

A dual story of changing deprivation? Initial findings from the IMD2019

By Alex Macdougall – Researcher at the Inclusive Growth Analysis Unit (IGAU), University of Manchester



The end of last month saw an update to one of the more important metrics used by policymakers to understand spatial inequalities, and to target policies in the UK: the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD). This dataset is an area-based measure of relative deprivation, which ranks each of England’s 32,844 ‘neighbourhoods’, or small statistical areas known as Lower-layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs). Each LSOA is home to around 1500 residents.

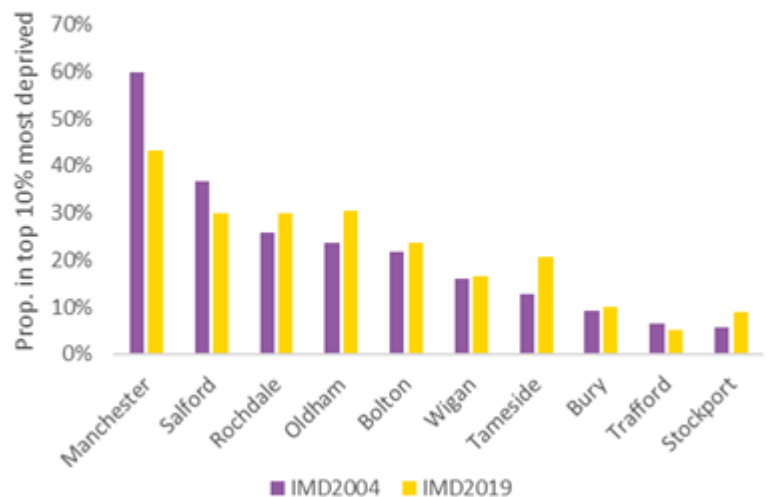
What does the new IMD release tell us? One way into the data is to look at what proportion of all LSOAs in Greater Manchester (GM) appear in the top 10% and 20% most deprived LSOAs in England. The IMD2019 shows that 23% of GM’s 1673 LSOAs are in the top 10% most deprived in the country (390 LSOAs), and 38% are in the top 20% (634). GM’s neighbourhoods are therefore over-represented in the most deprived decile and quintile – a common finding in urban regions of the UK.

However – deprivation is not spread equally across the city region. Manchester local authority (LA) has the greatest proportion of LSOAs in the most deprived decile and quintile, with 43% of its LSOAs in the 10% most deprived, and 59% in the top 20%. Oldham, Rochdale and Salford also have large shares in the most deprived decile: 30% of neighbourhoods in each LA are in the top 10%. In contrast, only 5% of neighbourhoods in Trafford are in the most deprived decile in England, and 9% in Stockport.

Whilst Manchester has the greatest proportion of neighbourhoods in the most deprived categories, it has also seen the largest relative improvement in GM (see figure). 60% of Manchester’s LSOAs were in the top 10% in the IMD2004, compared to 43% in the recent release. The next largest relative improvement is Salford, dropping from 37% of its LSOAs in the most deprived decile, to 30%.

In contrast, most other LAs in GM have dropped relative to the rest of England. For example, the proportion of Tameside’s LSOAs in the top 10% increased from 13% to 21% across this period, and in Oldham this figure increased from 24% to 30%, and Rochdale from 25% to 30%.

Proportion of LSOAs in the top 10% most deprived in England (IMD2004 and IMD2019)



[Previous research by the IGAU](#) suggests that these diverging trajectories reflect a dual story unfolding in the city region since the early 2000s . Areas of widespread deprivation around central Manchester have started to break down (although still severe in places), but in many outer parts of the conurbation the situation has remained similar or worsened over the same period (for example, in Central Oldham, or Brinnington in Stockport).

The IGAU will discuss more findings from the IMD2019 in our major forthcoming stocktaking report, which will be launched at our inclusive growth conference on November 19 - 20th, 2019

[More information on the IMD2019 and the dataset](#)

What proposals do you think should be made in the next UK White Paper on Social Security (welfare benefits)?

