

## Year 1 of the Greater Manchester Food Poverty Action Plan

By Tom Skinner



It is a year since we launched the [Greater Manchester Food Poverty Action Plan](#) with 150 people and organisations who had co-produced the Action Plan in our Food Poverty Alliance project. This article reviews the first year of progress towards the Plan's vision, that "everyone in Greater Manchester enjoys good food and a better standard of living, and they look out for each other."

Through the Food Poverty Alliance, 50 individuals and organisations have made over 100 pledges of action towards the Action Plan's vision, including:

- Apex Storage making five storage units available for individuals and businesses to [donate unwanted cooking and gardening equipment](#) that Cracking Good Food pass on to communities in need;
- Kellogg's reaching 70 local schools with [breakfast club grants](#);
- Sow the City [mapping food provision in North Manchester](#) – they have recently been commissioned to map in South Manchester as well, and aim to support mapping across GM;
- The [Salford Food Share Network](#) supporting other boroughs to consider the potential for partnerships between food banks, food clubs and pantries, advice agencies, the council and other stakeholders;
- Several Housing associations, councils and charities coordinating provision of food with activities for children and young people during school holidays.

We are working closely with most councils across GM, as well as GM Mayor Andy Burnham, the GM Combined Authority and the Health & Social Care Partnership, to discuss actions that can be taken by the public sector at the GM and borough level. For example, Tameside has:

- established a strategic food partnership with food poverty as one of its themes;
- included questions about food poverty in its public consultation survey and commissioned qualitative research to help understand how food poverty impacts residents, and the challenges for food banks and food pantries;
- taken action (which is ongoing) to increase uptake of [Healthy Start vouchers](#).

Another important activity has been to embed food poverty, and the Action Plan specifically, in the wider efforts to develop a comprehensive food strategy for the city region. These efforts are being led by GM's strategic food board Good Food Greater Manchester, of which GMPA is a member. We are currently exploring how efforts to tackle food poverty can complement other sections of the food strategy, and are supporting a series of workshops to develop a cohesive and widely supported strategy.

Since the launch of the Action Plan, GMPA has seen encouraging increased interest in tackling poverty at a local level. Some local authorities are developing and implementing anti-poverty strategies, and there is significant interest in engaging people with lived experience of poverty in decision making e.g. through poverty truth commissions. We continue to campaign for employers across the city region to tackle in-work poverty by [becoming accredited Living Wage Employers](#) and signing up to the [GM Good Employment Charter](#). There are now over 200 accredited Living Wage Employers based here, including Salford, Oldham and Manchester councils – see page 2 for more news from the GM Living Wage Campaign, another GMPA project.



While I am delighted with the progress made in the first year of the Action Plan, there is much more to be done and GMPA remains committed to tackling food poverty and its underlying causes.

Tom Skinner,  
Director, GM Poverty Action

## Help us to inform the way the NHS tackles poverty

On March 27th, our director Graham Whitham will be attending a workshop at the King's Fund in London exploring what more the NHS can do to tackle poverty. The workshop will bring together a diverse group of stakeholders with knowledge, expertise and experience of working with those in poverty, people from the NHS, and those who work in partnership with it.

The [NHS Long-Term Plan](#) sets out important commitments to reducing inequalities in health. As part of this NHS England and Improvement want to do more to understand and maximise the NHS' role in tackling poverty. This builds on previous work, including the King's Fund report, [Tackling poverty: Making more of the NHS in England](#), which set out how the NHS can tackle the risk of, and mitigate the impact of poverty in many ways, from its treatment impact to its role as an economic giant in every community.

This workshop will help inform:

- the development of practical resources for local NHS leaders and institutions
- strengthening the strategic case for the NHS to see tackling poverty as a core issue
- supporting the NHS to work more closely with partners on poverty, with ultimate impacts in improving the health of those in, or at risk of, poverty

The King's Fund will co-host this workshop with the Equality and Health Inequalities Team at NHS England and Improvement.

GMPA is keen to support this work, and we know there is a lot of learning from work in Greater Manchester that could help inform the conversation. With the publication of the recent [Marmot: Ten years on](#) report, it is vital that we make stronger links between health and poverty.

