

Tackling homelessness this winter in Greater Manchester - A Bed Every Night

by Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester

I have always been clear that trying to tackle rough sleeping and homelessness should be something that any Mayor of Greater Manchester should be committed to.

In the 18 months since I was elected this has become my top priority. In that time I have learned a lot about what ending rough sleeping and the need for it actually means and what it will take. It has been a steep learning curve.

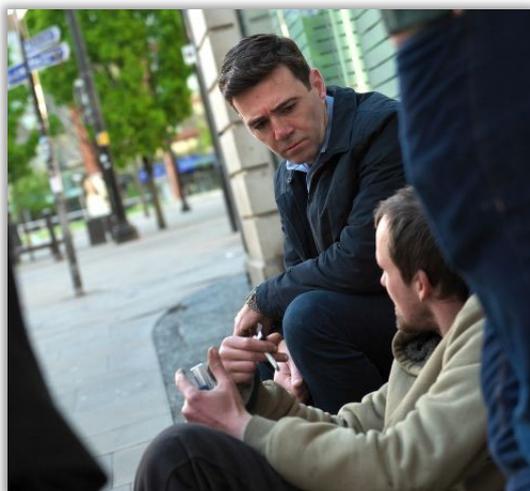
Rough sleeping is the most visible form of homelessness and we have adopted the goal to end the need for anyone to sleep on the streets of Greater Manchester by May 2020. This is a full seven years ahead of the government's target.

We have seen our response to rough sleeping improve and become more co-ordinated. Last winter, across the city-region, we provided an unprecedented number of beds for people as the weather turned colder. This was due to the hard work and effort of our local authorities and their partners in the voluntary and private sectors. This year we want to do even more.

That is what we are all about in Greater Manchester. We are setting a new national standard with our ambitious pledge to end the need for rough sleeping and are now on the verge of a massive step towards achieving it with the commencement of A Bed Every Night at the start of November.

Our goal is to provide a place for every person sleeping rough every night right through the coming winter, from November 1st to March 31st. While we won't turn people away, this scheme is only available to people whose last address was in Greater Manchester. We simply do not have the resources to open it up to people from further afield and we cannot create an incentive for more people to come here than we can accommodate.

We will be delivering this across every borough in Greater Manchester; we had over 200 places available across the city-region on November 1st. Over the coming weeks we will continue to work to increase that number as well as making sure there is a range of accommodation available, including safe provision for women and places that will look after dogs.



We also want to make sure that it is more than a bed for the night. Ideally, we want to provide a steady base with a hot shower, a hot meal and specialist support to help people begin a journey away from the streets. A Bed Every Night comes at just the right time - we will soon have more provision available through our Social Impact Bond (SIB) and our ground-breaking Housing First programme.

A Bed Every Night is not a sticking plaster but the first stage of a new systematic approach across Greater Manchester to ending homelessness. It will enable us to use every contact with rough sleepers to work with them to deliver more sustainable solutions. Ideally, we want to move people through emergency shelters into the right accommodation option for them, to enable them to stay off the streets.

Underpinning all this is our "whole-society" approach. We know we cannot achieve our goals with public money alone so we are working hard to mobilise the contributions of all sectors of Greater Manchester society – public, private, voluntary and faith – as part of the same strategy. This is the only sustainable way of tackling this chronic issue.

Continued on the following page.



I am so grateful to all the people who have contributed to the [Mayor's Homelessness Fund](#) which has so far raised almost £145,000. The Fund is now wholly dedicated to the purpose of supporting A Bed Every Night.

We are also enormously grateful to Manchester City captain Vincent Kompany for throwing his weight behind the cause. Vincent has committed his Testimonial year to raising funds to support A Bed Every Night through his own [Tackle4MCR](#) campaign. We need every penny to maximise the success of A Bed Every Night and I hope people will consider supporting us however they can.

We know that there are challenges which we cannot control but, more than ever, I'm convinced that this is the right thing to do. Not least because of the number of deaths on the streets of our country. I hope that with this next development in our approach that we can go a long way towards our goal and that this will be a major step to achieving our target.

I look forward to updating you all on our programme in the New Year. Thank you for your support.

For more information, and to donate to A Bed Every Night, visit www.bedeverynight.co.uk

GM Living Wage Campaign – Living Wage Week!

Last week was the annual Living Wage Week, a chance to celebrate those employers paying the Real Living Wage, call on others to follow suit and also to set the new Living Wage rates. The new rates, £10.55 per hour in London and £9 per hour outside the capital, were announced at the start of the week. At GMLWC we celebrated Greater Manchester's Living Wage accredited employers and called on other major employers in Greater Manchester to become accredited. We campaigned for a fair day's pay for a fair day's work, to reduce in-work poverty and to help employers understand the benefits of paying the Real Living Wage.



Visit the Living Wage Foundation's website to [read more about the Real Living Wage](#), [how it differs from the government's "National Living Wage"](#), and [how to sign up as an accredited Living Wage employer](#).

Highlights from Living Wage Week

Living Wage Foundation celebration event: On Monday, the Living Wage Foundation celebration event saw GM Mayor Andy Burnham's commitment to the Living Wage cause and the Greater Manchester Good Employment Charter as another way to encourage good employers. We continue to work on this with the Combined Authority.

