

From the Editor

Its beginning to look a lot like Christmas everywhere you go but we know that Christmas can be a very difficult time of the year for families in GM without enough money to heat their homes let alone buy their children a present or put a proper meal on the table.



So could you help Wood Street Mission with their new toy and food collections? Christmas should be about more than survival. [Find out more.](#)

Or perhaps spare an hour or two to be a Hero for Hunger with Fareshare and the Trussell Trust's Neighbourhood Food Collection on December 1,2,3 at a Tesco store near you. Register to help [here](#)



Greater Manchester State of the VCSE Sector Survey

The survey closes on November 27th, 2016, so if your organisation hasn't completed it yet, we would strongly encourage you to do so.

The information collected in 2013 produced some astonishing headlines - almost 15,000 organisations, contributing £1.7 billion to the economy every year and enabling well over a million volunteering hours every week. The information helped to raise the profile of VCSE organisations and show just how important they are to GM and to its economy.

It is really important that up to date information from as many organisations as possible is collected.

You can complete the survey [here](#)

Community Voices: Nothing about us, without us, is for us.

The Salford Poverty Commission's grassroots commissioners, 15 Salford residents who have experienced poverty, worked together closely to plan and stage a very moving public launch event.

Since the launch all the commissioners which includes people from the third and public sectors and business have met to get to know each before beginning the more difficult process of discussing and tackling the issues of poverty in Salford now.

You can watch the launch video [here](#).



Foodbanks across our Region

Sadly as we know there are an increasing number of crucial foodbanks across our Region helping people to cope. What we don't know is where they all are.

In order to help people to find the nearest source of emergency food, we are trying to create an online map of all the foodbanks, those that require a referral/voucher and those that don't. Those who have enough resources to give out a few days-worth of food for a family and those that just give a few items.

Can you help us by telling us where the foodbanks are near you? Please [send us an email](#). Thanks



Church Action
on Poverty

Church Action on Poverty: Poverty Media Coordinator
£26,556 - £30,480 p.a. pro rata. 28 hours pw. Salford.
Fixed term until 28th Feb 2018

Could you enable the voices of people living in poverty to be heard in both mainstream and new media? With support, training and mentoring, the voices and stories of people with direct experience of poverty can be the most powerful means of challenging and changing public attitudes to poverty.

You will need to have at least 3 years' experience in journalism or another related area of the media, and experience of working with people in poverty, in participatory and empowering ways.

Closing date for applications 9am Wed 30th Nov 2016
Interviews in Salford Fri 9th Dec 2016 For an application pack visit the [website](#) or call Janet on 0161 872 9294. No CVs please.

We all gain from greater equality

Following the election of Donald Trump in the USA, many people are left asking... how?

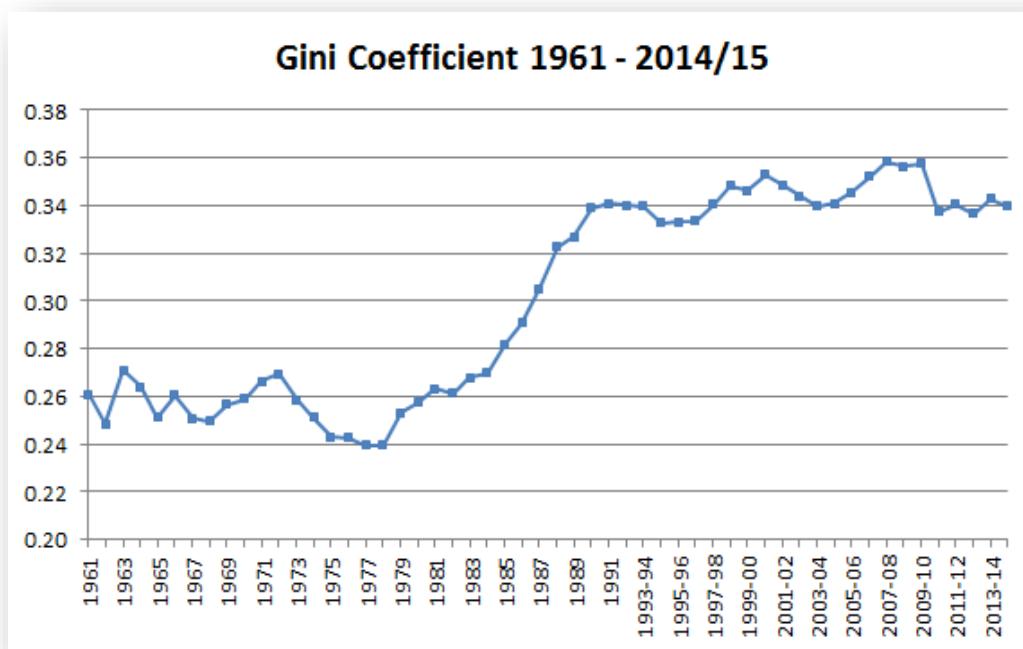
It seems clear that there was significant sexism and racism at play - we need no statistics to demonstrate this. For Trump to have said the overtly misogynistic and racist things he did during his campaign, and to have got away with it, is alarming.

