



Written by Tracy Langton

I have recently become a Trustee on the Board at the Helena Kennedy Foundation (HKF) based in London. The Foundation was set up by Dr Ann Limb in 1998 to take forward the recommendations of Learning Works, the seminal report by Baroness Helena Kennedy QC - President of the Foundation - which drew attention to the needs of adult learners nationally.

The main reason I wanted to undertake this role is my passion for social justice and equality. Education can really change lives. I came from a deprived background and was the first person in my family to attend University.

The Foundation's beneficiaries are primarily disadvantaged students who have overcome significant barriers in order to continue with their education at university level. They include, for example, students who are lone parents, on low incomes and with low skills levels, many of whom come from poor, working class and minority ethnic communities. It is not untypical for the students supported by the Foundation to be coping with several challenges simultaneously.

Worries about money are only part of the story for students from poor or disadvantaged backgrounds. The HKF award is a package of financial, personal, practical support and opportunities designed to support transition into higher education, enhance the student's experience at university and improve their chances of employment after graduation. This includes maintaining regular contact with students and celebrating their achievements, working with them to find solutions to financial problems, acting as a personal referee and liaising on their behalf with colleges, universities and external agencies and we connect them with other award winners studying in the same university or town and with the network of HKF award winners nationally.

As we know often educational qualifications for students are just one barrier, it is also the 'social capital' they lack to help them progress and this is what the foundation seeks to overcome. The foundation aims to take social action to increase the number and enhance the value of bursaries awarded each year. It aims to encourage social mobility by increasing the range and types of student support available, particularly for talented students from non-traditional backgrounds. It also promotes social justice by offering more opportunities for students and graduates to participate in peer mentoring, work shadowing, and personal skills training; and by extending the reach of our student support volunteers' network.



There is a wide group of organisations ranging from educational establishments through to private companies sponsoring these bursaries. At Northwards Housing – my day job - we are looking at which of our partners might be interested in sponsoring a North Manchester student and trying to develop this further.

[Find out more](#) If you or your organisation is interested in sponsoring a bursary then please [email](#) or **phone** 0208 223 2027 to speak to Shahida or Glenda.

## Inspiring Change Manchester

Inspiring Change Manchester is an innovative approach to supporting those with multiple needs. Led by Shelter, it is an eight-year programme, funded through Big Lottery Fund's £112m Fulfilling Lives project. ICM has been designed and developed with service users to meet the diverse requirements of people with a variety of multiple and complex needs (including a history of problem drug and alcohol use, mental health or emotional well-being issues, accommodation problems and offending).

The programme works with individuals who are disengaged from services and aims to break down barriers that can prevent these people from leading fulfilling lives. It does this by delivering the right range of services at the right time. ICM is not an additional; replicating work that other organisations do every day across the city. Instead, the programme works *alongside* people experiencing multiple and complex needs and *in partnership* with organisations and communities. ICM has come from an asset based approach; recognising strengths, focussing people on services that can make a difference and by reengaging people with support that they may have lost touch with.

Our programme has four outcomes;

- Manchester residents with three or more complex needs have improved health, wellbeing, housing, employability and reduced re-offending and these outcomes are sustainable,
- Manchester residents with multiple and complex needs have more opportunities for involvement in the services they need, and influence on decisions that affect them,
- Services share more information and better coordinate interventions for people with multiple and complex needs
- Commissioning of mainstream services respond to project learning, funding cost-effective evidence based interventions for people with multiple and complex needs.

In the first two years, working across four different areas (mental health, substance use, criminal justice and homelessness) has given the programme a great insight into how experiencing more than one area of need can exacerbate issues around isolation and other disengagement from services. More specifically, ICM has learned about the issues affecting people experiencing multiple and complex needs **in Manchester**.



ICM core Group

Each Fulfilling Lives project runs in two-year business cycles, offering an opportunity to refresh and revise things in response to learning or external changes. Learning from the first phase of the programme has guided our planning for the next two years and, on 1 April 2016, Inspiring Change Manchester began their next two-year business cycle with 20 priorities that they intend to achieve in the next two years. Here are just some of the priorities and new initiatives for the next two years:

- A new peer mentoring model, bringing people with lived experience into the heart of delivery.
- The launch of a Housing First pilot for people with long-term, entrenched homelessness issues.
- A stronger focus on health and mental health.
- Greater use of mobile technology.
- Building on the 'Women's Voices' work already started to develop better approaches to working with women with multiple needs.
- Evolving ICM's Flexible Fund to bring about a greater focus on personalisation and personal budgets.
- Stronger links with small and grassroots organisations.
- A specific offer for Eastern European nationals and other economic migrants.
- Taking co-production to the next stage by strengthening the programme's Core Group and looking at it becoming independent.

