

Help grow and increase the impact of our work by becoming a Principal Partner or donating to GMPA

GMPA's Principal Partner scheme provides core funding to the organisation. The scheme was set up in response to organisations who have expressed an interest in supporting the work of GMPA at an enhanced level and contributing to the sustainability of the organisation. Principal Partners share our vision and acknowledge the important role GMPA has to play in strengthening efforts to tackle poverty across the city region. If this is something your organisation is interested in being part of, please [get in touch](#).

A huge thank you to all those organisations that have already confirmed their membership of the scheme in 2022 (you can see their logos below and find a full list of Principal Partners [here](#)).

If you'd like to have a conversation with us about your organisation becoming a Principal Partner please contact [Lucy Bird](#).

For every £1 invested in GMPA by our Principal Partners, we bring in an additional £6.10 of funding and in-kind contributions to support our work.



As an organisation, we are now accepting donations. Individuals and organisations can now make a one-off donation or set up a monthly direct debit. To find out more, click [here](#). Your voluntary contribution will support us to continue and grow our work.

Why do Principal Partners support GMPA?

"Regenda has always worked to create routes out of poverty and we know we can do that more effectively as part of a partnership. As a Principal Partner of GMPA, we will have our ability to support people and communities enhanced. With support, people are more able to tackle the challenges they face and achieve better access to opportunities for themselves and their families." *Bill Lovat, Regional Director, Regenda Homes.*

"GMPA provide such valuable leadership as we work together to prevent and tackle poverty in Greater Manchester. It's a privilege to strengthen our support and collaboration with GMPA, and alongside our sister charity Caritas Salford, in becoming a Principal Partner and we'd urge other leaders across all sectors to join us." *Ben Gilchrist, CEO, Caritas Diocese of Shrewsbury.*

To read more quotes from our Principal Partners click [here](#).

Farewell to Tom and Emily

This month we say goodbye to two valued members of the GMPA team.



Tom Skinner, who has been integral to the development of GMPA since we were founded, is moving on to take up a new role at the Fair Tax Foundation. Tom is a very familiar face to people in our network and we know that, like us, you'll be sorry to see Tom leave.

Tom has worked for GMPA since 2016, helping to establish the organisation. He has made a particularly strong contribution to our programme work, first as a Director and then as Chief Operating Officer.

Over the last year or so, Tom has been managing the delivery of the Greater Manchester Living Wage Campaign, Money Advice Referral Tool project (see the following page for a job opportunity relating to this work) and the Tameside Poverty Truth Commission. He will be staying on as board member of GMPA, so the organisation will continue to benefit from his advice and support.

We are also saying goodbye to Emily Wilbourn. Emily has been in the Policy Office role since May last year. She has very effectively taken forward our policy and research work by establishing the Local Authority Officers Poverty Forum, focussing on local welfare assistance schemes and forging strong links with the Socio-economic Duty Campaign Coalition (of which GMPA is a part).



We wish Tom and Emily all the best with the future.

Greater Manchester Real Living Wage Campaign Update



We are continuing our work with other partners in Greater Manchester to deliver the City Region Real Living Wage Action Plan. At the latest Action Plan meeting, it was great to hear of the good progress being made in increasing the number of Real Living Wage Accredited Employers across the city region.

In order to continue the campaign for the Real Living Wage here in GM, GMLWC will be holding a Campaign Meeting for supporters of the GMLWC and Real Living Wage activists on February 17th at 2pm. The meeting will be online and if you are on our database you will receive joining details in the next few days. For those not on our database, you can sign up to updates by emailing: john@gmpovertyaction.org

We are always delighted to work with employers to support them on their journey to become Real Living Wage Accredited Employers. Recently we have been working with North West charity [The Fed](#). The Fed will raise the salaries of its lowest paid staff in line with the Real Living Wage benefiting over 230 employees. Their Chief Executive, Mark Cunningham, told us;

"Our Board's decision to introduce the Real Living Wage demonstrates our commitment to improving the quality of life of our employees and the people we care for. This investment in our workforce reflects our belief that people working in social care are amazing all the time, not just during a pandemic.

"A social care worker's starting pay for a 39-hour week will increase by £1,600 to £20,077 per year.

"By becoming a Real Living Wage employer, we hope to see our staff recruitment and retention improve. Attracting and keeping staff is high on our agenda. We need to challenge the perception that care work is a last resort. We need more people to view it as a first choice by educating them to see that there are many opportunities for career progression, decent pay and huge satisfaction from the work go."



We are delighted to be part of their journey and would urge any employers wanting to take the same step to contact us.