But another significant factor is income and inequality. The Democrats' lead in the <\$50k income bracket dropped from 22% in 2012 to more like 9% in 2016. It seems that the lowest earners were feeling increasingly hopeless, frustrated and desperate for any kind of change – even the kind of change that seems in so many ways counter-intuitive.

It should be noted that these issues are inter-related as women and BME people are more likely to experience poverty, both in the UK, US and around the world. In addition, factors such as education and cultural identity also played their part, and they also relate to the other issues. It's complicated! But here I want to talk about income inequality. The single demographic collapse among lower earners was probably enough to swing the election for Trump by itself.

There can be no doubt that communities feeling left behind and out of control are more likely to vote for candidates such as Trump. It's not for me to get party political in this context, but I think I am safe in assuming that we would all like to ward off the social conditions that give rise to far-right election wins here in the UK!

This means we need to look at income inequality. After falling through most of the post-WW2 years, inequality (as shown by the Gini Coefficient) started to rise sharply in the UK in 1979, and although this rise slowed around 1990 and has occasionally reversed since then, over-all it has stayed roughly level at this very high watermark.



[Graph taken from <https://www.equalitytrust.org.uk/how-has-inequality-changed>]

This is a dangerous place for any society. Inequality and poverty are bad for everyone in the long run, not just the lowest earners – the Equality Trust have a wealth of knowledge about the impact of inequality on economic stability, health and happiness for example. High inequality breeds exactly the kind of desperation that we have seen play out in the USA, and elsewhere in recent times.

As those who work to reduce poverty, we most often communicate that we want to address poverty because poverty is bad for those in poverty. And that is true! We don't want anyone to be hungry, cold or isolated, lacking hope or real opportunity for positive change.

That's a pretty big picture. But if we only ever talk that way, we miss the even bigger picture. A more equal society is a healthier and more secure society. Let's talk more about the role that poverty reduction plays in the development of a healthy, happy and safe society for all.

[Sources]

[Roper Centre: How groups votes in 2012](#)

[Independent: who voted for Donald Trump](#)

[Equality Trust: How has inequality changed?](#)

[Equality Trust: Impacts of inequality](#)



Written by Tom Skinner

What if we ran it ourselves?

From shops, pubs, community centres and libraries, communities are coming together to ask, what if we ran it ourselves? In partnership with Power to Change, Real Ideas Organisation and Sheffield University, the RSA are providing a unique training programme designed specifically to support people working in community businesses to develop their leadership skills.

They are now looking for 24 committed and enthusiastic people based in the North from established community businesses to be part of their next programme.

How does the programme work? It runs for 6 months, with a two day training session every month, in a different location so that participants can visit other community businesses to learn from what they are doing, sharing experiences, knowledge and skills. Participants also meet experts from community businesses, traditional businesses and the third sector, as they facilitate the sessions.

At each session the focus will be on different aspects of leadership and development, from business strategy, to understanding community dynamics, to navigating investment and financing. There will also be a two day innovation programme which will set participants up with an action plan for tackling a challenge or project within their organisation.

How much does it cost? Power to Change are funding the programme, so it is free to participants. However, they will need to contribute towards their expenses for attending the training sessions.



Apply [here](#)

Here's a local example: [check it out](#)

New figures reveal nearly half of children are living in poverty in some parts of the UK eg Manchester Central

The End Child Poverty coalition has published new figures providing a new Child Poverty map of the UK. There are more than 3.5 million children living in poverty in the UK, and the new figures reveal that whilst child poverty exists in every part of the country, as many as 47% of children are living in poverty in some areas.

