

Could your organisation become a Principal Partner of GMPA?

We are delighted to confirm that 17 organisations have already signed up as [Principal Partners](#) of GMPA in 2020. The scheme is the main way we cover our core costs. We couldn't do what we do without the support of organisations who share our vision of a Greater Manchester free from poverty.

Principal Partners support GMPA with pledges of funding and support. This year we'd really like to increase the number of principal partners to help secure GMPA's future. If your organisation would be interested in becoming a Principal Partner, joining with the group represented below, please contact our director [Graham Whitham](#).



These are some of the reasons why organisations support GMPA in this way:

"Tackling poverty and inequality, wherever we find it, is the central mission of Oxfam, including in the UK, so we are very pleased to support the work of GMPA as a lead and convener, working in partnership to challenge policy and practice and make Greater Manchester a fairer place for all, placing the views and experiences of people in poverty at it's heart"

Anela Anwar, Head of Programme Development – UK Programme – Oxfam GB

"Addressing global inequalities is a key priority for researchers at The University of Manchester. Being a Principal Partner of Greater Manchester Poverty Action helps to build on our many collaborations to-date, ensuring our research impacts on policies and practices to reduce poverty and achieve more inclusive growth across our city region."

Dr Julian Skyrme, Director of Social Responsibility, the University of Manchester

"Our One Manchester vision commits us to using our skills and resources to build "Resilient Thriving Communities". To achieve this it is essential that we work in partnership to address the effects of poverty, and it's root causes. We provide money and debt advice in our communities, and support a range of projects that create opportunities to develop peoples potential. One Manchester supports Greater Manchester Poverty Action because we believe that it is only through working together and collective action that we can realise our ambitions."

Dave Power, Group Chief Executive, One Manchester

We would like to confirm our Principal Partners for 2020 by the end of the financial year, so [do please get in touch](#) if you would like to find out more.

Millions across the UK are living without household essentials

a press release from Turn2us, a national charity helping people who are struggling financially.

New research from national poverty charity [Turn2us](#) reveals over two million households are living without essential household appliances such as fridges, freezers, cookers and washing machines.



The [#LivingWithout campaign report](#) outlines the scale of appliance poverty across the UK. It also highlights the financial, physical and emotional consequences experienced by people living without these basic essentials; especially families and individuals affected by more complex physical and mental needs.

The analysis highlights the true scale of appliance poverty in the UK, with at least 1.9 million people living without a cooker, 900,000 without a fridge, 1.9 million people living without a washing machine and 2.8 million without a freezer. While the national scale is staggering, certain demographics are considerably more affected than others, such as private renters, the self-employed, single adults and households on incomes below £10,000. Some regions are also worse off, including people living in London, the West Midlands, Yorkshire and Humber and the North East.

Between 2017-2019, Turn2us surveyed over 10,000 service users and uncovered the impact of living without essential household appliances.

"It is expensive to buy food already cooked, [but we have] limited options at home without a stove and oven"

"My family have concerns over my weight loss, they cook me food to make sure I have eaten"

"I have incontinence because of my epilepsy and I am unable to wash my clothes like I should, I feel so embarrassed"

The research and analysis from Turn2us shows that changes to welfare policy since 2010 has contributed significantly to the increase in appliance poverty. The abolition of the Social Fund in 2013, which previously provided support for those living without essential household appliances, has specifically been identified as the single biggest erosion of help. Of the 100 grant giving charities Turn2us spoke to as part of this campaign, over 70% identified the abolition of this crisis fund as a turning point. As a result of this, Turn2us is campaigning to develop a new system of Local Welfare Assistance Schemes to adequately replace the Social Fund.



Thomas Lawson

Thomas Lawson, Chief Executive at Turn2us, said: "Household appliances are not luxuries, they are essentials. Everyone deserves the simple right to store their own food, cook their own dinner and wash their own clothes. People who currently live without white goods face huge economic, physical and emotional penalties. We all want to live in a society where these social injustices are no longer tolerated."

The report includes a series of recommendations including bolstering Local Welfare Assistance schemes, launching a Select Committee inquiry into Local Welfare Assistance schemes, raising awareness of alternatives to high-cost credit and raising the Local Housing Allowance rate to meet average rents.

If you're struggling without household appliances, such as white goods, you may be eligible for help. [Find out more](#). The [Turn2us website](#) includes a Benefits Calculator to find out what welfare benefits and tax credits you could be entitled to, a Grants Search to find out if you might be eligible for support from almost 2,000 charitable funds, and a range of information and resources to help people struggling to get by.

