

From the Editor

Firstly we'd like to thank all of the contributors to our newsletters. Please keep your articles, profiles, blogs and events coming so that we can share them with our ever-growing audience.

The information, stories and activities that we include in our communications now reaches nearly 300 organisations and over 260 additional individuals.

The newsletter will be coming less frequently over the next month as we will be working around everyone's well-earned summer holidays but don't let that stop you sharing with us. Even if we aren't using this format there is still the website, Facebook and Twitter where we can promote your news.

Back at the beginning of June we announced the formation of three special interest groups on work and wages, food and fuel poverty. We had an excellent response to this and have three good groups ready to go. So should we be looking to form others? We mentioned some additional topics including education, finance and debt, access to public services, health and wellbeing and child poverty. If you would like to see these groups up and running too and be part of one or more of them, please get in touch. You can read the suggested aims of these groups [here](#) although we would also like the groups to add their own objectives, as judging by the membership of the 3 groups we have so far, they will all have a wealth of expert knowledge.

Today the sun is shining so it seems appropriate to wish everyone a pleasant summer but do keep in touch and we will be back before you know it!

Energy companies are working with GM Local Authorities to make homes more energy efficient



As part of a government scheme, low-income households who get certain employment, disability, age or child related benefits may be able to get new energy saving home improvements to help reduce heating bills. E-on will be funding energy saving measures for eligible participants including a new boiler if the existing one isn't working too well, loft insulation if the home does not have enough or possibly cavity wall insulation. To qualify the applicant needs to own their own home or rent privately. Find out more information on the [website](#) or check eligibility [here](#)

Just some of the free activities in Greater Manchester for little and big kids over the summer

Emergency Services Open Day on August 4th 10am - 4pm Trafford Centre car park outside The Orient. Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service, Greater Manchester Police, North West Ambulance Service with the emergency services on hand to answer your questions.

One Big Summer Weekend: Manchester city centre July 22 -24 including We're Going On A Bear Hunt and a teddy bears picnic in the cathedral's grounds. Plus Manchester Jazz Festival and Specialist Markets. See a full timetable of events happening over the three days [here](#).

Museum of Science and Industry: From July 23 to September 4 Pop Bottle Microscopes, from 10am to 12noon. From 12.30pm to 2.30pm is The Revolution Manchester Show and 2pm to 4pm Wonder Materials Workshops. Inventors Wanted is on at 12pm, 1pm and 3pm when children meet inventor Hans Reynold, test his inventions and see how one changed the way we move. Recommended for children five+

ParkLives: Free programme of family activities including den building, donkey grooming, family rounders, social dog-walking groups and skateboarding, stuff for mums with younger babies, like buggy bootcamp. Free sessions, running between 9.30am and 6pm every day. Parks taking part this year include: Alexandra Park, Whalley Range; Boggart Hole Clough, Charlestown; Chorlton Park, Chorlton; Chorlton Water Park, Chorlton; Debdale Park, Gorton south; Fletcher Moss Gardens, Didsbury east; Heaton Park, Prestwich; Philips Park, Ancoats; Plant Hill Park, Higher Blackley; Platt Fields Park, Fallowfield and Wythenshawe Park, Brooklands. Full timetable and more info at www.parklives.com

John Rylands Library, 150 Deansgate, Manchester, M3 3EH. Monday July 25th from 12 - 4pm: The power of paws, claws, feathers and fur, Other events over the summer including a Shakespeare Trail 'Spooky pathways' and keep your eyes peeled for fairies, witches and even a donkey. On August 5th, 18th & 24th Lucky Charm Workshop for children. Free entry. No need to book, just turn up.

Outdoor children's theatre in the park: Free outdoor theatre performances in Tameside parks every Thursday throughout August.

