



Cost-of-living Crisis Conference

20th October 2022

Cost-of-Living Crisis Conference – October 20th – open for bookings

On Thursday October 20th GMPA is holding a [one-day conference](#) focussing on local and practical monetary responses to the Cost-of-Living crisis.

With everyday living costs soaring, policymakers and practitioners from across the public, VCFSE and private sectors will come together to learn about ways in which local stakeholders can respond to the financial pressures facing a growing number of households.

We have designed a packed programme, full of breakout sessions with speakers from across the UK. We will update the [programme](#) as more details are confirmed. Thank you to everyone who has offered to speak at the event.

Attendance at the conference costs £30 per person. This includes refreshments and lunch on the day. Bookings can be made [here](#). In order to keep administrative costs as low as possible we are asking everyone to pay at the time of booking.

The conference is taking place in central Manchester, with registration from 9.15am.



Cost-of-living Conference

20th October 2022



The event will include speakers from Child Poverty Action Group, The Living Wage Foundation, Trafford Poverty Truth Commission, Fair For You and Citizens Advice.

Breakout sessions will include: *Cash first in practice, Maximising the impact of local welfare provision, Delivering benefits advice through existing services, Understanding unclaimed benefits, The importance of local anti-poverty strategies, Promoting the Real Living Wage, Avoiding high interest debt and promoting savings, Poverty Proofing,*

Reducing gambling harm, and A cash first and advice first approach to referrals and signposting.

We are grateful to these organisations sponsoring the main conference and also pleased to have [session sponsors](#).



If you are an individual on a low income or payment presents a barrier to you attending the conference, please email us at contact@gmpovertyaction.org and we will do what can to facilitate your attendance at the conference.

Job Opportunities at GMPA

Finance and Administration Officer



What we are looking for: GMPA is seeking a Finance and Administration Officer to support the delivery of core finance and administration functions. We are looking for someone with book-keeping and administration experience, excellent attention to detail, with the ability to keep on top of organisational processes such as leave and expenses management. You will need to be able to work some of your hours in our office in Manchester City Centre. You will be a valuable part of our small but growing team, working with the Chief Executive Officers (CEO) to underpin our day to day finance and administrative functions.

Tasks include:

- Raising and processing invoices and recording financial transactions.
- Assisting the CEO with payroll and production of financial reports.
- Assisting with events and meetings and office administration.
- Maintaining accurate recording of GMPA's financial information, submitting annual accounts and creating quarterly account statements for board meetings.

Contract: Part-time 2.5 days per week (17 hours) for 18 months with a view to extending this and expanding the hours and nature of the role if funding allows. Salary: £28,000 to £31,000 pro rata, depending on experience.

How to apply: Application is by CV and covering letter. The deadline for applications is 5pm Wednesday October 5th, 2022. **Please note: Applications must directly address the items listed in the person specification section of the job description.** Interviews will take place mid to late October.

Further information, full particulars and a job description are available on our [website](#).

Senior Policy and Research Advisor

We are seeking a Senior Policy and Research Advisor to help drive forward our policy and research work, supporting us to achieve even greater impact. We want Greater Manchester to be at the forefront of efforts to prevent and reduce poverty. In this new position, the successful applicant will play a central role in enabling that to happen.

What we are looking for: The successful applicant will have a minimum 2 years' experience in a relevant policy and/or research role. They will have leadership experience and the ability to motivate a team and support GMPA to deliver against our strategic priorities. They will need a good grasp of policy relating to poverty and an understanding of the opportunities to address it locally. They will be able to plan and deliver on a range of policy and research outputs, inline with our three year strategy, and be adept at producing policy and research copy and communicating this to different audiences.

Permanent contract: 5 days a week (35 hours). Salary range: £37,000 to £41,500, depending on experience.

How to apply: To apply, please send a two page CV and covering letter (of no more than three pages) to [Chris](#) by 5pm on Tuesday October 25th, 2022. **Please note: Your covering letter must address how you meet the items set out in the person specification section of the job description. Applications that fail to do this will not be considered.**

Interviews will take place mid to late November.

For an informal conversation about the role please contact [Graham Whitham](#).

Further information, full particulars and a job description are available on our [website](#).

With both roles, we strongly encourage candidates of all different backgrounds and identities to apply. We welcome applications from people with lived experience of poverty. We are a flexible employer. If you are interested in either role and would like to discuss the possibility of flexible working hours or other aspects of our flexible approach to employment, please get in touch with our CEO [Graham](#).

Energy Price Guarantee – GMPA’s response.

Energy support benefits the better off and doesn’t go far enough to address the cost-of-living crisis facing low-income families or the UK’s longstanding poverty crisis.

The Government recently announced the [Energy Price Guarantee](#), to be introduced from October 1st. Under the guarantee, a typical household will pay up to an average of £2,500 a year for energy for the next two years. Support was also announced that will cap prices for businesses, charities, and the public sector organisations for 6-months.

We are fast approaching what is going to be the most difficult winter in decades. Whilst the Energy Price Guarantee is welcome, it is poorly targeted and will not prevent many low-income households from reaching crisis point.