TURN2US | #LIVINGWITHOUT

OVER TWO MILLION HOUSEHOLDS ARE LIVING WITHOUT AT LEAST ONE ESSENTIAL ITEM

"It's emotionally upsetting for myself that I cannot provide adequately for my son and it makes me feel so depressed that I work but still cannot afford basic essentials for my home"

TURN2US CLIENT



Greater Manchester Living Wage Campaign



Since the previous newsletter we have been working with Manchester City Council to progress the lead they are taking to establish Manchester as a Living Wage Place. This follows on from Salford becoming the first in Greater Manchester to make this commitment last November. We are also looking forward to participating, along with the Living Wage Foundation, in the launch of the Greater Manchester Employment Charter on the January 29th. 2020. The Charter will be launched by Mayor Andy Burnham and has, as one of its seven criteria for membership, the requirement to pay the Real Living Wage.

Just a reminder that the first 2020 meeting of the GM Living Wage Campaign Group will take place on February 5th at Church House, 90 Deansgate, Manchester, M3 2GH. The meeting is from 10am -12 noon and is open to anyone interested in working to promote the Real Living Wage in Greater Manchester. Please let us know you'll be coming by [filling out this form](#). Please look out for the email notice if you are on GMWLC's mailing list. If you're not on this list [contact me](#) and I will add your details.

There will be lots to discuss at the meeting, including building interest generated by activities in Living Wage Week last November. We are also working on the planning for a training event in the Spring around the issue of Living Wage Hours so keep an eye out for further details. I hope you can get involved and bring your energy and skills to this important campaign.

John Hacking,
Greater Manchester Living Wage Campaign Co-ordinator
Follow the campaign on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)

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

Ending the Great British Debt Trap

by Stephen Pennells, Jubilee Debt Campaign, Manchester

Last March I shared Jubilee Debt Campaign's Great British Debt Trap campaign which tackles the continuing debt-poverty crises that unequally impact poor people with insecure incomes.

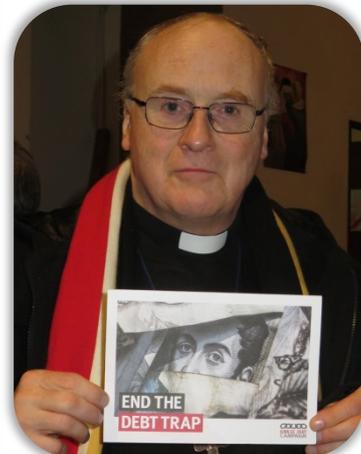
As the campaign launched, Wonga went into administration and pay-day loans capping is now saving families £150 million every year. In the past year the Financial Conduct Authority (the FCA), the body that regulates the financial services industry introduced a cap on rent-to-own debt businesses (like Brighthouse) as we were demanding.

Instead of a £400 washing machine costing a potential £1,600 or beyond, the maximum a firm can charge will be capped at £800; still a lot of interest, but establishing the principle is a great step forward, and one that couldn't have happened without thousands of people taking action. The FCA estimates that the cap could save consumers £22.7 million a year.

But there's more to do. Updated statistics from the Money Advice Service indicated about one in four facing problems with debt and in Greater Manchester 397,600 adults are classified as 'over-indebted'. Manchester Central is the most indebted constituency with 32,300. Many of these are parents so the impact of choosing between heating and eating will hit thousands of children in the region.



Jenny - a campaigner



The Reverend Patrick Davies

In the past year the FCA finished a big review called the 'high cost credit review' - a huge opportunity to make some real changes and get a cap on interest and charges across the board. But they didn't take it. They didn't introduce a cap on credit cards, overdrafts loans or doorstep lending. It's not good enough. That's why JDC is collecting anonymous stories of debt to present to the government and are calling on it to:

- End rip-off lending by capping interest and charges for loans, credit cards, overdrafts and doorstep lending;
- Launch a government inquiry into why so little action has been taken and to put pressure on the Financial Conduct Authority to act.

Politicians and leaders need to be encouraged to raise their voices, and reminded to keep on doing so. With Debt Week 2019 falling during the General Election period, JDC set up an online action which meant hundreds of candidates were lobbied; several locally went out of their way to pledge support.

This campaign continues and JDC will gladly provide materials such as cards and petition forms. JDC can be contacted via [email](#) or call 0207 324 4722.

Addressing Poverty by Lived Experiences Collective

by Dr Katy Goldstraw, APLE Collective Worker

We are the APLE Collective!
ADDRESSING POVERTY WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE

It is the start of a new decade. New starts and new opportunities are popular themes for new year conversations, so let's make sure that we are having these conversations with the right people. Greater Manchester Poverty Action are working on the challenges of economic inequality and poverty. It's important that the right conversations are being had with the right people

to ensure these linked challenges are effectively addressed. The [Addressing Poverty by Lived Experiences \(APLE\) Collective](#) would like to be part of these conversations, and think we have something important to offer given our experiences and expertise on poverty and inequality.

It is easy to ask the 'usual suspects' how to solve poverty, but we will simply get the usual answers and consequently very little change. We are witnessing rising levels of child poverty, cuts to services, precarious job roles with zero hours contracts and people not being able to realise their potential.

