

Our Poverty Monitor 2016 sets the scene

On what was going to be a big day in Manchester for anti-poverty campaigners, people came together in the Central Library to share in the launch of the Poverty Monitor 2016 jointly developed by University of Manchester's Inclusive Growth Analysis Unit (IGAU) and Greater Manchester Poverty Action.

Mike Cribb, GMPA's Director opened the meeting by reading a letter* received from Mayor Tony Lloyd in which he apologised for not being able to join us but stating that "eradicating poverty and inequality is everyone's business."

One of the questions the meeting hoped to answer was "is poverty getting better or worse in Greater Manchester?"



Mike Cribb



Professor Ruth Lupton

Professor Ruth Lupton, leader of IGAU then provided a brief demonstration of the Monitor, commenting "*The point of the Poverty Monitor is partly to maintain the visibility of poverty alongside the data that we frequently get about Greater Manchester's success – we see data about growth and employment trends but we see a lot less about what's happening to poverty. Another goal is to help local organisations by providing neighbourhood level data which they can use to make a case when applying for funding for targeted local actions.*

Poverty in Greater Manchester and in some parts in particular has been a major feature of the city since Frederick Engels wrote his book in 1844, so we can't believe that it's going to go away - we need to keep holding City leaders to account."

Multiple changes to benefits and restructuring of the welfare system are making it very difficult to analyse the data available, more indicators will be added and the Monitor is a work in progress but it is still possible to estimate that nearly 650,000 people in Greater Manchester are living in poverty, of which 173,000 are children. There are estimated to be 5 times the number of people in Greater Manchester living in the top 1% areas of deprivation as there would be if deprivation was evenly spread across the country and although the data can estimate the number of people living below the poverty line, it does not show how far below.

Atiha Chaudry, who is Chair of the Manchester Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Network, stressed the need to be aware of the disproportionate number of people from the BME community who make up the numbers living in poverty in the region. High levels of persistent unemployment, overcrowded homes and poor housing, an increase in homelessness and an informal network of foodbanks cannot be clearly shown in statistical data. There also needs to be an awareness of the number of asylum seekers and migrants living in the city region.



Atiha Chaudry



Ivan Lewis

Looking to the future Ivan Lewis, MP for Bury South, expressed profound concern about the situation and told the audience that "*today's figures highlight in the starker terms that there are too many people and communities in all parts of Greater Manchester who have been left behind. More of the same will not do. We need big change to tackle an emergency which not only hurts those affected. It damages us all.*" * And he announced the creation of a Greater Manchester Inequality Taskforce to bring together people from business, education, health and civil society, to develop radical policies to fight inequality.

The answer to the question is poverty getting better or worse in Greater Manchester seems sadly to be that it's not getting better and that it could indeed get much worse as a result of the cuts that have already taken place but we believe there is a growing number of people who are determined to change that, who are already making an extraordinary difference and who will continue to do so. We hope that the Poverty Monitor will be an increasingly valuable tool both for the people working at the grass roots level in their communities and as a constant reminder to those in power that there is still so much more to be done.

*Mr Lloyd's letter and the full speech delivered by Mr Lewis are available on our website.

Launch of the Manchester Homelessness Charter

On Monday 9th May, Manchester came together to deliver a new Charter to tackle the crisis of homelessness in the city. Developed by groups working alongside people affected by homelessness, with their voices at its core, the Homelessness Charter is the city's new approach to tackling homelessness.



Jez Green of Mustard Tree

The Charter outlines the principles that establish how people experiencing homelessness should be treated and how the city intends to help them. For example, values it highlights include 'a safe, secure home' and 'equality of access to information and services'. Jez Green of Mustard Tree, who had been seconded to the city to facilitate the creation of the charter, said: "*We believe that Manchester should become a city free from homelessness. To do this, we need everyone who lives, works or studies in the city to do their part, and the charter seeks to help this to happen. It is vital that those affected personally by the issue are given a central role in creating change at every level.*"

The Charter particularly calls for action from those who agree to adopt the Charter's values, to make a pledge to demonstrate their support. One example came from Allied London, a city center developer, who pledged an annual donation over 5 years of £5,000, with a further £5,000 donated personally by CEO Mike Ingall.

The launch itself was a wonderful event. It began with a formal presentation of the Charter on the steps of Manchester Town Hall. People with first hand experience of homelessness officially presented it to senior leaders from the City including the Bishop of Manchester, the Rt Revd Dr David Walker, Sir Richard Leese, Leader of Manchester City council; the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police, Manchester Metropolitan University's Deputy Vice-Chancellor and representatives from Allied London.



The Charter is handed in at the Town Hall



Streetwise Opera

The event then moved inside to the Friends Meeting House on Mount Street. In a packed hall with well over 200 people in attendance, the launch was treated to a performance by Streetwise Opera, who shared a section of their critically acclaimed "The Passion". This was followed by reflections given by individuals with experience of homelessness. Very brave, moving and deeply human, the reflections brought whooping cheers and whistles of approval from the audience.



