

Continued on the following page

New local child poverty figures show worrying rises in poorest parts of the UK continued

[Mapping of anti-poverty strategies in 209 top-tier local authority areas in England and Wales by GMPA in 2018](#) found that 31 of the 209 have a child or family poverty strategy in place (for example Manchester) and a further 80 incorporate a focus on child and family poverty within a broader strategy (for example Salford) or set of strategies (for example Wigan). Whilst many local areas are pushing ahead with their own strategic approaches, the lack of poverty strategies in many areas highlights the need for greater leadership on this issue by central government.

Key findings*

| Top ten highest levels of child poverty by local authority area. | | |
|--|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Local authority | Per cent in poverty AHC | Change in past year |
| Tower Hamlets | 56.7% | 2.7% |
| Newham | 51.8% | 1.9% |
| Hackney | 48.1% | 1.1% |
| Islington | 47.5% | 5.1% |
| Blackburn with Darwen | 46.9% | 4.9% |
| Westminster | 46.2% | 2.5% |
| Luton | 45.7% | 2.9% |
| Manchester | 45.4% | 2.7% |
| Pendle | 44.7% | 5.4% |
| Peterborough | 43.8% | 2.8% |

| Levels of child poverty in each of the ten Greater Manchester boroughs and change on the previous year: | | |
|---|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Local authority | Per cent in poverty AHC | Change in past year |
| Manchester | 45.4% | 2.7% |
| Oldham | 40.4% | 0.1% |
| Rochdale | 40.1% | -0.1% |
| Salford | 39.5% | 2.4% |
| Bolton | 36.8% | -0.8% |
| Tameside | 34.7% | 0.6% |
| Bury | 31.8% | 0.2% |
| Wigan | 30.3% | -0.9% |
| Stockport | 25.1% | -1.0% |
| Trafford | 25.1% | -1.6% |

| Highest and lowest ward level child poverty rates in each of the Greater Manchester boroughs. | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| | Highest | Per cent in poverty AHC | Lowest | Per cent in poverty AHC |
| Bolton | Great Lever | 55% | Bromley Cross | 18.50% |
| Bury | Sedgley | 50.40% | Tottington | 19.20% |
| Manchester | Longsight | 59.50% | Chorlton | 23.60% |
| Oldham | Werneth | 66.20% | Saddleworth North | 19.10% |
| Rochdale | Central Rochdale | 57.40% | Norden | 23.20% |
| Salford | Ordsall | 59.30% | Worsley | 13.40% |
| Stockport | Brinnington and Central | 42.80% | Bramhall South | 14.30% |
| Tameside | St Peter's | 52% | Denton West | 23.10% |
| Trafford | Clifford | 48.20% | Timperley | 15.20% |
| Wigan | Imce | 42.9% | Winstanley | 15.4% |

*Please note the figures we have shown here are for poverty after housing costs (AHC) are taken into account.

End Child Poverty have also published before housing costs (BHC) figures. The data for each Ward, Constituency and Local Authority is available in full at <http://www.endchildpoverty.org.uk/poverty-in-your-area-2019/>

Survey to help shape future work of the Greater Manchester Food Poverty Alliance



We are working to bring in funding to employ a new coordinator for the GM Food Poverty Alliance, who will drive forward implementation of the [Food Poverty Action Plan](#) (launched on March 4th, 2019).

Before they begin, we are planning how best to coordinate the Alliance over the next 3 years. We therefore want to understand the impact so far, and to know how the Alliance can support members in achieving our shared ambition of reducing and preventing food poverty.

If you have been involved in the Food Poverty Alliance so far, we would like to know:

- Your priorities for the Alliance and the Action Plan
- What you/your organisation will be able to contribute to the Alliance
- What help and support you would like from the Alliance.

Please could you [complete this short on-line survey](#) - it should take no more than 10 to 15 minutes. Your answers will be extremely helpful in making sure that together we do all we can to turn the Action Plan into Action.

The survey will be open until May 30th, 2019. Survey responses will be used to inform the work of the Alliance and will be kept confidential. We may publish a summary of the survey results, but no individual or organisation will be identifiable (unless you provide a quote in the final question, in which case this may appear in reports). Wherever applicable, please answer the survey on behalf of your organisation, rather than as an individual.

Recruiting a new Campaign Coordinator

We are recruiting a new Greater Manchester Living Wage Campaign coordinator. Please share [this vacancy](#) with anyone who you think might be interested.