We need to be honest; we won't solve poverty in 2020 but the new government will make serious changes to policy and practice which will change the lives of people experiencing poverty. They have talked about listening to people who have felt left behind by economic growth, so now it is key to ensure any changes positively impact on people's lives and the most effective way that we can do this is by listening, involving and responding to the voices of those of us with lived experience of poverty.

At the moment, too many people are marginalised by decision-makers and matters that affect the most vulnerable in society are made without their input. This leads to poorer decisions and policies, such as Universal Credit, and it also misses a golden opportunity to harness the commitment and insight of millions of people across our society.

It doesn't have to be this way. As organisations with lived experience of poverty, the APLE Collective are working to tackle poverty across the UK. Our aim is to create a sustainable, grassroots network to raise awareness of poverty, inform national anti-poverty debates, reduce stigma and work together with others to eradicate it.

Poverty is bad for everyone and we place value on people with direct experience of poverty, having opportunities to affect the decisions that impact on them. Solutions can be found if we share best practice, take account of local knowledge and experience and listen to people who fully understand the impact of policy changes. It is only by working together with policy makers, practitioners and academics that solutions to addressing poverty both locally and nationally can be found. We believe meaningful change to eradicate poverty is only possible when this happens. We invite you to [join us](#), to get involved and to contribute to our campaigning.



Katy Goldstraw



Food Providers map

Back in March 2019 we reported on the progress of our [Food Providers map](#) first launched a little over two years earlier.

The number of hits was then over 22,000 and total number of pins 203. Since then there has been a significant increase in the number of food clubs from 30 when the [GM Food Poverty Action plan](#) was launched to the current total of 49 and we are hoping this trend will continue.

The startling statistic is the number of visits - now over 39,000 which means an average of **57 hits every day since last March**. With this many users it is critical that the data is accurate, so we need your help. Are there any providers that we still don't know about? Are there any that have closed? If you can help, please [email us](#) with the following details: name of provider, address including postcode, contact details, website address, any evidence or membership requirements and opening hours. Many thanks



Forthcoming events

Greater Manchester Living Wage Campaign Group meeting

Wednesday February 5th, 2020 from 10am - 12 noon at Church House, 90 Deansgate Manchester M3 2GH

This meeting is open to anyone interested in working to promote the Real Living Wage in Greater Manchester. There will be lots to discuss at the meeting, including building interest generated by activities in Living Wage Week last November. We hope you can get involved and bring your energy and skills to this important campaign. Do [let us know if will be attending](#).

Ten Years of Change in the Voluntary Sector – Exploring Research Findings in a Greater Manchester Context

Wednesday February 5th, 2020 from 10am - 4pm at St Thomas Centre Ardwick Green North, Manchester, M12 6FZ

For the past ten years a research team has been following a group of voluntary organisations to understand how they experience, navigate and bring about change. The Change in the Making study involves voluntary organisations of different sizes and geographical remits and has taken place during what have been ten incredibly challenging years for many in the voluntary sector. This conference will give representatives from the VCSE sector in GM an opportunity to explore and reflect on their own experience of change over the past ten years in the context of the research findings. Three organisations from GM will talk about how they have experienced change and Karl Wilding from NCVO will provide an overview of the national context. [More information and to book](#).

GMCVO

Why do Oxbridge graduates dominate UK politics?

Decent Work and Productivity Research Centre at MMU
Wednesday February 19th, 2020 from 2 - 3.30pm at MMU Business School Room 3.01 All Saints Manchester M15 6BH

Stephen Taylor, Senior Lecturer in Human Resource Management at the University of Exeter will share insights from his study that looks at the people who occupied the more senior political offices in the UK between 1964 and 2015. As is the case today, a good majority of these people were Oxbridge graduates. [More information and booking](#)



Maximising support for people on low incomes in the austerity era

Friday February 28th, 2020 from 9.30am - 3.45pm at Church House, 90 Deansgate, Manchester, M3 2GH

This course will explore how to access and identify support for people on low incomes in the context of social security reforms and cuts. This course is for VCSE organisations who work with people experiencing poverty and who wish to understand how to maximise support for their service users and public sector professionals involved in service design and delivery. It will also be of interest to researchers seeking to understand the current social security landscape. [More information and book](#).

Understanding poverty measurement, definitions and data

Thursday March 12th, 2020 from 9.30am - 3.45pm at Church House, 90 Deansgate, Manchester M3 2GH

Debates about whether poverty exists in the UK and how to define and measure it have raged for decades. A multitude of data is available that helps quantify poverty, but that wealth of data can make finding the most useful and best supporting evidence difficult. By the end of this course participants will have developed an understanding of what key poverty datasets tell us, how best to access data sources and how to use this knowledge to support the work that they do. [More information and book](#).

There is also another course 'Exploring the Poverty Premium' on March 18th, 2020 and further dates for the two courses detailed above.

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.