August 4 in Hyde Park (11am) and Mossley Park (2.30pm) Alice Through the Looking Glass . August 11, The Medlock Centre (11am) and Dukinfield Park (2.30pm) The Adventures of Tom Sayer. August 18, Cheetham's Park, Stalybridge, (11am) and Ryecroft Park, Audenshaw, (2.30pm) The Water Babies . August 25, Victoria Park, Denton, (11am) and King George V Playing Fields, Ashton, (2.30pm) Treasure Island

Pop-Up Here sessions at New Bailey, New Bailey Street, Manchester, M3 5FS: Midweek activities from 7am to 9am, 12pm to 2pm and 4pm to 6pm, 10am to 4pm on Saturdays bust-a-groove with your dance troupe, sing along with the pop-up piano or show off your juggling skills, Storytime exercise classes **Unit 3 Central Retail Park,** Manchester Road, Orlando Street, Bolton BL2 1HQ and **Xercise4Less Wigan,** Chapel Lane, Wigan, WN1 1DU. Free classes for kids and parents together. Xercise4Kids 45 minute classes for kids aged 3-5. Bolton classes Tuesdays 2pm Thursdays 3.30pm and Saturdays 11.15am. Wigan classes Monday 4.30pm, Wednesday 2pm and Fridays 4pm. Register online or call

Bolton Aquarium Bolton Library and Museum Services, Le Mans Crescent, Bolton, BL1 1SE Open 9am to 5pm Monday to Saturday (from 9.30am on Wednesdays) and from 10am to 4pm on Sundays.

Bolton Pleasure Beach Octagon Theatre, Howell Croft South, Bolton, BL1 1SB. August 26 - 29th 11am - 4pm the main auditorium will be a seaside Pleasure Beach, free of charge face-painting, henna, sand castle building etc!

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The Trussell Trust

The Trussell Trust is a national charity which aims to bring communities together to end hunger and poverty in the UK, by providing compassionate, practical help, whilst also challenging injustice. We are best known for our network of more than 400 foodbanks across the UK which provides a minimum of three days' emergency food and signposting to people in crisis. In addition to this, The Trussell Trust runs a number of 'More Than Food' programmes, aimed at enabling foodbanks to develop into community hubs, providing people with a range of support in one location. To date these programmes include:



- Eat Well; Spend Less: a six-session course teaching people cookery skills and household budgeting tips to help make tight budgets stretch further
- Money Life: provides tools and courses to help tackle debt and financial difficulties
- Holiday Meals clubs: tackling hunger and isolation during the school holidays by providing meals, fun activities and support to struggling families

We are also working on a number of other 'More Than Food' programmes, including 'Energy Bank' which is aimed at assisting people in fuel poverty and the Npower Fuel Bank in which a number of foodbanks provide fuel vouchers to foodbank users struggling with energy costs.

In addition to our foodbank network, we also run a range of innovative social enterprise projects, believing that everyone has something to give. Our projects include 14 community shops, upcycling projects, furniture restoration, beading classes and jewellery making, a community garden, bobbin stripping in partnership with a local carpet manufacturer, online stores and bicycle repair in partnership with a youth work charity. We also work with our sister charity, FSCI in the Balkans and Eastern Europe, to help prevent children being abandoned and young people forced into crime, prostitution and trafficking.

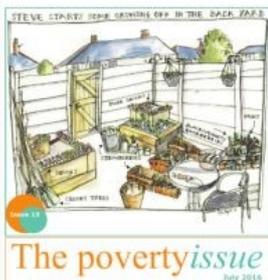
The Trussell Trust is deeply committed to raising issues faced by those in poverty with those who can influence change. We collect statistics from across the network which enable us to know not only the numbers of people receiving emergency food and other support but also the reasons why. This allows us to contribute to research, policy discussions and to raise awareness of the many complex reasons why people experience poverty. We collect statistics not only at a national level but also regionally and locally. This enables foodbanks to communicate local need and challenges with councillors, MP's, policy makers and other organisations.