“Whilst the Energy Price Guarantee is welcome, energy bills this winter will still be much higher for most households compared to twelve months ago.

The support announced by government doesn’t go far enough in addressing the cost-of-living crisis facing low, and increasingly, middle-income households. We urgently need additional targeted support that weights support towards those who need it most and ensures no one is plunged into financial hardship this winter”
Graham Whitham, CEO, GMPA

- The support package does not go far enough, low-income households will still be worse off than they are currently. The poorest households will be **£400 worse off and face energy bills of nearly £2,000.**
- It is not targeted to those most in need and gives support to households regardless of their income. This means it will benefit well-off households the most as they tend to be the highest users of energy. [IFS analysis](#) reveals among households in the lowest-income tenth of the population the average gain is expected to be about £1,600 over the coming year compared to nearly £2,000 for those in the highest-income tenth of the population. Over half of the £60 billion giveaway to households will go to the top half of the income distribution.
- It is estimated the policy could cost £130 billion over the next 18 months, more than the [two Covid furlough schemes](#) and it could eclipse the [bailouts for banks during the financial crisis](#). The package is likely to put enormous pressure on public finances. Hard-working families will be paying for this cost for decades, yet the support does little to help those who will be struggling the most. Low incomes households deserve a much more cost-efficient approach that is better designed.

Long-term solutions are needed

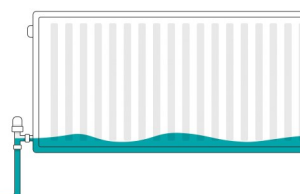
It is also deeply disappointing that the Government has not announced any further support to help those on the lowest incomes, as energy prices are not the only costs that are increasing. A new up-to-date Cost-of-Living support package must be introduced, as the first part of a strategic response to tackling poverty in the long term.

As part of a comprehensive strategy to deal with poverty, GMPA is calling for:

- *Widespread adoption of the Real Living Wage by employers.*
- *Increases in benefits and pensions in line with inflation.*
- *Scrapping of the Bedroom Tax and two-child limit on benefits.*
- *A reversal of the £20 per week cut to Universal Credit.*
- *A national benefit uptake campaign that ensures everyone can access the financial support they are entitled to.*

Energy bills
were one of the
top causes of debt
recorded by Citizens
Advice in **2021**

gmpa
QUALITY HANDOVER
POVERTY ACTION



School Uniform Costs and Support

Bridging the Gap (hosting Manchester South Central foodbank)

By Helena Canavan, More Than Food Project Manager, Bridging the Gap

Bridging
The  Gap



Bridging the Gap has over the summer provided school uniform support to families across Manchester and Trafford, in the form of school uniform grants and preloved pop-up shops. We have supported over 150 children and we are aware of other local initiatives providing similar support. Dependent on funding we hope to continue and expand our school uniform support.



Being unable to afford the mandated clothing should never exclude a child from school or negatively impact their educational experience. However, our work in this area has drawn attention to the unmanageable cost of school uniforms for parents across Greater Manchester and highlighted examples of children missing school, being reprimanded by school or facing social exclusion because they are unable to wear the correct uniform.

We are now looking to campaign both local government and local schools to ensure they are addressing the cost of school uniforms and providing support to parents around school uniform costs when needed. Our work comes at the same time as [new statutory guidance](#) from the Department of Education requires that schools ensure the cost of school uniforms is reasonable and secures the best value for money. We want to ensure all schools across Greater Manchester are aware of this update, are reasonably adjusting uniform costs and support to meet this requirement and are aware of and able to refer into any further uniform support for parents in their local area.

If you are interested in hearing more, would like to support this work or would like advice and support setting up local uniform support in your area please be in touch with [Helena](#) or [Michelle](#).

Greater Manchester Real Living Wage Campaign Update



Increase in Real Living Wage brought forward

To help millions deal with the cost-of-living crisis the [Living Wage Foundation](#) will be bringing their annual announcement of the Real Living Wage rates forward to September 22nd.

Usually announced in November as part of Living Wage Week, the Living Wage Foundation have this year decided to announce the new rates two months early to encourage employers to pay staff the increased rates as soon as possible. The rate is currently £9.90 in the UK and a London rate of £11.05 to reflect the higher cost of living in the capital.

Katherine Chapman, Director of the Living Wage Foundation, said: *"The real Living Wage is the UK's only wage rate independently calculated to meet the cost of living and, for workers struggling to keep their heads above water as prices surge, it's more important than ever before. That's why, with the rate of inflation fast approaching double figures, we are bringing forward the annual announcement of the 2022-23 Living Wage rates to late September."*



If you would like to join the campaign against low pay and for a Real Living Wage, please get in touch for more details.

More information about the local campaign can be found on GMPA's website [here](#).

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

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

The Greater Manchester Living Wage Campaign is run by Greater Manchester Poverty Action.

Get on Board with new bus fares in Greater Manchester

Simple and clear low bus fares became available in Greater Manchester from September 4th, 2022, making it easier to get around the city-region and supporting people with the increased cost-of-living.

