

Tameside Poverty Truth Commission – Launch Event

By Hannah Lamberth, Tameside PTC Facilitator

We are delighted to announce that tickets for the launch event of the Tameside Poverty Truth Commission are now available.

Poverty Truth Commissions are a unique and powerful way of developing new insights and initiatives to tackle poverty, taking place in over 15

towns and cities across the UK. They are built on a principle of participatory decision-making to tackle poverty, in which people with lived experience of poverty build relationships with those in positions of influence. Working together over an extended period of time, they co-create meaningful and longer-term solutions and change. The key principle behind Poverty Truth Commissions is that decisions about poverty must involve people who directly face poverty.

The Tameside Poverty Truth Commission

With the support of a start-up group consisting of a variety of Tameside organisations, charities and businesses, GMPA has established the Tameside Poverty Truth Commission. Over recent months Grassroots commissioners, people with direct experiences of poverty, have been meeting together to explore what it means to live in poverty in Tameside. Civic and business leaders have been recruited to join the commission after the launch event. You can read more about the Tameside Poverty Truth Commission [here](#).

This launch event is an opportunity for anyone working within, or with an interest in tackling poverty within Tameside, to hear these stories about the impact of poverty from people who we seek to serve. The event will be thought-provoking and challenging and demonstrate that while there are many incredible initiatives to tackle poverty in Tameside, there is still much to be done.

Once the launch event has been completed, the grassroots commissioners and civic and business leaders will start meeting regularly to build relationships with each other and identify issues that they would like to address collectively. After 12-18 months we will draw the project to a close and hold a closing event to share what we have achieved together.

Your invitation to the Launch event

The event will take place on Tuesday November 9th 2021 from 11.00am - 1.30pm and will be held at the 4C Community Centre in Ashton-under-Lyne, OL7 9AN.

The link below provides more information about the event, as well as the booking form. Places are extremely limited so please book now to avoid disappointment.

[Please book your FREE place here](#)



Hannah Lamberth
Administrator and Events Organiser - Tameside Poverty Truth Commission
Greater Manchester Poverty Action

Greater Manchester Real Living Wage Campaign Update



The work to make Greater Manchester a Real Living Wage City Region has continued through the summer and is set to culminate in the announcement of the three year Action Plan in Living Wage Week, November 2021. The Greater Manchester Real Living Wage Campaign has continued to work with partners on the City Region's Steering Group and attended the latest meeting on September 17th. In addition to this we are working with GM Citizens to develop the strategy for the Campaign Sub Group of the Action Plan and will chair the first meeting of the Sub Group on September 23rd, 2021.

In our mission to bring you positive news about the Living Wage in GM, firstly we are delighted to welcome the recent appointment of Sophie Little as the Living Wage Foundation Programme Manager in the North West. Sophie joined the Living Wage Foundation in August 2021 and will be working on promoting the Living Wage across the region. She has worked for a range of charities including Teach First, The Challenge and The Social Mobility Foundation. She is passionate about championing the Real Living Wage and looks forward to expanding the existing work in the region. We look forward to working with her in the coming months.

Secondly, we are very pleased that progress was made on Monday September 13th on the work to make Manchester a Living Wage City, when Manchester City Council hosted a meeting of Manchester's Anchor Institutions Network. Some of the biggest employers in the city met to launch the bid to become a Living Wage City. With [over 130 Manchester-based employers already Real Living Wage accredited employers](#) across a number of sectors, work is underway to accelerate the movement for all Manchester residents to benefit from the opportunity of access to good jobs.

The Deputy Leader of Manchester City Council, Councillor Bev Craig told us : "We are committed to making Manchester a fairer city where everyone benefits from its growth. For many people the best route out of poverty is still good quality employment. We know that paying the Real Living Wage isn't just good for people, but good for business too. If any employers are thinking about joining, we would love to welcome them on board."

We have also been busy working with partners to prepare for [Living Wage Week, November 15th - 21st 2021](#). More details of the programme in GM will appear in the newsletter nearer the time. In the meantime if you are organising, or would like to organise an event in Living Wage Week please get in touch to see how we can help.

[John Hacking](#),

Greater Manchester Living Wage Campaign Co-ordinator
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The Greater Manchester Living Wage Campaign is a Greater Manchester Poverty Action programme.

Afghan Refugee response update

*** Some of the Greater Manchester drop off points for donations of items are now open again, check the map [here](#). You can also find out what is most needed [here](#). ***

In light of the humanitarian and political crisis unfolding in Afghanistan, voluntary organisations, community groups, and faith organisations in Greater Manchester are delivering vital help. 10GM is working with the VCSE sector to provide direct support to refugees and those with no recourse to public funds. Over the coming weeks, they will be working with colleagues across the sector to build a collaborative, supportive response for people arriving in the region.