This is a crucial time for the campaign. GMPA's work in other areas, such as on food poverty, is opening new doors to talk about a raft of anti-poverty measures with major local employers, including the Real Living Wage, so the new role will be more integrated into our wider anti-poverty work than ever before. There is scope to build up the campaign group and empower activists to go out and advocate for the Real Living Wage in their own places and organisations. We also want to start planning events and actions for an inspiring and impactful Living Wage Week.

The role is 2 days/week for the next six months, with a possible extension, or even development into a full-time role if the project is broadened out to focus on a wider range of good employment issues, and we want the Coordinator to work with us to explore those possibilities.

The deadline for applications is 10am on Friday May 24th, 2019, and interviews will take place on Monday June 3rd and the morning of Tuesday June 4th.

Please read the [job description, download the application form](#), consider applying, and share this exciting opportunity through your networks.

Forthcoming events

How to make a just food future: alternative foodways for a changing world

July 8th - 10th, 2019 at the University of Sheffield

Sponsored by the Sheffield Food Futures Research Centre and the RGS-IBG Food Geographies Working Group, this conference brings together academics, practitioners, food thinkers and policy makers to consider contemporary approaches to addressing current food issues. Political and economic uncertainty look set to continue beyond 2019 with Brexit, austerity, trade wars and geopolitical instability having global repercussions. Combined with macro-scale anxieties around food safety, public health, global environmental change and the sustainability of food production, discussions around food futures and alternatives for food systems remain pertinent and timely. We are very pleased to announce Professor Julian Agyeman, from Tufts University as our keynote speaker, plus interventions from Gary Stott (Incredible Edible) and Barbara Benish, internationally recognised artist, environmental campaigner and farmer, and Tom Skinner, Dr Charlie Spring and Dr Rebecca St. Clair from Greater Manchester, with more to be announced soon.

Conference registration is **FREE** but places are limited to 100 delegates. If you would like attend please register via our [Eventbrite](#) page.

More forthcoming events

Launch of the Decent Work and Productivity Research Centre, MMU

Friday May 17th, 2019 from 11.30am at MMU Business School, Lecture Theatre G.33, All Saints Campus, Oxford Road, Manchester M15 6BH

You are invited to the launch of the Decent Work and Productivity Research Centre - a new Centre of Research and Knowledge in the field of employment - with guest keynotes from Mayor Andy Burnham and Professor Damian Grimshaw (International Labour Organisation). This event will be an opportunity to debate contemporary challenges in the world of work, find out about their research, and help shape their future research agenda. [More information and to book](#)

Salford VCSE Conference “Radical Roots to Practical Action”

Thursday May 23rd, 2019 from 9am - 4.30pm at AJ Bell Stadium, Stadium Way, Eccles M30 7WH

Speakers include: Kathy Evans, CEO, Children England; Nathan Yeowell, Head of Policy, NPC; Peter Holbrook, CEO, SocialEnterprise UK

When you book you will need to select one workshop from the morning and one from the afternoon session. There will also be an interactive 'social showcase' running at the conference. [More information and to book](#)



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](#)

Low pay, earnings mobility and policy

Wednesday July 3rd, 2019 from 4pm at MMU Business School, Room 3.08 All Saints Campus, Oxford Road, Manchester M15 6BH

Drawing on recently funded research Paul will discuss patterns of low pay and wage progression in the UK, and examine the factors influencing these. How patterns of mobility differ across low-paid sectors, and the relationship between low pay and in-work poverty will also be discussed. He will then consider the opportunities and constraints around developing policy and practice to support better in-work progression, as well as relating this to wider concerns about 'good work'. This free event is part of the Centre for Decent Work and Productivity's seminar series, Manchester Metropolitan University. [More information and book](#)

GMPA Training courses 2019

Understanding Poverty Data

Thursday June 5th

A course is for suitable for researcher, third, public and private sector 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. Participants will develop 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. [Book here](#)

There will also be other courses on Exploring the Poverty Premium on Wednesday September 11th and Risk of poverty among different groups on Wednesday November 6th. Further information and booking forms are available on our [website](#)

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

At Greater Manchester Poverty Action we are proud of the work that we do, and we regularly receive positive feedback from organisations and individuals. We would like to develop a deeper understanding of the impact of our work and how useful it is to different organisations. As such, we are asking people who receive our fortnightly newsletter to complete the following survey by May 31st. 2019:

[GMPA Survey May 2019](#)

Thank you

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.