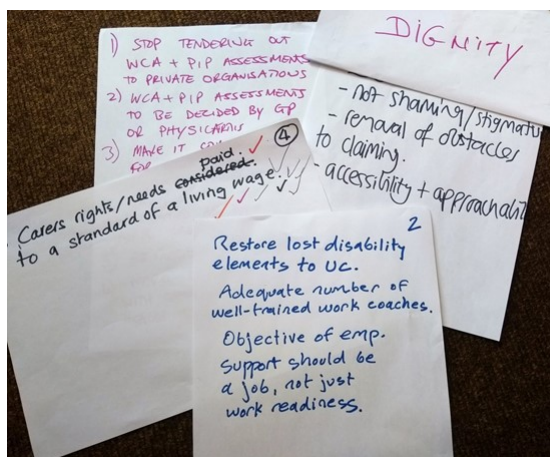
By Michael Orton, University of Warwick

This was the question posed in a workshop attended by a range of Greater Manchester organisations and individuals, held in the summer – and on which there will be further chance to input in coming months.

The aim of the workshop, hosted jointly by Greater Manchester Poverty Action and the University of Salford, was for participants to identify ideas and suggestions for a better social security system.

In particular, participants were encouraged to respond to a Call for Solutions, made by the Commission on Social Security. The Commission is a project which will produce a White Paper style document on Social Security and in which all the Commissioners are Experts by Experience i.e. people currently or recently in receipt of benefits. Commissioners are from a number of different user-led/claimant groups and Deaf and Disabled People's Organisations.*

The workshop covered core issues like Universal Credit and sickness and disability but also a wide range of benefit related topics from carers to sanctions and housing support to tapers.



Some of the ideas and suggestions from the workshop

Some points of potential consensus were identified. These included: scrapping the benefit cap and 2-child limit; integration between NHS, job centres and social care; assessments to be done by GPs; ending the Universal Credit 5 week wait; shifting public spending away from crisis intervention to prevention; and a fair tax system in which big corporations contribute and tax evasion is stopped.

The Greater Manchester workshop ended up being one of 17 sessions held in different parts of the country, with a total of just under 300 participants. Outputs were fed into the Commission on Social Security. The Commission also received just short of 900 online submissions, 100+ paper/email submissions and reports and outcomes from a legislative theatre project and a poetry workshop.

So what next? The Commissioners are now analysing submissions and will produce a Green Paper style document

setting out initial ideas for consultation. Responses and contributions on that from Greater Manchester will be hugely welcomed. Watch this space!

The workshop was facilitated by Michael Orton, a social policy researcher at the University of Warwick and Secretary to the Commission on Social Security. Any queries to [Michael by email](#).

*The Commission is funded by Trust for London but the Commissioners are keen to ensure input on as broad a basis as possible, hence the Greater Manchester workshop.



Michael Orton

The GM VCSE Reference Group is now the GM VCSE Leadership Group

The VCSE Devolution Reference Group was formed in 2016 as a coalition of leaders from the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector who wanted to promote the role and involvement of the VCSE sector and communities in Greater Manchester devolution.

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The group now oversee a number of significant projects/initiatives and feel that they need a name that better reflects the work that they do. After careful consideration the group will now be called the GM VCSE Leadership Group with the strapline 'the sector's voice in devolution'.

Warren Escadale, Independent Chair of the group said "We believe that our sector plays a critical role in our communities. As a leadership group we want to make sure that VCSE groups and organisations are not taken for granted and that we influence the future of Greater Manchester and the devolution agenda. Greater Manchester's 16,000 groups cannot engage in everything but we need to make sure, collectively, that our sector is better understood, that where groups can be engaged they are engaged, and that we are fighting for the principles and programmes of activity that benefit and support our communities and beneficiaries."

A new website will be launched soon that will explain more about the group, who they are, how they operate and what they do. In the meantime you can find out more on Voluntary Sector Northwest's (VSNW) website [here](#).

News from the Greater Manchester Living Wage Campaign



Preparations are in full swing for Living Wage Week which runs from November 11th - 17th. One event already in the diary is on 13th November. This is a joint event between us and the Greater Manchester Good Employment Charter. The event will be a presentation by the GM Living Wage Campaign to the GM Employment Charters Supporters Network followed by a Q&A on issues raised by the presentation. The purpose of the event is to enable GM employers to fulfil one of the Charter's proposed membership criteria relating to paying the Living Wage.

There will also be an event in Bolton which the Campaign are involved with. The event is being planned by a Living Wage Employer from Bolton called Boo Consulting.

