

From poverty to prosperity for all: Taking action on poverty in Greater Manchester
April 2nd 10am to 4pm, Manchester Mechanics Institute

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- 10:00 - 10:15** Registration, tea and coffee, *The UIA Lounge*
- 10:15 – 10:25** Chair Dr Julian Skyrme, Director of Social Responsibility, University of Manchester, *The Large Hall*
- 10:25 – 10:55** Keynote: **Katie Schmuecker**, Head of Policy and Partnerships, Joseph Rowntree Foundation
Reflecting on recent policy trends, the causes & experiences of those who are in poverty & scope to act at national & local-level
- 10.55 – 11:20** **Ceri Hughes** (Researcher, IGAU) and **Graham Whitham** (Director, GMPA)
Describing the nature & scale of poverty in Greater Manchester & identifying opportunities to reduce poverty by combining economic & social policy thinking
- 11:20 – 11:40** **Uzma Khan**, Deputy Director, Economic Strategy, Scottish Government
What does it mean to have inclusive growth at the centre of the Scottish Government's thinking around the economy? What potential does this have for tackling poverty?
- 11:40 – 12:00** Chair – review contributions, audience questions/feedback
- 12:00 – 12:45** Lunch, *The Congress Room*
- 12:45 – 13:45** Breakout session 1 (see overleaf)
- 13:45 – 14:00** Coffee and change over, *The Alcove*
- 14:00 – 14:55** Breakout session 2 (see overleaf – the sessions will be repeated)
- 15:00 – 15:45** Closing panel: Leading inclusive growth in Greater Manchester, *The Large Hall*
Alan Harding (GMCA); **Pam Smith** (Chief Executive, Stockport City Council); **Mike Wild** (Director, MACC); **Rita Evans** (Leaders in GM)
- 15:45 – 16:00** Chair closing remarks

Afternoon Breakout sessions:

(1) Supporting parents in employment as a means of reducing poverty, *The Peterloo Room*

What are the core policies and services – particularly around transport and childcare – that could enable low income parents to combine caring and work? What do these need to look like?

- Chair: **Eve Holt (Diva Manc)**
- Speakers:
 - i. **Rebecca Fuller**, Urban Transport Group: transport policy as a means of enabling social inclusion;
 - ii. **Imandeep Kaur**, Birmingham Impact HUB: on developing alternative forms of childcare to parents.

(2) Potential for equitable business models to address poverty, *The John Tocher Room*

What are the benefits of alternative business models such as employee own companies and what challenges do these types of businesses face? What are the benefits to employees and businesses of positive employment practices such as paying the Real Living Wage?

- CHAIR: **Anne Lythgoe, GMCA**
- Speakers:
 - i. **Hayley Quinn** and **Sharon Lowry, Be Caring**
 - ii. **Victoria Egerton, Greater Manchester Living Wage Campaign**

(3) Tackling living costs for low income residents, *The Large Hall:*

How can we respond to the needs of low income consumers in the marketplace for everyday goods and services? How do we ensure there are alternatives to high interest lenders?

- Chair: **Emma Stone, The Good Things Foundation**
- Speakers:
 - i. **Verity Buck, Salary Finance**
 - ii. **Paul Colligan, End Furniture Poverty**
 - iii. **Dr Pål Vik, Community Finance Solutions, University of Salford**

(4) An anti-poverty approach to adult skills, *The Mary Quaile Room*

Is it possible, in the context of wider funding cuts, to formulate an anti-poverty approach to skills provision in Greater Manchester? How can skills initiatives engage people currently in low paid work, and/or offer routes into skilled work?

- Chair: **Amanda Richardson, Oldham Council**
- Speakers:
 - i. **Dr Margaret Joojo-Richards**, Hounslow Adult and Community Education West London, on developing a 'blended learning' approach to English and maths at work with the aim of enabling low-paid workers to progress
 - ii. **Lorraine Kerr, Education Co-ordinator**, Worker's Educational Association discussing some examples of adult skills initiatives in Greater Manchester