

INVOLVED

Broughton, Salford, is the 126th most deprived ward in England. *“It is clear that people are living in poverty here, and have lived in poverty for the last 40 years”,* says Dave Fraser, the Team Leader of **Salford Involved**, a local community cooperative. *“We haven’t moved on the indices of deprivation. And while millions have been spent to try to improve Broughton, through local regeneration funds, the New Deal for Communities single regeneration budget 5 and all the rest, we’re still very deprived”,* he says.

GMIPA is visiting Salford Involved’s lunch club, hosted in the church hall at Saint James Church, Broughton. Residents joining speak openly about the crime in the area, *“I just don’t feel safe”,* says one woman, *“BT vans coming to do broadband won’t come on their own anymore, they come in pairs, so one can keep watch while the other works, there have been that many tools nicked from the vans”*.

Statutory organisations have made only limited progress in solving these issues, residents say, coming in, building relationships with the community, and then leaving a few months later. Residents really feel put off coming to community engagement programmes and joining in at all. *“I just think, why should I bother”,* says one woman who has come with her family, *“and anyway, I don’t want some smart-arse organisation coming in telling me what to do”*.



A few conversations in, and we are already discussing the very difficult problems about community engagement in deprived communities. The feeling that organisations have to be home grown, long term, made from the community, not imposed top down interventions made from the outside, which come and go like the wind, resonates with people. Dave is a passionate believer in the long term, ‘year in, year out’, work. *“I’ve been in Broughton for 16 years”,* he says, proudly. And he couldn’t hire anyone for Salford Involved who wasn’t from the community to work with it. *“If the only way we can improve the community is by bringing people outside in, it shows we can’t do it ourselves”,* he says.



The lunch club is one of many activities run by Salford Involved. GMIPA has been to visit Salford Involved’s new community gym, offering heavily discounted prices and free keep fit classes for residents, and a job club too, a bustling but confidential service full of community members coming to get help with form filling, working on job applications or on their CVs. But these only scratch the surface of what Salford Involved is working on doing, underlined by a local commitment to tackle poverty. Poverty shows itself in Broughton in several ways, explains Dave. First, through negative impacts on the material wellbeing of people involved, secondly, leading directly to mental health difficulties, and thirdly, it depresses the community overall, lowering aspirations, hopes, abilities for the community as a whole.



Continued on next page

Salford Involved continued

In the short term, food parcels and daily lunches are distributed. A market is held once a month in the church car park, where people are encouraged to buy and sell things, often homemade goods. Salford Involved then run a 'Five Ways to Wellbeing' programme which develops mental health, improving moods and improving the ability to cope. Under this falls an arts group, a poetry group, English language classes. Then a range of activities are run in the community, including 'Social Action Groups' which bring peers together to increase the economic capacity of local residents.



Everything is about centralised, local resident participation in decision making. *"We talk often about being a capability incubator"*, says Dave, who again emphasises growing the capacities of local residents. *"It's not about bringing in someone who has done good poverty work in another area"*, he says, smiling, *"we have to be homegrown, only then can local people change their stars"*.

Salford Involved is an example of an anti-poverty and community benefit organisation that is a growing success – it is localised and part of the community, grown through and by them, not put on them or delivered by outsiders. And that ethos is contributing to its success – volunteer numbers continue to grow, as does footfall through the doors, with more local residents engaging.

More information about [Salford Involved](#)

Forging a good local society

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

The Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES), Webb Memorial Trust, Greater Manchester Poverty Action and Cities@Manchester invite you 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 of wealth and an inadequate social safety net, or is there a new progressive local way?

In *Forging a Good Local Society: Tackling poverty through a local economic reset*, Neil McInroy makes a powerful case for the latter. He argues for a new local anti-poverty movement – using devolution and progressive local economic development as a catalyst to unleash deeper levels of empathy and innovative power – making a counter attack on poverty.

Introducing a framework for alleviating poverty, the work details the agendas which could beckon an economy for the many, not the few. This includes a discussion of key examples, including role of anchor institutions, citizen power, business citizenship and harnessing of local assets.

Forging a Good Local Society, argues that there has to be an additional way: one which straddles public, social and commercial actors. One which is more local, more bespoke, more innovative and experimental in the face of poverty.

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.

Places are limited [Booking](#)



Neil McInroy

The Neighbourhood Food Collection

Did you get involved in the food collection at your local Tesco over this past weekend? Its hard work but great fun and very rewarding.

Over 45 volunteers pitched up to help during the three days at the Tesco in Handforth Dean including staff from the Tesco store, local food bank volunteers and managers, van drivers and even a couple of grandchildren! The total at the end of the collection was a massive 256 trays that will weigh in at between 3.5 - 4 tonnes.