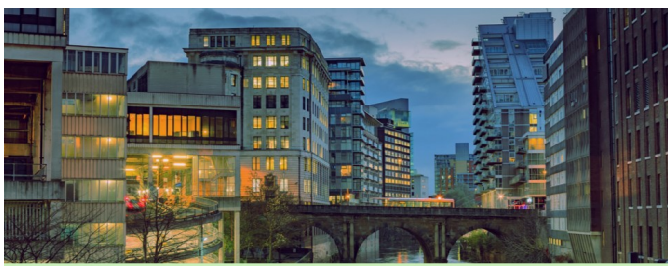
Becci Martin from Boo Consulting said :*"Boo Consulting are Living Wage Employers based in Bolton. Boo have championed the Living Wage for over 3 years and are proud to partner with the Greater Manchester Living Wage Campaign to raise awareness and encourage more businesses to pay the living wage. During National Living Wage week we will be hosting a Meetup at our HQ in Bolton for any LW organisations as well as those who might be considering it"*

Further details about this particular event can be found [here](#)



John Hacking

Many more activities are being planned and full details of these will be included in the next edition of this newsletter. If you have any questions or comments about the Campaign, or want to get involved then please email [John Hacking](#), GM Living Wage Campaign Coordinator



SUPPORTERS' NETWORK EVENT
Real Living Wage | November 13th



The Greater Manchester Living Wage Campaign is a Greater Manchester Poverty Action project



Cooking Programmes

Cracking Good Food have secured MAES (Manchester Adult Education Service) part EU funding to deliver 10-week, cooking programmes, three times, in four hostels across Manchester. A total of 120 cooking sessions, each lasting 3 hours. As part of their role within Greater Manchester Food Poverty Alliance, their mission is to enable as many communities as possible to have the opportunity to learn to cook. This they feel, provides that much needed opportunity. It is for volunteers and community support workers in the public, third and voluntary sector.

The programme requires a 10 week commitment which many vulnerable residents are unable to provide. They have therefore been granted permission to widen the reach, enabling community members (only with DBS clearance), to guarantee full groups. This is FREE in-house training for which they can provide CPD certificates. Cracking Good Food will then be able to help support these community members, at a later stage, to roll out cooking in their community. Get in touch to find out more.

The courses will run with a minimum of 10, maximum of 20 people. Participants need to be able to commit to the full 10 week course. All food and protective clothing is provided as well as full e-recipe and idea sheets which can be photographed using a phone. An application form needs to be completed with an Individual learning plan.

The programmes will be run follows:

- Chorlton: Programme 1. Wednesdays October 2nd - 8 December 8th, 2019. 6-9pm.
Programme 2. Wednesdays January 8th - March 18th, 2020 6-9pm
- Fallowfield: Programme 1. Wednesdays Oct 30th, 2019 - January 15th, 2020 11- 2pm.
- Ancoats: Programme 1. Tuesdays November 12th, 2019 - January 28th, 2020 11-2pm.
- Ardwick: Programme 1. Wednesdays November 20th, 2019 - February 5th, 2020 3 - 6pm. Women ONLY.

Menus for the programme include curries, rice, pasta, stews, pizzas, soups, noodles, breads, pastry and vegetarian.

Booking onto a course online can be done [here](#) but please also email [Sarah](#) with a copy of your DBS stating which course you would like to attend.

Cracking Good Food's [Call Out for Unwanted Cooking and Gardening Equipment](#) has enabled them to equip the kitchens with the majority of what is needed. There are four Apex Storage units (in-kind donation) across Manchester where some donations are still being stored. If you can help with the appeal for more equipment or need equipment then do let them know.

For further information please contact [Adele Jordan](#) :

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Inclusive Economy case study: PossAbilities

GMMA has been working on behalf of the GM VCSE Devolution Reference Group (now renamed the GM VCSE Leadership Group) to develop tools that help promote the voluntary and community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector's role in the Greater Manchester economy. As part of this project, we are publishing a series of case studies highlighting organisations delivering social value and operating alternative and ethical business models. This is the fourth case study. Further information, a short film and all of the case studies are available on our [website](#)



Live the life you choose

PossAbilities aims to support vulnerable adults to live the life they choose and is a community interest company, incorporated in 2014. In five years, the social enterprise has more than doubled in size, now having some 500 staff and a turnover of £12.2 million.

PossAbilities mostly supports people with learning disabilities, young people leaving care and people with dementia. This includes: day services; supported living and outreach; family-based support; shared lives/supported placements; respite, short breaks and supported holidays; and employment support. PossAbilities has achieved 'outstanding' ratings on two consecutive inspections by the Care Quality Commission, something that only 2% of health and social care providers do.

It makes a positive impact in four main ways:

Core work: Each day, PossAbilities works with and actively support hundreds of people with learning disabilities to build on their strengths, achieve their goals and aspirations and become increasingly independent. This approach enables people to engage in meaningful activity and to take an active part in community life. Many become work-ready and hold down voluntary or paid positions in local workplaces.