[Paul Pandolfo](#)  
Programme Manager  
[Inspiring Change Manchester](#)  
Shelter

## Persistent Poverty

You may have seen articles in the press or social media coverage over the last couple of days about the number of people experiencing poverty over the past few years. This follows the ONS report released on Monday. The Joseph Rowntree Foundation has issued [a list of measures](#) to support an 'all-out assault on poverty' which they believe should be included in the Queen's speech. The full ONS [report](#) is available but these are the main points:

- In 2014, 6.5% of the UK population were in persistent poverty, equivalent to approximately 3.9 million people. Persistent poverty is defined as experiencing relative low income in the current year, as well as at least 2 out of the 3 preceding years.
- Based on the latest data, the UK has the third-lowest persistent poverty rate in the EU, but the overall poverty rate for 2014, at 16.8%, was the 12th highest.
- The persistent poverty rate for women was 1.5 percentage points higher than for men in 2014 in the UK. Women have consistently had a higher persistent poverty rate than men. The gap between the two has remained relatively stable over the past 6 years.
- Single-person households were more likely to experience persistent poverty than households with 2 adults.
- Between 2011 and 2014, almost a third (32.5%) of the UK population experienced poverty at least once.
- 43% of people who left education without any formal qualifications experienced poverty at least once between 2011 and 2014, twice the percentage of those with a degree or higher.
- Persistent poverty rates measure the percentage of the population that are at-risk-of-poverty\* in the current year and at least 2 out of the 3 preceding years.

(\*It is important to understand that the at-risk-of-poverty rate is a relative indicator, measuring income compared with other people, so does not in itself necessarily imply a low standard of living.)

**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.

**Atiha Chaudry** has over 25 years of experience within the public, voluntary and community sectors and has worked for a range of organisations. She is passionate and committed and over the years has given her time generously to the sector.

Atiha is Chair of GM BME Network , Director of BME Matters , Board or advisory Member of GMCVO ,the Manchester Settlement and the Inclusive Growth Analysis Unit . She is a member of the Manchester Leaders Forum and a serving Justice of the Peace . Atiha was appointed Deputy Lieutenant of Greater Manchester in 2012.

On Friday May 13th 2016 at the Midland Hotel, a lunch was held to celebrate the 24th Inspiring Women Awards, categories included the Entrepreneur award, Business award , Public Sector front line awards and the Young Woman award.

The Community award went to **Atiha**.



**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:

### Building financially healthy communities

Friday May 27th 2016 10am - 4pm in at St Thomas Centre, Ardwick Green North, Manchester M12 6FZ

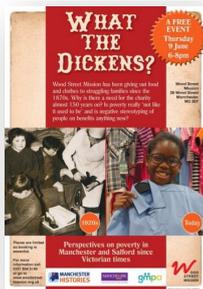
Households are coming under increasing financial pressure: changes to benefits and tax credits, increasingly irregular and low incomes and high living costs. In such a challenging environment with limited resources, how can we ensure we are providing the right advice, support and services that are able to meet such a wide range of needs? And what approaches have others taken to transform the financial health of their communities, and what have they learned? [More information and booking](#)

### What the Dickens?

Thursday June 9th 2016, from 6 - 8pm at Wood Street Mission, 26 Wood Street, Manchester M3 3EF

This event, in association with the University of Manchester and GMPA, explores how poverty and the perceptions of poverty and inequality have changed over the years. Is it really 'not like it used to be'? And is negative stereotyping of people on benefits anything new? A lively, interactive discussion chaired by Julie-Marie Strange from the University of Manchester with drinks and nibbles.

Click here to [book your place](#)



### Centre for Sustainable Livelihoods exploratory meeting

Wednesday June 22nd, 2016 12 - 3pm at St Thomas Centre, Ardwick Green North, Manchester M12 6FZ

An initial meeting to explore the potential for establishing a 'virtual' Centre for Livelihood Studies, to provide a means for promoting collaboration between academics and NGOs with an interest in the intersection between poverty, welfare and livelihoods, particularly from a participatory action/research perspective.

A Centre would potentially offer a creative space for shared learning, new thinking, generating new project proposals, research collaborations, joint funding bids etc which draw on the combined experience and expertise. [More information and booking](#)

### Where does volunteering go from here?

Thursday June 23rd 2016, at St Thomas Centre, Ardwick Green North, Manchester M12 6FZ

You are invited to this event to give your views on the future of volunteering in our region and to have your say on the development of the Volunteering Greater Manchester network. With attendance from Tony Lloyd (Interim Mayor), Carolyn Wilkins (Chief Executive, Oldham Council) and Dr Julian Skyrme (Director of Social Responsibility, University of Manchester) already confirmed, this should be an exciting and interactive event. Event Fee £10 [More information and booking](#)

## 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.