Everyone helping out including three generations of the Tedford family!

One couple went around the store twice filling up a trolley and donating all of it - they were clearly enjoying themselves and when we asked why they were donating so much they told us that they had just come into some money and wanted to share it.

One gentleman asked us "Where do you send all this food you are collecting?" and was amazed and shocked when we told him that it went no further than Stockport where there are 7 food banks and drop-in centres.

One local business kindly donated 2 large trolleys full of tins that kept us busy for quite a while!

Many thanks to everyone who helped, donated and cheered us on!

Welfare Action Gathering

Saturday 9th July, 2016 from 11am until 4.30pm at The Mechanics' Institute, 103 Princess St, Manchester M1 6DD



Refreshments will be available from 10.30am. A welcome begins at 11am.

Workshop topics include ESA, PIP and Universal Credit; Strategies in Welfare Activism; Fighting the misuse of psychology in workfare and welfare; One Death is One Death too many (deaths caused by sanctions); and The future of workfare and welfare in England.

There will also be an opportunity to choose an additional topic for discussion and a consolidation session at the end of the day to bring together the discussions and to reflect.

Lunch will be provided as well as refreshments during other breaks.

Contact [Liam](#) to register your interest or if you have any queries. [Full details of the workshops.](#)



25km Peak District Challenge

This summer Manchester Action on Street Health (MASH) is seeking people to take part in a 25km trek in the Peak District to raise funds and to mark MASH's 25th Anniversary.

The trek starts and finishes in Hathersage – the challenge is to complete the 25km in 9 hours! There is a MASH team you can join or you can put your own team together. There is more information on the MASH [website](#) The entry fee is £40 which includes snacks at checkpoints, a stew supper, goodie bag and photos. Then 100% of any sponsorship you raise will go to MASH.

If you have any questions please contact [Helen](#) at MASH or call 0161 273 4555

The Child Poverty Action group would like to ask for your help.

Could you put them in touch with parents who are struggling to make ends meet and who might be willing to help them to publicise the issues they work on? Often, in their campaigns and media work they need parents to be interviewed on issues such as:

- benefits and tax credit problems (delays, errors, sanctions, bedroom tax, benefit cap)
- making ends meet on a low income
- childcare costs
- the difficulty of finding stable work that fits around children's needs
- coping with disability



Parents' experiences can be written up anonymously, for example in submissions to Parliament to illustrate why change is needed on a particular issue; sometimes parents are interviewed by journalists writing on a given issue. CPAG *always* get permission, each time, before involving them in public-facing work in any way and they give full support and advice on how to manage an interview with a journalist. CPAG believe that parents can find it a validating experience.

If you can help please get in touch with [Jane Ahrends](#), Press & Campaigns Officer, Child Poverty Action Group 020 7812 5216

Forthcoming Events:

Peace and Unity, One Community

Sunday July 17th, 2016 from 1.30 - 5pm at Manchester Town Hall ,
Albert Square , Manchester, M60 2LA

A multi-faith event which aims to bring people together to celebrate our cultural diversity. There will be table discussions alongside cultural performances and refreshments will be served. The Dean of Manchester, The Very Reverend Rogers Govender will open the event which has been organised by Manchester Cathedral, Manchester City Council and representatives from faith and community groups across Greater Manchester. People of all faiths or none are welcome to attend this free event. [More information and booking](#)

End Hunger UK campaign planning session

Monday July 18th, 2016 from 3 - 5pm
at Bridge 5 Mill, 22a Beswick Street, Ancoats, Manchester M4 7HR

Come and plan your local End Hunger events as part of a national campaign on World Food Day in October. All are welcome and you could get inspired by each others ideas.



Event Fee £3 [More information and book](#)

What's happening with GM Health and Social Care Devolution?

Thursday July 21st, 2016 9am - 12 noon at the Friends' Meeting House,
6 Mount St, Manchester M2 5NS

Each Greater Manchester district is developing a Locality Plan which will lever in Transformation funding. Meanwhile thematic plans for areas such as mental health, cancer, learning disabilities and dementia are being developed at the GM level. VCSE organisational involvement in the development and delivery of all these plans is patchy. This event provides an opportunity to engage directly with key decision-makers.

[Further Information and Booking](#)



The 2016 Manchester Sleepout

On Friday November 4th, 2016 at
Manchester Cathedral

We're asking you to take on the challenge of sleeping out for one night only, to highlight the hardships faced by homeless people night after night. By joining our Sleepout in 2016

you can help raise vital funds to support homeless people in our community We raised over £60K in 2015. Places are limited so please register as soon as possible.

Hundreds of people will be joining us for this great event.

[Register for The Manchester Sleepout 2016](#)

[Find out more about the Sleepout](#)

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.

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.

