

## GMPA launches new training offer



By Tom Waring, Business Development Executive at GMPA

We at Greater Manchester Poverty Action are very excited to share our new training offer with you.

### What is our new training offer?

Through our [new training offer](#), we can share our leading expertise in how best to prevent and reduce poverty. We have training for everyone who might benefit from our expertise, including: the public, private or voluntary sectors, or individuals.

We are launching [a number of new training courses](#):

- [Cost-of-living crisis: insights](#)
- [Tackling poverty with data](#)
- [Maximising household income](#)
- [Valuing lived experience.](#)

We charge for our training, however as a not-for-profit, all money raised is re-invested into the organisation to achieve our mission of ending poverty in Greater Manchester and beyond.

We also offered discounted prices for VCSE or smaller organisations, and we offer one free place on all of our sessions. This is to ensure that cost isn't a barrier to our training and as many people as possible can access it.

### Why are we launching this new offer?

We know training is a useful part of our work. We already develop and deliver bespoke training programmes for a range of different organisations—for example, we've delivered bespoke training for Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue, 42nd Street, and NHS Greater Manchester.

The feedback from these sessions has been very positive. Attendees have shared that we've supported them to better understand poverty and its effects on people and society, and how their organisations can play a role in tackling poverty. However, this new expanded training offer allows individuals to book on, meaning we can broaden the audience who accesses our training. This means we can share our leading expertise on the best ways to tackle poverty with more people and organisations.

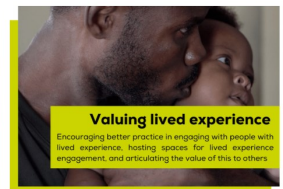
“ ‘The training exceeded my expectations. The content was easy to follow and felt very considered. It was refreshing to see lived experience shared...the team felt very invested in the subject. The topic is a difficult one and I felt that it was handled sensitively...really well thought out and well delivered session’

- GMPA training attendee from NHS Greater Manchester

Ensuring people have the most up-to-date information and guidance on how best to tackle poverty is essential for us to achieve our aim of ending poverty in Greater Manchester and beyond, and our new training offer will help us to achieve this. We hope to see you at an upcoming session! If you have any questions, please [get in touch](#).

### How to book

To book onto any of **our courses**, [click here](#). We can also work with organisations to design a **bespoke training programme** to meet your needs — [click here](#) to learn more.



# Living with dignity in 2023: the Minimum Income Standard for the UK



By Matt Padley, Co-Director of the Centre for Research and Social Policy at Loughborough University

**What do people need to live with dignity in the UK today? What kind of living standards do we as a society agree that everyone in the UK should be able to achieve? How can we make sure that people don't fall below this level?**

These questions are central to research we've been doing on Minimum Income Standards (MIS) since 2008. Funded by JRF, our work is rooted in many hours of discussions with groups of people from different backgrounds and different types of households, asking them to reach agreement about what people need as a minimum.

The starting point for these deliberations is a publicly-determined definition of minimum living standards:

*A minimum standard of living in the UK today includes, but is more than just, food, clothes and shelter. It is about having what you need in order to have the opportunities and choices necessary to participate in society.*

So this minimum is about meeting those core needs we all agree are necessary for survival. But as someone in an early group said, **'Food, clothes and shelter keep you alive, but that's not living'**. Living with dignity is about more than just surviving; it is about being able to take part in the world around you.

What is described and detailed in MIS sets out household needs and how much people need to spend to reach this level. We set out the income different households need to live in dignity, and regularly update our research to ensure MIS continues to capture and reflect shared views of minimum needs, shaped by shifts in social norms, technological change and by the broader political, economic and social climate.



## A Minimum Income Standard for the United Kingdom in 2023

by Matt Padley and Juliet Stone

This latest update sets out what households need to reach the MIS benchmark in 2023 as costs continue to rise and our social security system fails to provide adequate, appropriate support. As millions of people in the UK risk falling well short of a minimum living standard, we urgently need a social security system fit for today and tomorrow.

**JRF** JOSEPH ROUNTREE FOUNDATION

INSPIRING SOCIAL CHANGE

Our [latest report](#) looks at what people need to reach MIS in 2023. The past couple of years have posed significant challenges to household incomes, with the cost of many goods and services increasing rapidly, particularly the cost of food and domestic fuel.

These increases feed through into the incomes households need to reach MIS. A single person needs to earn **£29,500** to have an acceptable standard of living in 2023, compared to £25,000 in 2022. A couple with two children need to earn **£50,000** between them in 2023, compared to £44,500 in 2022.

While costs have been increasing rapidly over the last 18 months, people's incomes, both in and out of work, have not been keeping up.

A single person, out of work, receives only 30% of what they need to reach MIS; working full-time at the National Living Wage (NLW) they have 73% of what they need, but are still falling well short of MIS.