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Launch of the Manchester Homelessness Charter continued

Next to take the stage were senior leaders from the City who came forward to make pledges. Each organization pledged several commitments. To highlight a few, Manchester City Council pledged to involve individuals with experience of homelessness in the development of new models of delivery. The Bishop of Manchester on behalf of the Diocese pledged to chair the Manchester Homelessness Partnership Board and provide emergency accommodation for rough sleepers. Manchester's Clinical Commissioning Groups pledged to ensure equal access to services for those experiencing homelessness.



Sir Richard Leese

In the second hour of the launch, the audience spread out into the different Action Group sessions, with each one focusing on a new challenge ahead, such as increasing opportunities, promoting alternative giving, improving provision and creating services for homeless people after 5.00pm. It was a big day and a great step forward to tackle homelessness, ever visible, on Manchester's city streets.

Photographs by Jonathan Coupe and Granada TV

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.



Centre for Local
Economic Strategies

The Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES), have been instrumental in instigating, advocating and developing the work of GMPA. As the UK's leading policy and research organisation dedicated to local economic development, we seek to implement activities which advance social justice and tackle poverty. In Greater Manchester, poverty and inequality are key concerns and one which everyone across the public, social and commercial sectors must redouble their efforts on. As such, GMPA has a critical role to play as a network and as a font of action and challenge on poverty and inequality across Greater Manchester. In a time of significant public service and economic change, GMPA are a key cog in building a progressive and socially just future for the city region.

[More information about CLES](#)



Hannah Slater is Research and Learning Officer at 4in10, the campaigning network of organisations and individuals tackling child poverty in London, where she leads on research projects as well as working on policy and events.

Like GMPA, 4in10 are a regional network advocating for solutions which draw on local assets in meeting the specific challenges of their city, and Hannah recently attended a GMPA event to understand how organisations are working together to address poverty regionally in Greater Manchester.

4 in 10 London children live in poverty. 4in10 is a network of organisations and individuals who feel this is unacceptable, and want to coordinate their efforts to tackle this problem at the local and regional level.



Having previously been based with the End Child Poverty Coalition and then Save the Children, 4in10 is now based at Children England. We support CVS organisations and Local Authorities to address child poverty in London through regular best practice and capacity building events, by building London-wide campaigns, through information sharing via our news bulletin and online resource hub, and through undertaking research and policy advocacy on London's child poverty issues.

Like GMPA, we are a regional network tackling poverty in our city. We believe that regional networks like 4in10 and GMPA have an important role to play in bringing together diverse organisations to address the multi-faceted issue of poverty and explore joined-up, cross-sector solutions which meet our cities' specific challenges as well as drawing upon local assets.

You can find more information on their [website](#) and follow them on Twitter @4in10

Who's you? If you haven't already been contacted about sending us your details for this Who's Who page then an email will be coming your way very soon or you could pre-empt that by sending in your profiles! We are asking for 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 this information to [Chris](#) Thanks ☺

Forthcoming Events:

'Jam and Justice' Open Evening: Co-producing Urban Governance for Social Innovation

Friday May 13th, 2016 from 5pm—7pm at The People's History Museum, Left Bank, Manchester M3 3ER

Led by a team of researchers and civil society practitioners (including GMCVO), the 'Jam and Justice' project is exploring what a radical rethink in urban governance might actually look like and how it could be realised in practice. Come and [find out more](#), meet us, and see if you fancy getting involved in commissioning or delivering our action research projects.

Greater Manchester Living Wage Campaign

Tuesday May 17th, 2016 from 2—4pm at Unison, Arena Point, 1 Hunts Bank, Manchester M3 1UN

Please join us for our next meeting to discuss how we encourage more employers to pay the Living wage.

Social Security Advisory Committee stakeholder event

Thursday May 19th 2016 from 10am – 4pm at The Place Aparthotel, Ducie Street, Manchester, M1 2TP

The two main themes for the day are Universal Credit and disability, health and social security. There will some excellent speakers who will each provide an informed contribution from different perspectives to help set the scene and provoke debate for discussion.

There will also be an opportunity to hear about the Committee's current and future projects and for more informal engagement to discuss your own views.

Please email to book ssac@dwp.gsi.gov.uk or call 0207 829 3354

Local Economic Development and Inclusive Growth in GM

Friday May 27th 2016 from 9.30am – 12noon at St Thomas Centre, Ardwick Green North, Manchester M12 6FZ

The event organisers, the Inclusive Growth Analysis Unit, invites groups and individuals with experience in developing social enterprises, micro-businesses, start-ups, business support, education & skills training, labour market discrimination, low pay and poor working conditions and supporting individuals into work to this free workshop and consultation to explore strategies and actions to promote 'inclusive growth' in GM.

For further details and to book, click [here](#)

Does economic growth in the north depend on transport?

Tuesday June 28th, 2016 from 6pm—9pm at Museum of Science and Industry, Liverpool Rd, Manchester M3 4FP

The Guardian is hosting this event to discuss the role of transport innovation in stimulating greater economic development, including skills; is it government's job to put infrastructure investment at the heart of local economic growth?; and how to bring together businesses and local public services to plan effectively for skills, education and housing .

This event is free but allocation of places is restricted. [More information](#)

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 - a 'coalition of the willing'. This group has since grown to nearly 90 organisations and 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 our 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.

