

2019 – a busy year but the fight against poverty goes on

A big thank you to everyone who attended the *Learning from lived experience* meeting at Church House last week. Nearly 50 people came together to identify the themes and issues that have emerged from projects that sought to engage people with lived experience of poverty in policy making and with decision makers. In total 14 different groups were represented at the meeting.

With last week's meeting building on the [Inequality Hearing project](#) we ran with Oxfam earlier in the year, and a number of conversations taking place across Greater Manchester about running local poverty truth commissions, we are excited about the role GMPA can play in 2020 in bringing the voices of people experiencing poverty to the fore. The Inequality Hearing project was a 2019 highlight for GMPA, as we continue to grow our work and impact.

It has certainly been a busy year. Over the past 12 months we have shared 22 [newsletters](#) with you packed with a wide range of topical articles, opinion pieces, news, reports and events. Other highlights have included:

- launching our [Mini Poverty Monitor](#)
- updating our [poverty strategies map](#),
- hosting a one day conference 'Prosperity for all?' with the Inclusive Growth Analysis Unit, and
- launching the [Greater Manchester Food Poverty Action Plan](#).

Since the launch of the Action Plan, over 100 pledges have been made to tackle food poverty by organisations from across the city region. We will continue to support the implementation of the Action Plan in 2020.

We continue to host the [Greater Manchester Living Wage Campaign](#). Our 2019 work on the Campaign culminated with [Living Wage Week](#) in November. Please see John's write up of Living Wage Week in the December 4th edition of the newsletter.

Our [maps](#) of support services are extremely popular and well used and we have also provided a number of very well attended [training courses](#). There are more training courses on our calendar for 2020 and you can book your places [now](#).

This is our last 2019 Newsletter. We will be back in January, so if you would like to submit an article or event information for inclusion in the newsletter, please do get in touch. Our contact details are shown on the following page.

We are proud of the impact our work is having, but we know that the fight against poverty continues and that we couldn't do what we do without your support. Many, many people have worked with us in 2019 to achieve all of the above. **Thank you.**

In the meantime we would like to wish you

A PEACEFUL AND HAPPY CHRISTMAS SEASON

and we look forward to a **NEW YEAR**

full of opportunities that can be shared equally by everyone.

Graham, Tom, Chris and John



Anti-Poverty Newsletter Autumn/Winter 2019

The [Autumn/Winter 2019 issue](#) is available now with contributions from Motiv8, Bolton at Home, ForHousing, Jigsaw Homes, Mosscafe St Vincent's, Northwards Housing, Onward, Regenda, Salix Homes, Southway Housing Trust, Sixtown Housing, Stockport Homes, Wythenshawe Community Housing and the University of Salford.

Christmas Carol Service at Manchester Cathedral M1 1SX

Thursday December 19th, 2019 from 2.30 - 3.30pm followed by refreshments

A festive celebration and sing along to your favourite traditional Christmas Carols. Hear a special performance from the Booth Centre Streetwise Opera group. This service will celebrate the work of homeless services in our city, all are welcome. There will be a retiring collection in support of the Booth Centre. The event is free but please email [Nick](#) to register.



Xmas Drop-In Timetable (Manchester)

Who's open, what's happening and where



[Street Support network](#) have on their [website](#) a list of organisations offering support in Manchester over Christmas and New Year starting on December 21st until January 1st. Printable copies are also available on the page.

Here is the timetable for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Boxing day as an example of what's available but there are other organisations such as Barnabus, Food4all, Justlife and MensRoom also offering support on other days alongside these:

Tuesday December 24th

Booth Centre	9am – 12pm Free breakfast/lunch/advice/activities
Centrepont	10am – 12.30pm and 1.30pm – 4.30pm Advice and support
Coffee4Craig	7pm – 9pm Food, showers, advice & support
Cornerstone	10:30am – 3pm Hot food, drinks, showers and clothing
Lifeshare	7am – 8pm Entertainment, meals, clothing/toiletries, advice & support
MASH	Drop-In 11:30am – 2:30pm; Outreach Van 8pm – 12am
Mustard Tree	10am – 1pm Furniture, clothing, food club.
Reach Out TTC	10am – 3pm Support services

Wednesday December 25th

Booth Centre	9am – 12pm Christmas lunch served at noon. All welcome
Coffee4Craig	7pm – 9pm Food, showers, advice & support
Cornerstone	10:30am – 3pm Christmas Day lunch
Lifeshare	7am – 8pm Entertainment, meals, clothing/toiletries, advice & support

(The Launch Project also offer free a Christmas dinner, please check the [website](#) for further details)

Thursday December 26th

Coffee4Craig	7pm – 9pm Food, showers, advice & support
Cornerstone	10:30am – 3pm Boxing Day lunch
Lifeshare	7am – 8pm Entertainment, meals, clothing/toiletries, advice & support

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.