Across Greater Manchester there are 18 Trussell Trust foodbanks, with each project running between one and five centres from which people can redeem their voucher and receive support. Foodbanks work on a referral basis and across GM, hundreds of organisations are engaged in referring their clients to a foodbank. Foodbanks engage with a variety of organisations across the Borough in different initiatives throughout the year with some foodbanks providing energy-related support and advice, Eat Well; Spend Less courses, clothing, breakfast clubs, holiday clubs and legal support. Between April 2015 and March 2016, Trussell Trust foodbanks in GM provided more than 50,000 three day food parcels to people in crisis. Food is donated by a whole range of individuals, faith organisations, community groups, supermarket customers and businesses and there are many thousands of volunteers, donors and supporters working hard every day to address poverty. It is a privilege to work alongside so many dedicated people as we challenge injustices experienced by so many within our communities.

For more information please visit their [website](#) and also check out the profile of Lynda Battarbee, the Trussell Trust's Foodbank Network Development Officer in the North West on the following page.

400 FOODBANKS, OVER 1000 DISTRIBUTION CENTRES
1,109,309* THREE DAY EMERGENCY FOOD SUPPLIES
***UP BY 2% ON PREVIOUS YEAR**
MAIN REASONS: BENEFIT DELAYS/CHANGES, LOW INCOME,
HOMELESSNESS AND DEBT

Greater Manchester Housing Providers focus on Poverty newsletter is, as usual, packed with great articles. Read the [full newsletter here](#).



Read about **Adactus Housing's** Enterprise Fund supporting people into self-employment, their Holiday Kitchen, The Big Film and a one-to-one employment advice service. **Bolton at Home** are encouraging residents to grow their own fruit and veg and have recently won a BITC 'responsible business' award which celebrates businesses that take effective action to improve their local community. **City West Housing** are supporting the launch of an additional hub for the Salford Credit Union as loan sharks start to infest medium term loan waters. **Contour Homes** and **Regenda** fund a 12 week Inspiration Generation programme which helps Oldham residents learn new skills and try out new work opportunities.

First Choice Homes Oldham 'Directions' service provides volunteering, employment and training advice. **Great Places** talk about their healthy breakfast club and Social Investment Team and a familiar name, Jayne Allman of **Banana Enterprise Network**, pops up in their article about residents considering self-employment. **Irwell Valley Housing Association's** in-house repair and maintenance company provides two apprenticeships for young residents and **New Charter Homes Ltd** are in the process of recruiting 27 apprentices across the business.

Aksa Homes and the **Oldham Coliseum Theatre** are providing ten 16 - 24 year old NEETs with an insight into the work that goes on 'behind the scenes'. **One Manchester** is running a 'Talk Money, Stress Less' campaign and a Community Shop which is providing cut price food to an ever-growing customer base and at Erneley Close in Longsight, thanks to **One Manchester's** retrofit, residents have seen fuel bills drop by 75%*. **Regenda** are supported the launch of the Limehouse Village Growing Hub Group, growing fruit and veg, making new friends and learning to cook what they grow.

Stockport Homes provided 10 volunteering opportunities with their caretaking staff and have since taken 6 on to their team. Their Pantry scheme is also now teaching some residents to cook who can then teach others in their community. **H3** (Helping the Homeless into Housing) is, amongst many other projects, delivering painting and decorating services where those who take part get on the job training.

Huge thanks go to Julie Ralph and all the contributors for this fascinating newsletter.

(*of the national average for similar properties of the same age)

Who's who? In this section we focus on some of the organisations and individuals that make up GMPA. Some will be very familiar to you, others not so much. We hope that by sharing this information our community will find opportunities to collaborate and to support each other. Together we're stronger.

Lynda Battarbee



Lynda is a Trussell Trust Foodbank Network Development Officer in the North West of England. Her work involves: training and developing foodbanks; building partnerships with charities, organisations and businesses across the region; speaking at events and to the media on issues of food poverty; facilitating regional meetings and conferences for foodbanks and contributing to the wider Trussell Trust

foodbank network, in particular by producing and updating guidance documents issued to foodbanks.

Lynda can be contacted on M: 07780665265 or by [email](#)

Allison Foreman

Allison is the User Development Worker at Macc, Manchester's voluntary, community and social enterprise sector support organisation. She works with user groups to influence the plans and services affecting their lives.