In the meantime, there are a number of practical ways you can help and support those being evacuated. Please see the details posted on the Macc website [here](#).



Barnardo's are looking to recruit a Children's Service Manager who has experience of managing both grant funded and commissioned work, with proven experience of managing therapeutic delivery. The Children's Service Manager will work across two localities, North and Central Manchester: working with Social Worker Teams across both localities, as well as effectively working and managing the partnership.

This is a full time permanent post. Closing date September 29th, 2021. [More information](#)

Addressing digital exclusion

By Erica Roscoe, Senior Research Fellow, IPPR North



Digital access is essential to our everyday lives. But our recent research into digital exclusion highlighted the barriers that many face to accessing online resources, and the challenges they encounter as a result.

Our research, which focussed on the North East but had nationally relevant findings and recommendations, found that the reasons for digital exclusion are complex and varied, and that digital exclusion often exists on a sliding scale. In our work we characterised digital exclusion as a lack of connectivity, access to appropriate devices, lack of skills and confidence and a lack of online accessibility. This broad definition encompasses individuals who, for example, may be able to use their smartphone to check social media but not have the device or appropriate skills to complete routine tasks through a laptop or desktop computer.



Our work further found that groups often disproportionately affected by digital exclusion are those who are already marginalised, including groups such as disabled people, asylum seekers, people living in rural locations and people experiencing poverty and for many, digital exclusion exacerbates this broader marginalisation. For many living in poverty, digital exclusion is often a matter of affordability; both of devices and of connection. But things are compounded by the fact that being digitally excluded often reduces access to things like job opportunities and precludes you from accessing the full marketplace when needing to make purchases, meaning it's not possible to find the cheapest deal.

While work has been done throughout the pandemic to combat digital exclusion, we argue that a more coordinated, long-term approach now needs to be adopted to support anyone at risk of digital exclusion. Given the broad range of reasons that someone might experience digital exclusion, we can't rely on a one size fits all approach to resolving the issue, but need to support people in a range of scenarios. Key recommendations include the need for a minimum standard of access available to all, as well as coordinated signposting and a safety net for anyone identified as being at risk of digital exclusion through access to other public services. We suggest that support should be offered in a range of environments, from one-stop physical digital support hubs, to ongoing support from employers and outreach opportunities to communities most at risk. We also put forward that digital inclusion must be at the heart of other strategies focussed on poverty reduction. Without this, those living in poverty who are facing digital exclusion will continue to face restrictions in access to things like job opportunities, skills development and access to the marketplace.

Eradicating digital exclusion won't happen overnight and it can't be done without a joined-up approach. We call on government at the national, regional and local level, alongside VCSE organisations and the private sector to prioritise this agenda and affect change.

To read our report in full click [here](#).

Trafford Poverty Truth Commission Information Session

On Friday October 8th, 2021 from 10am at Stretford Public Hall

You are invited to an information session about the Trafford Poverty Truth Commission which will include:

- An introduction to the Poverty Truth Commission (PTC) process and what it can achieve;
- Information about the Trafford PTC and how it will inform Trafford Council's ongoing work to tackle poverty;
- Information about how you and your organisation can support and get involved in this important project.

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If you would like to register your interest in attending the session please send an [email](#) to Claire Vibert at the Trafford Poverty Truth Team.

Greater Manchester Housing Providers Newsletter Focussing on Food

Motiv8 is a Greater Manchester programme to help unemployed people aged 25 and over.

Hazel Clarke, Head of **Jigsaw** Support, the lead housing provider for Motiv8, said: "Food donations make a huge difference to some of our clients. We are there to provide support to help them get back on track - but sometimes this involves tackling the most basic of human needs that are a barrier to people being able to progress, such as food and housing. These can be a big part of the tailored support we provide to help our participants move forward with their lives during their Motiv8 journey."

Recent evaluation found that most of Motiv8s participants are most focussed on receiving support for barriers they are facing in day-to-day life such as housing or mental health needs and with confidence and motivation. This helps them to 'move on'. Without this, opportunities around education, training or employment can seem unattainable, or unreachable. Further information about Motiv8 can be found [here](#).

Urban Outreach led a project to make and distribute packed lunches over the summer holidays. An army of local volunteers helped and the final total this year was a huge 67,050 lunches. Bolton Council, **Bolton at Home**, Seddon and Warburtons provided transport to get the lunches out to the 22 distribution sites across the borough.

GMPA's food security referral tool pilot is profiled in the newsletter as well, which helps connect people using food banks to first identify suitable income maximisation advice has been set up. The **Jigsaw Homes** JET team and Action Together Tameside team have been supporting the development and use of the tool.