In order to contribute as much as we can to the workshop we are asking people in our network to share information with us in advance. Graham will feed this into the discussion on March 27th, crediting organisations and individuals where appropriate.

Please share any good examples of current or recent case studies, reports or wider work where the NHS has tackled poverty successfully with partners in Greater Manchester. If you have a report/project site/short description of the work you are doing that you would be willing to share, please [email Graham](#) by Friday March 20th.



Graham Whitham  
Director, GMPA

## Greater Manchester Living Wage Campaign

The next meeting of the GMLWC Group will take place on March 25th, 2020 at Church House in Central Manchester. The meeting is from 2pm - 4pm and is open to anyone interested in working to promote the Real Living Wage in Greater Manchester. You can book your place [here](#).



There is some great news from Salford. Thank to an excellent campaign by UNISON and other partners in Salford it has been confirmed that all care workers on the Salford Supported Living Contract will be paid the Real Living Wage from October 1st, 2020. This comes on top of the commitment made on January 27th, 2020 by Northern Care Alliance who run Salford Royal that their aspiration is to be come a Living Wage Employer. The accreditation of Salford as a Living Wage Place in November 2019 certainly seems to be bearing fruit.

A reminder that GMLWC will be supporting an event in May organised by the Living Wage Foundation and GM Citizens UK. GMLWC supporters and activities are encouraged to attend the event to find out more about getting involved in the emerging Living Hours Campaign. The [Living Hours Workshop](#) will be held on May 12th, 2020 from 2pm - 4pm at The Mechanics Institute in Manchester and will be a chance to find out more about the campaign for job security as well as fair pay.



[John Hacking](#),

Greater Manchester Living Wage Campaign Co-ordinator

Follow the campaign on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)

*The Greater Manchester Living Wage Campaign is a GMPA project*

## People's History Museum: The Common Room volunteer opportunities

Do you enjoy meeting new people? Do you enjoy listening to people and sharing stories? People's History Museum is looking for volunteers to help create a welcoming social space within the museum.

People's History Museum (PHM) is the national museum of democracy, telling the story of its development in Britain: past, present, and future. The museum provides opportunities for all people to learn about, be inspired by and get involved in ideas worth fighting for; ideas such as equality, social justice, co-operation, and a fair world for all.



PHM's year long programme for 2020 explores migration, co-created by a Community Programme Team made up of people whose lives have been shaped by migration. The museum is creating The Common Room - an open, inclusive and collaborative social space within the museum where visitors and groups from a diverse range of backgrounds can explore what they have in common. Deadline for expressions of interest is 5pm March 12th, 2020.

What is the commitment? At least one four-hour shift each week either 10am - 2pm or 1pm - 5pm.

PHM are looking for people who:

- Like to meet new people and enjoy starting conversations with people they don't know
- Are good at noticing when something needs doing or someone needs help
- Are open to trying out new things and getting involved in activities
- Are enthusiastic about people from different backgrounds coming together to share stories, ideas and learn from each other
- Have the ability to communicate in a language other than English; this would be an added value but is not essential

You don't need to have all of these qualities to be involved!

For lots more information about the role and to express your interest in getting involved please go to PHM's [website](#)

## Job: Save the Children Policy and Practice Impact Adviser - North of England

This role will be based in Manchester, is permanent, full time and the closing date is March 15th, 2020

As a UK Policy and Practice Impact Adviser you will required to:



- build and maintain expert knowledge on the evidence, practice and policy landscape around early learning and child poverty in the North of England;
- work collaboratively in multi-disciplinary teams to develop change strategies which will help to overcome barriers resulting in the Early Years gap for children living in poverty for children and families in England;
- deliver engaging research products and develop ambitious policy proposals on early learning and child poverty in the UK.
- develop, manage and deliver influential advocacy strategies among officials, practitioners, charities, think tanks and research organisations
- build and maintain excellent external relationships in the policy and practice community, in order to gather intelligence and influence policy and practice change
- work in partnership with children and families experiencing poverty to develop research proposals, policy and practice solutions and influencing strategies.