A couple with two children, receiving out-of-work benefits, have half of what they need; even with both working full-time at the NLW, they are falling short of meeting all of their minimum needs, having 95% of what they need.

With uncertainty about what's going to happen to benefit uprating in the upcoming Autumn Statement, millions of people are facing the prospect of incomes becoming ever more inadequate over time, with much that has been taken for granted as essential to living with dignity, no longer being a given.

In the UK in 2023, we shouldn't be living in a society where parents worry about whether or not they can send their children to school in the appropriate uniform, or where pensioners have to cut back on meals so their pension will last the week. We need **a social security system that doesn't depend on foodbanks and charities** to catch those falling through the growing holes in our safety net.

These are not challenges necessarily met with short-term responses, but problems that needs long-term thinking and bolder ambition, focused on finding ways to collectively create a society in which fewer and fewer people fall below the Minimum Income Standard.

Until we do this, many people will continue to exist on incomes that don't meet their minimum needs. Addressing this is critical to the nation's economy and health, as well as people's dignity.

# Ill health and deprivation: how can we address health inequalities in 'left behind' neighbourhoods?



By Dr Luke Munford, Senior Lecturer in Health Economics at the University of Manchester

**England, and the UK more broadly, is a deeply unequal country. Health, wealth, and opportunities to thrive differ greatly depending on where we live, work, and play.**

MPs and local elected officials set-up an All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) to examine '[Left Behind Neighbourhoods](#)'. Whilst not a great term, this reflects that these communities have high levels of need and have traditionally been forgotten about by national policy. 'Left behind' neighbourhoods are communities that are in the most deprived 10% of areas according to the 2019 [Index of Multiple Deprivation](#) (IMD) and in the 10% of areas of greatest need in the [Community Needs Index](#) (CNI).

There are 225 neighbourhoods identified as being left behind, and were typically found in post-industrial areas in the North of England and the Midlands, as well as coastal areas in the South East. Of the [225 Left Behind Neighbourhoods](#), 138 are in the North of England, 54 are in the North West, and 17 are in Greater Manchester.

## Investigating outcomes in left behind neighbourhoods

We were commissioned by APPG for Left Behind Neighbourhoods to [produce a report](#) on health and economic outcomes in these neighbourhoods. We examined health outcomes and inequalities in the 225 neighbourhoods and the rest of England, and the long-term effects of health inequalities on individuals and the economy.

## Health inequalities in England

In left behind neighbourhoods, men live 3.7 years fewer than average and women 3 years fewer. People in these left behind neighbourhoods can expect to **live 7.5 fewer years** in good health than their counterparts in the rest of England. Worryingly, there is evidence that this gap in life expectancy has been growing since 2010.

There is a higher prevalence of 15 of the most common 21 health conditions compared to other deprived areas and England as a whole. These health conditions include high blood pressure, obesity and chronic lung conditions. People in left behind neighbourhoods also claim almost double the amount of incapacity benefits due to mental health related conditions compared to England as a whole. During the earlier parts of the COVID-19 pandemic, people in left behind neighbourhoods were **46% more likely to die from COVID-19** than in the rest of England.

## Impact on the economy

People in left behind neighbourhoods had it worse before the pandemic, were more affected by the pandemic, and will be harder hit by the cost-of-living crisis. In the current economic climate, more and more people are facing unexpected financial hardships or being pushed further into poverty, particularly in left behind neighbourhoods.

Tackling these health disparities will not only improve the lives of millions of citizens, it will also bring significant savings to the taxpayer. If the health outcomes in local authorities that contain left behind neighbourhoods were brought up to the same level as the rest of the country, an extra £29.8bn could be put into the country's economy.

## Tackling health disparities

To address health inequalities, the government's national 'levelling up' strategy must include a strand on reducing spatial health disparities through targeting multiple neighbourhood, community and healthcare factors.

Long-term ring-fenced funding is needed to ensure more effective delivery of resources, and for targeted health inequalities programmes with a hyper-local focus that **prioritises those left behind areas** with the worse health outcomes that have been most affected by COVID-19. Consistent and long-term (10-15 years) financial support is needed to build local social infrastructure in left behind communities that lack the community capacity, civic assets and social capital needed to support and benefit from preventative and neighbourhood-based health initiatives.

Community public health budgets should be safeguarded so that action to relieve acute NHS backlogs does not undermine efforts to tackle the root causes of ill health and boost health resilience in deprived and left behind communities. **Local health initiatives that increase the level of control local people have over their life circumstances should be prioritised**, from community piggy bank and community health champions initiatives, to more structured forms of community governance and decision-making.

## Greater Manchester comes together for Challenge Poverty Week



By Hollie Griss, Communications and Media Officer at GMPA

**On Monday 16 October, individuals and organisations from across Greater Manchester came together to consider how we can end poverty in our city-region.**

To kick off Challenge Poverty Week, we organised an all-day event in collaboration with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) and the Methodist Central Hall to bring together many of us across the city-region who are working to tackle poverty.