Best Wishes and Stay Safe.

Greater Manchester Living Wage Campaign Co-ordinator [John Hacking](#)

Twitter: [@GMLivingWage](#) Facebook: [facebook.com/gmlivingwage](https://www.facebook.com/gmlivingwage)

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

Another new job opportunity at GMPA: Programme Officer – Money Advice Referral Tools

We are recruiting to another new role.

GMPA has piloted the co-production of [Money Advice Referral Tools](#) in Tameside, launched May 2021, and Oldham, launched January 2022. The tools support and foster advice-first approaches by describing the places that people can go for advice and other income maximisation support. The aim is to help people get all the money that they are entitled to, and to reduce the need for referrals to food banks, by increasing referrals to other kinds of support.

We are delighted to have secured funding to roll the programme out to four more boroughs of Greater Manchester, and have invited expressions of interest from each borough. We are now recruiting a Programme Officer to help us to deliver this.

Please read and share the [job description and person specification, and information about how to apply](#), through your networks. The deadline for applications is 12pm on Monday February 21st, 2022.

As with all our roles, we particularly welcome applications from people from diverse backgrounds and from people with lived experience of poverty.

If you would like to discuss the role, please contact our CEO [Graham Whitham](#).

Manchester Credit Union urges families to start saving now for Christmas 2022

The community savings and lending organisation is supporting hundreds of its members who are finding themselves in financial difficulty this January after an expensive Christmas. Now they want to help break this cycle of debt for others this coming year by relaunching their Christmas Saver scheme.

Christine Moore, chief executive of Manchester Credit Union, said: "We are relaunching the Christmas Saver Account in response to the financial hardship many members are facing due to an expensive Christmas, exacerbated by rising living costs that are set to continue in 2022.

"We all tend to spend more at Christmas, but the reality is that many people are feeling the pressure to spend more than they can afford, causing problems down the line. Now is the time to prepare for Christmas 2022: the more members save, the more money they have available for their Christmas shopping - whilst avoiding a financial hangover in January."

The Savings Account enables members to save monthly, fortnightly, or weekly and members can access their funds in November, ready to cover the costs of the festive season.

The credit union has also launched a Back On Track loan, to support members who overspent at Christmas and want to get those debts paid off in 12 months.

Manchester Credit Union is a non-profit cooperative that is owned by its 30,000 members. It has been in business for over 30 years providing an ethical savings alternative to high street banks, as well as affordable loans for those who need them.



Christine Moore



For more information about Manchester Credit Union's savings and loans products, visit their website [here](#).

Connect with the work of the GM VCSE Leadership Group

The GM VCSE Leadership Group is a coalition of 20 leaders - including GMPA's Graham Whitham - working to promote the role and involvement of the VCSE sector in Greater Manchester. Work covers areas such as mental health, homelessness, commissioning, health, equalities, inclusive economy and workforce development. The group are also working alongside GM Combined Authority and GM Health and Social Care Partnership on behalf of the VCSE sector to deliver the VCSE Accord.

To find out more about the Leadership Group members and current areas of work, please [visit the Leadership Group website](#).

**GREATER MANCHESTER
VCSE LEADERSHIP GROUP**
the sector's voice in Devolution

Poverty and Family Adversity – The Impact on Adolescent Health

By Simon Watts, Public Health Registrar, Greater Manchester

A study published in the Lancet in November 2021 presented important findings for action at a local, regional and national level. It is well established that poverty has negative health implications for children. However, this study sought to understand how poverty interacted and clustered with other health risk factors, potentially exacerbating the impact of poverty on children's health issues even further.

Data from the already-established Millennium Cohort Study was used to analyse health outcomes for a cohort of 11,564 families who had children born between September 2000 and January 2002. The children were followed up in terms of their health and living situation until their 14th birthday.

During the 14 years of follow up, questions were asked about levels of poverty in the family and about three indicators of family adversity: poor parental mental health, domestic violence/abuse and frequency of parental alcohol use. Physical and mental health outcomes for the children were measured at age 14 using well established methods. Health outcomes of interest were socioemotional behavioural problems, cognitive disability, obesity, and/or experimentation with alcohol and drugs.

More than half of the children in the study experienced one or more of the exposures to poverty. These negative exposures were associated with worse child physical, mental, cognitive and behavioural outcomes compared to those children with no exposure.