For more information and to apply please visit Save the Children's [website](#)

## GMCVO survey: Public sector funding of VCSE organisations in Greater Manchester: 2018-2020

GMCVO

GMCVO conducted a survey in 2018 to obtain a quick snapshot of the level of public sector funding into the VCSE sector across GM. The responses received were subsequently used to inform discussions with colleagues within the GM Health and Social Care Partnership about the impact of a Memorandum of Understanding between the GM VCSE sector and the GM Health and Social Care Partnership on funding into the VCSE sector. GMCVO are now repeating this survey for the 2018/2020 period in order to establish whether there have been any changes to the funding of GM VCSE organisations as a result of the ongoing impact of the MoU.

Please spare 5 minutes to [complete the survey](#) before Friday 20th March.

## Forthcoming events

### **TOMORROW: Homelessness Faith Sector Summit**

Thursday March 12th, 2020 from 11am - 3pm at the Methodist Central Hall, Oldham Street, Manchester, M1 1JQ

Manchester has the highest number of children living in emergency and temporary accommodation. At the last meeting of the GM Homelessness Action Network (GMHAN), Shared Health presented their preliminary findings. The Faith Sector are invited, in conjunction with colleagues from GMHAN, for another Homelessness Faith Sector Summit to hear more information about family homelessness in GM and to consider how we all might contribute to the response. [More information](#)

### **Respected and Connected: Older people and equalities in Greater Manchester**

Wednesday March 18th, 2020 from 10.30am - 4pm at Federation house, 2 Federation Street, Manchester M4 4BF

The event will celebrate the learning of Ambition for Ageing's Equalities Board over the last four years, and the diversity of Greater Manchester's Over-50s. They will also be displaying a new artwork, created by Equalities Board members with artist Eva Schlunke. Free global buffet lunch. You can find out more and book for free [here](#)



### **Windrush Scheme Engagement Event**

Thursday March 19th, 2020 from 5 – 8pm, at Trinity House Community Resource Centre, Grove Close, Rusholme, M14 5AA.

The purpose of this event is to reach out to and beyond the Caribbean community, to engage all Commonwealth citizens and other nationalities who have been lawfully resident in the UK for a long time, but who do not have documents to demonstrate their status. Advisers from the Windrush Scheme will be on hand to answer questions, help people fill out application forms, and provide information and application forms for the Windrush Compensation Scheme, all free of charge. \*Please be reassured that no information provided in relation to an application or query under the Windrush scheme will be passed onto Immigration Enforcement.\*

### **Talking about poverty through lived experience workshops**

Thursday March 19th and Tuesday June 30th, 2020 from 9.30am - 5.30pm at the Priory Centre, 15 Priory Street, York YO1 6ET

#### **We are the APLE Collective!**

ADDRESSING POVERTY WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE

APLE invite activist groups with lived experience to two follow up framing workshops bespoke to people with direct experience of poverty. The workshops will provide an in-depth look at the framing tools and how we can use them to build public and political will to take action. The workshops will be co-hosted with The Frameworks Institute. [More information and book](#)

### **Manchester Voluntary Sector Assembly – Social Prescribing**

Monday March 30th, 2020 from 1.30 - 4.30pm at Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service Training Centre, Cassidy Close Manchester M4 5HU



Social prescribing (Be Well) is now operating across Manchester. A core element of the social prescribing model is linking people with long-term needs to neighbourhood organisations and assets, many of which are VCSE organisations. The aim of this Voluntary Sector Assembly is for the VCSE sector to discuss and agree what it wants and needs in order to increase the impact and effectiveness of social prescribing. Together we will write a manifesto which will be presented by representatives of the assembly to senior representatives of Manchester Health and Care Commissioning and Manchester Local Care Organisation. [More information and book](#)

**Early notice:** The **Sustainable Food Cities** and the **Food Power Conferences** will be held in Leeds from June 9th - 11th, 2020

### **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** GMIPA does not have full-time dedicated administrative support so please do not expect an immediate response.



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