Salford CVS: Alison Page announced that Salford CVS have become a [Living Wage Friendly Funder](#) to support charities to pay the Real Living Wage through their grant-making. They also pledged to encourage accreditation by paying the accreditation fees of 10 employers this year!

Co-op Group action: We campaigned to influence the Co-op Group to become an accredited Living Wage employer. Becoming a Living Wage accredited employer fits within their values and ethics, the Co-op Bank and Credit Union are already accredited and supermarkets such as Morrisons, Lidl and Aldi have already been paying the Real Living Wage to employees aged 18 and over.



We campaigned outside the Co-op HQ, had around 100 responses to our e-action calling for the Co-op Group to pay fair and MPs Lucy Powell, Afzal Khan and Yasmin Qureshi contacted the Co-op in support of our campaign. On the back of this, the Co-op agreed to meet us. They explained that paying the Real Living Wage is on their agenda and that while they are some way off at the moment, above-inflation pay rises in the last three years have moved them closer, and they agreed to meet with us and the Living Wage Foundation in the near future. We will continue to influence the Co-op Group.

We also attended the University of Manchester Living Wage Campaign's rally



for a Living Wage to help influence the University to become Living Wage employers. Students at the University of Salford, which is accredited, are also calling for accreditation of their own Students' Union!

Trafford Housing Trust invests £1m to tackle poverty

Trafford Housing Trust has just celebrated the first year of their new Social Investment Fund (SIF) which aims to reduce poverty and inequality in the borough. The Trust's Social Investment Team and Board were joined by a range of colleagues, stakeholders and some of the organisations who've received support from the team.



Held at the Trust's flagship health and wellbeing hub - Limelight, the event was a chance to recognise the people who dedicate their time and effort to help others and marked the achievements of the first year of the Social Investment Fund and looked to the work ahead.

Chair of the Social Investment Board – Steve Hughes, talked through aims of the SIF which are based on a '5-step plan' produced by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation study – 'We can solve poverty in the UK'. By offering a mix of micro, mid-sized and large grants and capacity building support the SIF aims to support existing organisations and new projects in Trafford to:

- Strengthen families and communities
- Boost incomes and reduce costs
- Improve education standards and raise skills
- Promote long-term economic growth benefitting everyone.

Since its launch in September 2017, the SIF has awarded 109 grants totalling £1,101,836 (estimated to benefit over 90,000 people) and capacity building support to local groups such as:

- The Golden Centre of Opportunities who work with the Somali Community providing employment and skills support. You can find out how this vital support has helped them in [this video](#)
- The Cyril Flint Befriending Service who provide support and companionship for people living on their own which you can see in [this moving video](#)



Trafford Housing Trust's Social Investment Team with Chair of the Social Investment Board – Steve Hughes

The day highlighted how well the Social Investment Team are thought of by the people they support which is apparent from the great feedback received on the day:

"Huge thanks to you and all the team. Wish all funders understood 'life on the ground' as well as you do."

"We had a great evening, it was lovely to speak to people and chat about what we do. The evening was very inspiring and I think what you are all doing is amazing."

"Really impressed with the work that THT are doing in Trafford. It would be great to share your good practise across GM."

Manager of the Social Investment Team – Tom Wilde says: "It was fantastic to have so many people join us to celebrate one year of the Social Investment Service. We have committed over £1m in grant funding since launching 12 months ago, supporting over 100 projects which provide a range of much needed services for people across Trafford, including THT's customers. We also have a strong pipeline of projects coming through, and expect to be investing even more than this next year! The success of the event and the feedback we have already received is a credit to the whole team and the excellent work they do.

If you know anyone who may be able to help reduce poverty and inequality in Trafford point them in the direction of the social investment [website](#)

You can follow the work of the team, and the organisations they support, on social media on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#)

Local Welfare Assistance Scheme Research



Following the publication of [our research](#) in September, Hannah Al-Othman from BuzzFeed News published an article entitled 'Here's what happens when crisis funding for the most vulnerable disappears'.

In a detailed report GMPA's research was highlighted and there were a number of quotes from our Director, Graham Whitham, including *"It's becoming the norm for the voluntary sector to provide crisis support for people who are going hungry, in sudden financial crisis, facing unmanageable debt. It's great, the response from the voluntary sector, but it's also an indictment of the impact of austerity and government welfare reforms. People need access to money. That gives them choice and control and dignity. Going to a food bank and waiting in line takes away people's dignity but also their choice and control."*

The article also held accounts and comment from Wood Street Mission and Manchester Credit Union.

The full article can be read [here](#)

Enabling Homes

Article by Katie Wightman of Enabling Homes



Everyone has a basic human right to a safe, secure and stable home environment, yet the UK government has failed to ensure the right to adequate housing. With an acute shortage of housing, particularly social and affordable housing, lack of housing security, overcrowding, evictions and homelessness, Enabling Homes is attempting to offer a solution to the current housing crisis, particularly for those in need of special care, support, or protection because of age, disability, or risk of abuse or neglect i.e. those individuals who are 'vulnerable'.