Allison previously represented the VCSE sector on the GM Low Pay Commission and is delighted that GMPA is taking this work forward.

Who's you? We would like the opportunity to introduce everyone to the network. We need 1) a head and shoulders photo of you with approximately 40 words about who you are and what you do and 2) a slightly longer piece about the work of your organisation and how important its contribution is to the community and the region. We also need your logo. These profiles not only go in to the newsletter but are also added to our website and Facebook page. Please email [Chris](#) Thanks ☺

Forthcoming Events:

Forging a good local society

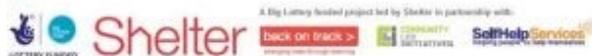
Thursday 28th July from 6 - 8pm at the International Anthony Burgess Foundation, Chorlton Mill, 3 Cambridge St, Manchester, M1 5BY

You are invited to the Manchester launch of Forging a Good Local Society, a new publication by CLES Chief Executive – Neil McInroy.

How do we tackle poverty and create social justice? Do we continue to rely on trickle down wealth and an inadequate social safety net or is there a new progressive local way? Neil McInroy makes a powerful case for the latter.

The evening will include a drinks reception and Neil McInroy in conversation with Kate Green MP. There will be ample time for debate and questions but places are limited so please book quickly. [More information and booking](#)

Inspiring Change Manchester



Inspiring Change Manchester are inviting you to an event on September 6th at the Friends Meeting House on Mount Street, M2 5NS where we will share our learning from over the last two years.

We'll explore new ways of working with people with Multiple and Complex Needs, evidenced by our evaluation. We want to learn from you and to work together to see how the City of Manchester can deliver innovative and life changing services.

A networking lunch will be provided and there will be refreshments throughout. Signing up details will be sent round shortly, but until then, please save the date in your diary!

CPAG Welfare Rights Conference 2016: Universal Credit - next steps

Thursday 8 September 2016 at the University of Manchester, Innovation Centre, Core Technology Facility, 46 Grafton Street, Manchester, M13 9NT

Our 2016 Welfare Rights Conference focuses on the challenges facing families as the roll out of Universal Credit accelerates.

With expert speakers, a range of focused workshops and the opportunity to network and share ideas with welfare rights workers, policy workers and other advisers from across the country, the conference is not to be missed.

You can attend two **workshops** from:

1. Universal Credit Housing Costs
2. Universal Credit Digital Roll-Out
3. ESA 'Substantial Risk'
4. Human Rights Challenges

Exhibition Space to showcase your work, products and services. If you are interested in exhibiting please email [Sebastien](#)

Booking a place: Delegate tickets, including 2 workshops, teas, coffees, buffet lunch and conference materials, are £130 for a voluntary organisation and £175 for statutory and lawyers.

To book place(s) please complete our online [booking form here](#).

Why GM Poverty Action?

In the Recommendations Report of the GM Poverty Commission, 2.4 *Maintaining Momentum on Poverty* called for the formation of a Poverty Action Group to help take forward the work of the Commission.

A small number of public, private and civic sector individuals came together to form GMPA. This group has since grown to over 100 organisations plus many independent individuals.

GMPA is based upon principles of cooperation between organisations.

For more information about Greater Manchester Poverty Action

please visit our [website](#), follow us on [Twitter](#) or visit our [Facebook](#) page.

You can also visit our YouTube channel [Community Voices](#)

All these platforms are there to share news and opinion from our readers, from GM Poverty Action and from the community.

We want to celebrate our successes, find new ways of working together and provide a voice for the people living in poverty in our region. But we can only do this with your help and support.

For more information or to share your news please contact [Chris](#) or [Peter](#).

Copies of previous newsletters are available on our [website](#)

If you would like to contact us or submit an article for inclusion in a newsletter please get in touch in one of the following ways:

Post: c/o 5th Floor Church House, 90 Deansgate, Manchester M3 2GH

Or contact our Communications Manager: Chris Bagley T: 07419 774537 [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.