Among the twenty parliamentary constituencies with the highest levels of childhood poverty, seven are located in London, three in Birmingham, and three in Manchester. The coalition of charities, faith groups and unions is warning that the benefits freeze in place until the end of the decade will mean that as prices rise, low income families will find it increasingly hard to pay for the same basic essentials. At the same time, recent cuts to in work support under Universal Credit further penalise low income working families – pushing more working families below the poverty line.

Sam Royston, Chair of End Child Poverty said: “As the Prime Minister has rightly recognised, this is not a country that works for everyone. In every community, there are children being denied the happy childhoods and the good start in life other children take for granted. Our children are now twice as likely to be poor as our pensioners. Many families who are just about managing today, won’t be managing tomorrow if Universal Credit leaves them with fewer pounds in their pocket, and if rising costs of living means their money doesn’t stretch as far as it used to.”

And he added “This month’s Autumn Statement is a major opportunity for the new government to act to help these families. We urge the Chancellor to reverse the significant cuts to Universal Credit targeted at working families and, at the very least, shield children’s benefits from inflation.”

The full report and all the data - including ward level figures are available [here](#)

Children in poverty October – December 2015 estimates Greater Manchester by constituencies after housing costs			
Altrincham and Sale West	14.58%	Manchester Central	44.82%
Ashton-under-Lyne	31.22%	Manchester Gorton	41.96%
Blackley and Broughton	40.29%	Manchester Withington	30.66%
Bolton North East	33.73%	Oldham East and Saddleworth	31.63%
Bolton South East	34.30%	Oldham West and Royton	35.36%
Bolton West	23.41%	Rochdale	35.94%
Bury North	24.57%	Salford and Eccles	31.92%
Bury South	25.96%	Stalybridge and Hyde	27.97%
Cheadle	14.25%	Stockport	27.23%
Denton and Reddish	25.53%	Stretford and Urmston	26.55%
Hazel Grove	18.14%	Wigan	22.61%
Heywood and Middleton	27.35%	Worsley and Eccles South	22.61%
Leigh	24.81%	Wythenshawe and Sale East	22.61%

Forthcoming Events:



COOKBank 2 Day Train the Trainer Course

On November 21 and 22, 2016 at MERCI,
Ancoats, Bridge 5 Mill, 22a Beswick Street
Ancoats, Manchester, M4 7HR

Designed for anyone who is interested in developing a good food culture in the community and needs structure and support for getting more people engaged to cook affordable nutritious food communally, socially and safely. The cost of attending the course is £200 per person but that includes lunch on both days, refreshments, all written materials, equipment (aprons provided) and the ingredients to cook. [More information and book](#)

Living Standards across Greater Manchester

Monday November 28th, 2016 5.30—7.30pm in the Lord Mayor's Parlour, Manchester Town Hall.

The Resolution Foundation are holding events in the Metro Mayor cities to explore the challenges facing the different cities and to discuss how the Mayors can use their powers to be the driving force behind a 'new era of inclusive prosperity'. Speakers include Andy Burnham and Professor Ruth Lupton

[More information and to book.](#)

Neighbourhood Food Collection

December 1st, 2nd and 3rd at a Tesco Store near you.

Yes I know I have already mentioned this on the front page but this section is to remind you to put it in your diary!

It's the biggest food drive to help fight hunger in the UK. You don't need super powers to be a hero against hunger, you just need to give three hours of your time. In a morning or afternoon you could collect enough packets, cans and jars to provide five hundred meals for people in need. I've done it and its really rewarding. [Register here](#)



The Wizard of Manchester

The Booth Centre invites you to attend their Christmas pantomime performance on 8th and 9th December 2016.



Come along and support our performers who've been working hard to devise this festive treat for you. Two performances at the Booth Centre on December 8th at 2.30pm and 6.30pm, each lasting for approximately one hour, please join us for refreshments beforehand.

Plus another performance at The Edge Theatre & Arts Centre, in Chorlton on Friday 9th December. Click [here](#) for more details.

Tickets can be purchased for the shows at the Booth Centre [here](#)

Why GM Poverty Action?

In the Recommendations Report of the Greater Manchester 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 700 individuals from more than 200 organisations plus Local Authorities and MPs and an increasing number of members of the public.

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.