This will mean:

- Adults will pay no more than £2 for a single bus journey, while a £5 1 day AnyBus Adult travelcard will cover unlimited bus travel within the 10 boroughs of Greater Manchester until 03.59am the following day.
- Children aged five to 16 will pay no more than £1 for any single bus journey. The one day AnyBus Junior travelcard will cover unlimited bus travel within Greater Manchester for just £2.50 a day.
- Children under the age of five will continue to travel on buses for free.

The new fares are being introduced 12 months ahead of the launch of the first franchised bus services in parts of Greater Manchester in September 2023, marking an important milestone in the delivery of the Bee Network.

GET ON BOARD FOR NEW LOW BUS FARES

From 4 September, a single bus journey in Greater Manchester will cost no more than:
£2 ADULT £1 CHILD

#GETONBOARD

tfgm.com/Get-On-Board

ANDY BURNHAM
MAYOR OF
GREATER
MANCHESTER

Policy and research - latest news

We are providing a summary of the latest news and policy developments to keep you up to date with what is happening across the UK. To find out more, click [here](#).

Here is a roundup of the latest developments

Fuel Poverty, Cold Homes, and Health Inequalities in the UK - [The review](#) led by IHE director Professor Michael Marmot, presents evidence on both the direct and indirect impacts of fuel poverty and cold homes on health. It is feared this winter that thousands of extra deaths could occur and the health and development of up to 10 million children could be affected directly or indirectly.

Cost of Living Crisis pushing worried parents to the edge - [Opinium research](#) surveyed 5,000 UK parents between August 18 and 22. It is believed to be the largest survey of UK parents since the start of the pandemic in January 2020. The polling found worries were highest among parents earning the least – with 82% of parents in households earning £20,000 or less worried about paying for gas and electricity and 76% worried about paying for food.

A living wage matters: the role of the living wage in closing ethnicity pay gaps - [New research](#) shows that minority ethnic workers in the UK are disproportionately paid below the real Living Wage: 33% of Bangladeshi workers, 29% of Pakistani workers, and 25% Black workers are earning below the Living Wage, compared to 20% of White British workers. The report highlights that paying the real Living Wage makes an important contribution to uplifting the wages of low-paid workers and that this significantly benefits minority ethnic workers, who are over-represented in low-paid roles.

The Real Living Wage plays a vital role in **addressing low pay and boosting household income.**



The inadequacy of Universal Credit - A [new report by TUC](#) has emphasised that the policy and design of Universal Credit are fundamentally flawed. They believe we need a replacement for Universal Credit. They identify issues with Universal Credit and also highlight potential solutions within each area. For example, claimants currently seeking financial support experience the inadequacy of social security payments. TUC are calling for the basic level of Universal Credit and legacy benefits, including jobseekers allowance and employment and support allowance, to be raised to at least 80% of the national living wage.

Manchester Homelessness Partnership Relaunch

On 10 October 10th, 2022 from 12 - 4pm at Central Methodist Hall, Oldham Street, Manchester, M1 1JQ

The Relaunch of the Manchester Homelessness Partnership will bring together cross-sector organisations to pledge their commitment to ending homelessness in Manchester. Six years after the original launch of the Partnership in 2016, the Relaunch will be an opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the achievements of the Partnership so far, as well as look to the future and plan the next steps of the Partnership.

The day will include keynote speakers from the partnership, including representatives from the city council and charitable organisations. Lunch will be provided from HMPasties, as well as the opportunity to meet with the chairs of the Action Groups, which work on specific issues around homelessness in Manchester, such as increasing employment opportunities, improving mental health provision, and supporting destitute people with no recourse to public funds. [Reserve your place here.](#)

Shelter - Job opportunity



Shelter are recruiting for a Senior Involvement Officer in Manchester. This role will coordinate the involvement of people with lived experience in our Greater Manchester and Merseyside Hubs, support national involvement and provide line management to involvement officers in other areas. Further details are available [here](#). Closing date Monday October 3rd, 2022.



Vacancy: Support Worker based in Bolton

18.5 hours per week. £19,650 – £20,043 (pro rata for part time) Sleep in payment £37.72 per night Closing date September 30th. 2022. Early application is encouraged.

More information, a job description and an application form [here](#).

Inclusive Economy Showcase

On September 28th, 2022 - 10:30 to 12:30 at Redbank House, 4 St. Chad's Street, Manchester, M8 8QA

At Macc's next Voluntary Sector Assembly event we will be hearing from people across our sector who are creating a more inclusive economy in Manchester. An inclusive economy means an economy that works for people in our city, where people are paid a fair wage, the environment is not destroyed in pursuit of profit, and every community has the chance to shape how our economy is run.

You will hear from a social enterprise supporting women change makers; a charity supporting local economies; community-led housing schemes and a group increasing the diversity of people involved in social enterprise

We will also be launching the Manchester Social Economy Network, a free network for all those in our city who are creating a fairer, more inclusive economy. So come along and find out what inspiring change is happening across Manchester and how you can join in. Register for the event and find out more information [here](#).



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.