You can [find out more about the project on GMPA's website](#).

In partnership with **Regenda Homes** and **Onward Housing**, Family Action Food Clubs have been running a weekly food pantry out of St Chad's Centre in Hollinwood, Oldham every Thursday for the local community since April of this year.

In line with **Southway Housing Trust's** commitment to going green, external funding allowed them to purchase two new electric refrigerated vans for their 'Quids In' food clubs. This proved invaluable to facilitate the move during Covid to delivering food parcels to member's homes

Last year Southway joined two fuel voucher schemes with other NW housing providers, one coordinated by **One Manchester** and one by the **Housing Association's Charitable Trust**. The schemes helped prepayment customers affected by Covid who were struggling to afford energy top ups. £6,000 worth of vouchers each worth £28 or £49 were given out depending on need and size of household.

The system of purchasing vouchers online and issuing a code by text to recipients who then redeem them at PayPoint outlets, worked particularly well at a time when everyone was reliant on contacting customers remotely. Southway's Advice Services Team is now using the same system, working with Charis Grants, to supply fuel and cash vouchers to Southway tenants in hardship who have no income. The system is working very well, providing emergency help speedily to many vulnerable tenants.

The Active Appetites project from **Trafford Housing Trust** is an on-going programme supporting families with food and activities during the school holidays. Launched in 2019, it provides much-needed lunches, hot meals, food hampers and vouchers throughout the year, and has so far awarded grants in excess of £220,000 to local community groups across nearly 50 different projects.

Larry Gold, CEO of Trafford Housing Trust, said: "This pandemic has resulted in an incredibly challenging 18 months for all of us, and particularly for those families struggling with children that have been regularly in and out of school. With the new term under way it's vital that we continue to help families to access food and by providing grants and teaming up with great schools and organisations we hope to make this school year a little easier."

The full GMHP newsletter is available [here](#)



NICs increase ‘adds insult to injury’ for families facing devastating cut to Universal Credit

New JRF analysis estimates that around 2 million families on low incomes who receive Universal Credit (UC) or Working Tax Credit (WTC) will pay on average around an extra £100 per year in National Insurance contributions under the Government’s proposed changes.



Peter Matejic, Deputy Director of Evidence & Impact at JRF said: “With inflation rising, the cost of living going up and an energy price rise coming in October, many struggling families are wondering how on earth they will be expected to make ends meet from next month. Any MP who is concerned about families on low incomes must urge the Prime Minister and Chancellor to reverse this damaging cut to Universal Credit, which will have an immediate and devastating impact on their constituents’ living standards in just a few weeks time.”

Only three weeks ago 100 organisations across the UK, including GMPA, joined together in [an open letter to the Prime Minister](#) urging the Government not to go ahead with the planned £20-a-week cut to UC and WTC Credit.

JRF’s [latest analysis](#) shows the number and proportion of families who will be impacted by the cut to UC and WTC in each UK parliamentary constituency. See below the figures for the GM constituencies:

Constituency name	Families in receipt of UC or WTC	Families with children in receipt of UC or WTC	Families without children in receipt of UC or WTC	Percentage of families in receipt of UC or WTC
Altrincham and Sale West	5,000	2,620	2,380	12%
Ashton-under-Lyne	12,120	6,840	5,280	31%
Bolton North East	12,420	7,020	5,400	30%
Bolton South East	15,180	9,230	5,950	35%
Bolton West	8,050	4,590	3,460	20%
Bury North	8,720	4,960	3,760	24%
Bury South	9,410	5,260	4,150	23%
Cheadle	4,430	2,380	2,050	13%
Denton and Reddish	8,730	4,770	3,960	23%
Hazel Grove	4,890	2,630	2,260	16%
Heywood and Middleton	12,190	6,910	5,280	27%
Leigh	9,790	5,220	4,570	21%
Makerfield	7,750	4,250	3,500	19%
Manchester Central	20,250	9,950	10,300	24%
Manchester, Gorton	18,850	10,140	8,710	39%
Manchester, Withington	8,850	3,960	4,890	19%
Oldham East and Saddleworth	14,090	8,180	5,910	33%
Oldham West and Royton	16,600	9,770	6,830	40%
Rochdale	15,780	9,370	6,410	35%
Salford and Eccles	13,330	6,280	7,050	22%
Stalybridge and Hyde	10,210	5,710	4,500	25%
Stockport	9,270	4,910	4,360	22%
Stretford and Urmston	9,970	5,150	4,820	24%
Tatton	4,460	2,330	2,130	13%
Wigan	10,070	5,250	4,820	23%
Worsley and Eccles South	11,530	6,570	4,960	26%
Wythenshawe and Sale East	13,270	7,460	5,810	27%

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](#).

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.