Over 40% of children were exposed to poverty and/or parental mental health problems throughout childhood. The most common exposure was poverty (34.6%) which made a child twice as likely to experience the poor health outcomes described above (except for alcohol and drug experimentation). Similarly, children who were exposed to poor parental mental health were twice as likely to experience those same poor health outcomes. The 11.1% of children who were exposed to both poor parental mental health and poverty were more than six times as likely to develop mental health problems themselves, and twice as likely to become obese or experience cognitive disability.

The paper touches on why poverty and mental health issues may both exist for some families. Some of the linkages between the two may be obvious, such as the stress of managing household finances or the depression that may be associated with losing one's job and income. However, the paper also references that poor mental health can lead to poverty, through loss of employment for example. This is supported by other research findings which show that those with mental health illness are less likely to be employed, even more so with more severe illness.

This study provides a stark reminder of the strong link between poverty and poor health outcomes and is particularly harrowing given these poor outcomes are being evidenced in children. While there are a range of factors that impact health, the strength of the relationship between poverty and child health, and parental mental health and child health, should not be ignored.

Interventions to address poverty will have a positive health impact, and while they could cost the system money to deliver in the short term, the benefits will be seen through reduced stress on the health and social care system in the long run. Given the high proportion of children exposed to poverty and the poor health outcomes associated with this later in their life, policy makers must focus on interventions that seek to prevent and reduce poverty when aiming to improve population health.

The authors of the study highlight the critical importance of not seeing child's health issues in isolation. To be successful, interventions to address children's socioemotional behavioural problems, cognitive disability, obesity or alcohol/drug use need to consider more broadly the socioeconomic conditions of the family and other structural factors which may be causing the ill health, and how these wider issues can be addressed. Interventions that do this will be more effective than those that just focus on one risk or one problem.

The fact that health outcomes are much worse when poverty and parental mental health issues are both at play, supports a holistic approach being taken which ensures families are supported when both issues are present. This could be money management support teams offering brief intervention and signposting around mental health, or primary care practitioners ensuring that residents with mental health issues are offered income maximisation support, housing advice or other social issues that may be interacting with their poor mental health.



Simon Watts

To read the article in full click [here](#).

All under one roof

The Importance of Shared Spaces and Partnership Working to Support People Experiencing Multiple Disadvantage

A new publication has been produced by Inspiring Change Manchester (ICM) to explore partnership working at ICM's hub on Swan street. The hub was co-designed using psychologically informed approaches to make sure it supported people facing multiple disadvantage in the best possible way. The publication looks at how the hub was created, managed and the impact it has had on our members since it was first established. It also includes poetry and artwork from our members which express how they feel about the space. The full report can be found [here](#).

Also from Inspiring Change:

Inspiring Change Manchester is an 8-year National Lottery Community Funded learning programme to support people experiencing multiple disadvantage and work to achieve real, positive change for people disadvantaged by or excluded from the system. They will be hosting a final event to share our key learnings from the programme.

The event will be made up of plenary's including presentations from expert leads, sharing of key publications, research launches followed by interactive workshops and Q&A. It is taking place on March 1st, 2022, from 10am - 4.30pm. It is due to be an in-person event and the venue is to be confirmed.

A full agenda will be circulated nearer the time.
Sign up for your free ticket [here](#).



Operations Supervisors (two roles)

Operations Supervisors are a key part of the FareShare Greater Manchester operations team. This role splits its key responsibilities between the Food Allocations and Warehouse teams to effectively redistribute surplus food to the Community Food Members (CFMs) and duties include: receiving goods-in, speaking with CFMs to confirm orders, supervising Warehouse staff and volunteers, picking and packing orders, keeping compliance and other related paperwork up to date and accurate, ensuring relevant Food Safety and Health & Safety standards are met at all times. For more information and to apply (closing date February 14th, 2022), click [here](#).

VCSE organisations: Alternative venue discussion Group. Zoom meeting: February 15th, 2022 at 2pm



Macc are hosting the next discussion space for VCSE organisations to meet and discuss what organisations currently need from a venue as this may have changed due to the impact of Covid-19. This group aims to provide a space for VCSE organisations to discuss their current venue needs, what challenges there may be and what offers from other organisations are available. If you or a colleague would like to attend, please contact [Anna](#) for further details.

Together Against Debt

Tuesday February 22nd, 2022 from 7 - 8.30pm at The GM Law Centre, Stockport Road, Levenshulme M12 4QE

This is the Manchester launch of a nationwide project uniting people in debt to have a political voice. People are invited to come together to talk about how debt has affected their lives and what they'd like to see changed. By doing this we believe we can put pressure on the debt collectors, business and politicians that make decisions about how people are treated. Register [here](#) to attend

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](#).

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.