The event saw several speakers share their work and ideas on what can be done to reduce and prevent poverty. We also had a message of support from Andy Burnham, and Reverend Ian Rutherford hosted a Q&A panel with representatives from Virgin Media, Virgin Money, United Utilities, Electricity North West and Lloyds Banking Group.

Attendees spent much of the afternoon in group discussions, considering what a Greater Manchester free from poverty might look like and how we might get there.

Graham Whitham, CEO at Greater Manchester Poverty Action said: *“We’d like to thank all speakers and attendees for your time and involvement, and for making it such a **thought-provoking** and **insightful** day. It was excellent to have a broad range of individuals and organisations considering future priorities and actions for anti-poverty efforts, and the **many learnings** from discussions will be invaluable in helping shape our work going forwards.”*



## Greater Manchester Living Wage Campaign Update



By John Hacking, Greater Manchester Living Wage Campaign (GMLWC) Coordinator at GMPA

**Looking ahead to Living Wage Week, 6-12 November 2023**

Living Wage Week is the annual celebration of the real Living Wage movement. This movement has never been more important; against the backdrop of spiralling prices and a cost-of-living crisis, so it’s important to celebrate the employers and individuals championing the real Living Wage in Greater Manchester and encourage more employers to join the 700+ already accredited real Living Wage employers in the city-region.

As part of the calendar of events in Greater Manchester, at [Greater Manchester Poverty Action \(GMPA\)](#) we will be holding three events in collaboration with our partners.

- **Living Wage Week: an event for VCSE organisations and their supporters:** On Wednesday 8 November, we are holding an event in Manchester in partnership with [GMCVO](#). The event will showcase newly accredited real Living Wage VCSE organisations and provide opportunity to ask questions about becoming a real Living Wage employer. We will also share details of a support package for VCSE organisations to become members of the Good Employment Charter. The session will provide networking opportunities to enable VCSE organisations to learn from each other and get access to industry resources and support. [Click here to book.](#)
- **The real Living Wage in Bolton: how it benefits my business:** On Thursday 9 November we are holding a business-to-business event in partnership with [Boo Consulting](#), a longstanding real Living Wage Employer. If you are an employer in Bolton and either already accredited as a real Living Wage Employer or interested to find out more, this event is for you. Hear from representatives of the Bolton business community, the Greater Manchester Living Wage Campaign, [The Living Wage Foundation](#) and the [Greater Manchester Good Employment Charter](#). [Click here to book.](#)
- **The real Living Wage in a cost-of-living crisis: an employee’s view:** On Friday 10 November, join other activists and campaigners to discuss the Living Wage and its importance during the cost-of-living crisis. This online event will look at the campaign against low pay in Greater Manchester from the perspective of employees, and will feature a roundtable discussion and an opportunity for questions and comments. We will host a panel of representatives from [UNISON](#) and [USDAW](#), two trade unions representing thousands of low paid workers in Greater Manchester. [Click here to book.](#)

## Join the campaign to fix renting



Shelter

**The Renters Reform Bill can deliver lasting change for private renters.**

For 10 million private renters, a strong Renter's Reform Bill would be life-changing. It would mean more stability, more rights – a better deal.

The bill has been a long time coming. But we must now make sure it truly delivers change for renters, giving renters the rights we deserve, strengthening our protections, and preventing homelessness.

Join Greater Manchester Poverty Action in [signing the petition](#) to help change renting for good.



## Upcoming events

*From partners and other organisations across the sector*

### Universal Credit is a Trade Union issue



**Manchester  
Metropolitan  
University**

*Tuesday 7 November, 11am-1pm, Manchester Metropolitan Business School*

#### **Getting to grips with in-work conditionality and supporting worker wellbeing**

Join us for: an overview of recent policy developments relating to Universal Credit and the extension of in-work conditionality to working claimants; insights from the recently funded 'Universal Credit and Employers' study, focusing on key findings and recommendations for trade unions; a presentation from Union representatives highlighting current activism initiatives in response to issues arising for 'in-work claimants' on Universal Credit.

Please [click here](#) to book your place.

### What is good work and how do we get more?

**MANCHESTER  
1824**

The University of Manchester

*Tuesday 7 November, 2pm-4pm, Greater Manchester Law Centre*

#### **Join us in this workshop examining the power imbalances, pay and other employment challenges facing workers and those moving into work**



**Greater  
Manchester  
Law Centre**

This workshop will bring together workers, researchers, campaigners and people interested in promoting decent work across Greater Manchester to explore what good work looks like and what action can be taken to improve the quality of work.

So far, the Good Employment Charter has mainly focussed on engaging employers and working with them to change their employment practices. This workshop will turn the focus on people's perspectives and experiences of work. It will examine new data exploring what good work looks like, and will share examples based on recent research and casework that highlight the challenges that workers are still facing.

Please [click here](#) to book your place.

#### **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.