When it comes to vulnerable individuals and their families, one of the biggest challenges will likely be the ability to access quality accommodation, accommodation which is fit for purpose and ideal for vulnerable clients.

Enabling Homes brings specialist Housing Associations, Government Funding and Care Providers together coordinating these programmes so that Charities or voluntary organisations supporting vulnerable client groups can have immediate access to these places to live, enabling Service Users to get the home they deserve and Care Providers to get under way with their contracts. This is usually at no cost to the Care Provider at all.

In December 2015 Enabling Homes was founded with the main objective of purchasing suitable living accommodation within community settings for vulnerable adults within the care sector. Most of those individuals we have sourced housing for require support with issues such as mental health issues, learning difficulties, substance misuse, domestic violence, homelessness and daily living independence skills. We are based in the North West of England, but we have acquired properties in the North East and Midlands as well as parts of Wales.

Enabling Homes has developed good working relationships with various charitable housing associations as well as care providers throughout the UK and listens to the needs and requirements of each service. We will research and purchase buildings to create a suitable living environment. Generally, the buildings purchased are developed into self-contained apartments, normally somewhere in the region of 8 – 18 flats, however this can vary dependent on the requirements of the service. Previously we have renovated old unused buildings, such as churches, pubs, shops, old flats and even produced some new builds, to create a high standard of living accommodation that a resident can be proud of, and ultimately benefit from.

We are taking this opportunity to reach out to you as we are passionate about obtaining and developing properties for all individuals who may require some level of support. We are confident, and would be extremely proud, to work with care providers to purchase suitable accommodation for your service. We are more than happy to work alongside any existing partnerships you may have, however we can use our network of charitable housing associations and/or care providers if needed.

Could you take some time to discuss with us the potential opportunities we could provide? We are happy to present our portfolio and explain in more detail what we can offer. The charitable housing association will be able to provide tenancy support and all apartments provided come fully furnished to a high standard.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, if you wish to contact us to discuss any of the information contained within this article, please do not hesitate to contact us by [email](#) For more information please visit our [website](#)

The Future of Social Housing - Shelter's Big Conversation

Your help is needed shaping the future of Shelter's social housing campaigns. Together some of the biggest problems that sit at the centre of a system which is responsible for 1.2 million households being on social housing waiting lists in the UK can be tackled. At this event everyone will be invited to work together and help shape the future of Shelters campaigning on social housing. [More information and book](#)



INTERNATIONAL ARTS & HOMELESSNESS
SUMMIT & FESTIVAL, MANCHESTER 2018

As cities around the world struggle to solve homelessness, delegates from 15 countries have come together for a Summit and Festival at The Whitworth in Manchester from November 12th - 18th, 2018 to explore and celebrate the role the arts can play in tackling homelessness. The arts are being used effectively around the world to reduce social isolation by building social networks and increasing both physical and mental health, improve public attitudes, promote understanding towards homeless people and enable homeless people to express themselves so their voice can be heard.

Tickets for all Festival events are free and delegate passes can be purchased for the Summit (November 15th - 18th). 50% of delegate passes will be given free to people who are or have been homeless – get in touch for more info. [More information](#)

Save the Date for the huge Tesco Food Collection 2018

The Tesco Food Collection is one of the biggest opportunities to get involved to help FareShare and the Trussell Trust feed people across the UK. Between November 26th and December 1st, 2018 volunteers will be asking Tesco customers to donate items to boost the stocks of non-perishable items in the run-up to Christmas. Three hours of volunteering time can bring in enough for 600 meals! You can volunteer [here](#). Tesco also donate a 20% financial top-up on all the food that is donated.



If you need help for yourself or someone you know, [check out our map of food providers across GM](#)



Charity Brass Band Concert 'Night at the Movies'

Friday November 16th from 7.30 at Hazel Grove Baptist Church, Station Street, Hazel Grove SK7 4EX, with parking at the railway station opposite.

Come and enjoy a great evening of brass band music being performed by Poynton Brass band. This charity concert, organised by Vernon Building Society, will be raising funds for Stockport Foodbank. Tickets are only £6

Diversity Matters North West

This organization, based in Hyde, offers a wide range of activities including digital skills; employment, training and volunteering opportunities; improving your health, the English Chat Café etc. To check out their current diary of events click [here](#)



Arts Open Day Saturday

November 17th, 2018 the Booth Centre

Why not go along to the Arts Open Day to celebrate the skills and talents of the artists, musicians, actors, poets and songwriters who are at the heart of the Booth Centre? Meet volunteers, staff and visitors, learn more about the Centre and take part in some interactive workshops and performances. If you are interested in attending or finding out more please get in touch by [email](#) or call 0161 835 2499

Also: December 13 - 15, 2018 [Christmas Pantomime – It's Behind You](#) and December 21, 2018 [Christmas Carol Service](#)

Do you have any events that you'd like GMPA to publicise? Please [Email us](#) with the details.

For more information about Greater Manchester Poverty Action

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

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

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

If you would like to submit an article for inclusion in a newsletter please [get in touch](#)

For more information please contact us by [email](#) or call 07419 774537 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.



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