Place makers: PossAbilities tries to improve the places in which it works. Each year, it is the catalyst for a big event in Heywood. In 2017, over 3,000 people became a walking train along the Monkey Town trail, formed with nine ape statues around the town. In World Cup year, 2018, a four-week inclusive event involved six teams of disabled and non-disabled people in a series of events which tested their teamwork, athleticism, artistic abilities and collective knowledge. In 2019, there is a month-long festival called Hooray for Happywood – Making Heywood the Hollywood of Happiness.



Hooray for Heywood!

Community connectors: PossAbilities created the Cherwell Wellbeing Garden and Farm and opened up its eight activity zones free to the whole community. PossAbilities funds a full-time Community Connector and created an app to help people discover what is going on in their neighbourhood. It also provides a drop-in social lounge where vulnerable adults can make and meet up with friends and get an affordable meal.

Social entrepreneurship: PossAbilities addressed a shortage of accommodation for people with learning disabilities by getting a community asset transfer and investing £1.8 million in building 17 apartments adjacent to the Cherwell Wellbeing Garden and Farm and the social lounge.

The main challenges for PossAbilities have included council departments not sharing common objectives and sometimes creating barriers for each other. Equally, procurement processes do not properly take into account social, environmental and economic impact, often only allowing 500 words to describe it all.

PossAbilities makes things work effectively by thinking big and aspiring to be world-class in everything it does. It has a small, entrepreneurial management team, so there is no time to get lost in mounds of meetings. Success is celebrated, and disappointments are not dwelt on – either gets 20 minutes. In 2019, PossAbilities launched a Happiness Manifesto: it wants all staff to spend some time focusing on ideas that can increase happiness within and outside of work.

Further details are available on their [website](#)

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Forthcoming events

Tomorrow: GM Homelessness Action Network (GMHAN) - Preventing Homelessness

Thursday October 24th, 2019 from 10am - 1pm at Maxwell Hall, Salford University, 43 Crescent, Salford M5 4WT

A GM wide cross-sector network to look at what is being done around prevention, and what might be useful to include in a GM plan around Homelessness Prevention. Plus some updates, and a brief showcases from inspiring projects around GM. They would like more people who have experienced homelessness to attend, so if you run a service please try to invite people to come along. Places are limited, so no more than 2 people from any organisation. Further info and registration [here](#).

Tomorrow: Increasing cross sector understanding of our great VCSE workforce

Thursday October 24th, 2019, 10am-12pm or 1pm-3pm at Macc, Swan Buildings, 20 Swan Street, Manchester, M4 5JW).

The GM VCSE Reference Group and GM Health and Social Care Partnership are seeking to increase cross sector understanding of our VCSE workforce. Macc and Connected Consultants are working in partnership to try to engage with as many VCSE leaders as possible to explore workforce development, HR challenges and recommendations for VCSEs, public sector, or commissioners. You are invited to participate in a focus group to examine these topics in an informal environment facilitated by an external partner. Email [Bethany](#) with your name, job role, organisation and preferred focus group timing.

Manchester BME Network and Greater Manchester BME Network Joint Networking event

Friday November 1st, 2019 from 9.30am at St Thomas Centre, Ardwick Green North, Manchester M12 6FZ

More information about the event, about membership and to book is available [here](#)

Risk of poverty among different groups - just a couple of places left

Wednesday November 6th, 2019 from 9.30am - 12.30pm

Risk of poverty among different groups of the population is not static and has changed considerably over the decades. This half day course will look at trends in poverty in the UK among different groups and support participants to think about their own client base and how they can effectively target and design projects and services. For more information including a course overview and to book your place please go to our [website](#).



From Exploitation to Hope? A discussion on casualised working

Wednesday November 6th, from 6-8pm at Ziferblat Edge Street, 23 Edge Street, Manchester M4 1HW

Do you identify as someone who is insecure or exploited in the labour market? This free interactive workshop is a chance for young people (age 18 to 30), to discuss your experiences with peers, learn about employment rights and explore your personal expectations and aspirations. [More information and book](#)

The Manchester Sleepout

Friday November 8th, 2019 kindly hosted again by Manchester Cathedral

Each year [the Booth Centre](#) invites people to take on the challenge of sleeping out for one night to highlight some of the hardships that people have to face every night. They are working to end homelessness, in all its forms. Join them in their mission. Sleep out once, so that others don't have to. [More information, FAQs and registration is now open.](#)



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 please [get in touch](#) For more information please contact us by [email](#)

NB GMPA does not have full-time dedicated administrative support so please do not expect an immediate response.



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