

PRESS RELEASE

New poverty monitor highlights stark inequalities across Greater Manchester

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Greater Manchester Poverty Action is calling for a united effort to tackle poverty across the city region.

A new research tool developed by Greater Manchester Poverty Action (GMPA) has highlighted the huge disparities in living standards across the city region. It finds that people living in relatively affluent boroughs like Trafford and Stockport are more likely to do well at school, earn more at work and live longer than their counterparts in Oldham, Salford and Tameside.

GMPA's Mini Poverty Monitor details some of the most commonly used stats to understand poverty and living standards across each of Greater Manchester's ten boroughs. The aim is to support policy makers and organisations tackling poverty to better understand the nature of poverty across the city region.

Drawing on a range of existing datasets the monitor shows that:

- Child poverty is highest in Manchester at 45% and lowest in Trafford at 19%.
- Workers living in Oldham are paid on average £5 less per hour than workers in Trafford.
- A third of adults (33%) in Oldham lack level 3 (equivalent to A-level) qualifications compared to 18% of adults in Trafford.
- People working in Rochdale are nearly three times more likely to be in jobs paying at or below the National Minimum Wage/National Living Wage than people working in Salford.
- Men born in Stockport can expect to live to 80 compared to 76 in Manchester, whilst women born in Trafford can expect to live 4 years longer than their counterparts in Manchester.
- School readiness among girls is highest in Trafford at 81.5% and lowest in Oldham at 68.7%. For boys it is highest in Trafford at 67.3% and lowest in Oldham at 54.3%.

The data also masks some of the huge inequalities within boroughs, including those local authority areas that are often perceived as more affluent. For example:

- Over four in ten children (42.8%) in Brinnington and Central ward in Stockport are in poverty, compared to just 14.3% in Bramhall South ward in the same borough.
- In Trafford, the ward with the highest rate of child poverty is Clifford ward where nearly half (48.2%) of children are in poverty. This contrasts with Timperley ward which has the lowest child poverty rate in the borough (15.2%).

Graham Whitham, Director of GMPA said, “The poverty monitor highlights some of the stark differences in the experiences of people living in different parts of Greater Manchester. It is wrong that your life chances should be determined by where you happen to be born and live.”

GMPA is calling on each of the ten local authorities and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority to develop robust anti-poverty strategies and appoint a lead for tackling poverty. This would ensure that poverty doesn’t ‘fall between the cracks’ of different local authority agendas, that effective local efforts to tackle poverty are scaled up and replicated more quickly and help create a unified voice against poverty across Greater Manchester.

Graham continued, “There are some exciting initiatives in different parts of Greater Manchester seeking to address poverty and give everyone a fair chance in life. A number of boroughs, including Salford and Manchester have anti-poverty strategies in place. We want to see these scaled up and replicated across the city region so that there is a united front against poverty across the whole of Greater Manchester”.

Notes to editors

Contact: Graham Whitham on graham@gmpovertyaction.org or 07917644435

To access the mini-monitor go to: www.gmpovertyaction.org/mini-poverty-monitor/

The figures detailed in the poverty monitor were sourced in May and June 2019.

The Mini Poverty Monitor is not an exhaustive list of indicators, and users are encouraged to use the links and sources provided on the page to find out more about the nature of poverty in their area.

Local poverty strategies

Research by Greater Manchester Poverty Action finds that Salford City Council and Manchester City Council have updated anti-poverty strategies in place. Trafford, Bury, Stockport are reviewing or updating their anti-poverty strategies. Oldham council has recently appointed a ‘lead member for poverty’.

We are not aware that anti-poverty strategies are in place in Wigan, Bolton, Rochdale and Tameside

Table 1: Showing the highest and lowest ward child poverty rates in each Greater Manchester borough in 2018

	Highest	Per cent in poverty AHC	Lowest	Per cent in poverty AHC
Bolton	Great Lever	55%	Bromley Cross	18.50%
Bury	Sedgley	50.40%	Tottington	19.20%
Manchester	Longsight	59.50%	Chorlton	23.60%
Oldham	Werneth	66.20%	Saddleworth North	19.10%
Rochdale	Central Rochdale	57.40%	Norden	23.20%
Salford	Ordsall	59.30%	Worsley	13.40%
Stockport	Brinnington and Central	42.80%	Bramhall South	14.30%
Tameside	St Peter's	52%	Denton West	23.10%
Trafford	Clifford	48.20%	Timperley	15.20%
Wigan	Ince	42.90%	Winstanley	15.40%

Source: <http://www.endchildpoverty.org.uk/poverty-in-your-area-2019/>

About Greater Manchester Poverty Action

Greater Manchester Poverty Action (GMPA) is a not-for-profit organisation based in Greater Manchester that works to address poverty across the city region. We convene and network organisations from across the public, private and VCSE sectors to foster collaboration and innovation and to maximise the impact of efforts to address hardship and deprivation across Greater Manchester. We carry out research and we campaign for changes in policy both locally and nationally so that the structural and systematic causes of poverty are addressed.

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