



## **Training course overview: Maximising support for people on low incomes in the austerity era**

### **Overview**

*How can we maximise the support available to low income households in the austerity era? A one-day course run in partnership with Greater Manchester Poverty Action (GMPA).*

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.

### **Background**

Since 2010 the government have made a raft of changes to the social security system through welfare cuts and reforms. At the same time, local authorities have faced budgetary pressures resulting in cuts to support and services traditionally provided at a local level. A new grassroots response, usually led by the VCSE sector, has emerged through things like food banks and other initiatives aimed at responding to the needs of people facing hardship.

The aim of this course is to equip attendees with the knowledge they need to signpost people experiencing poverty to avenues of support and to think about how policy and service design and deliver can better respond to an ever-changing social security landscape.

### **What will this course cover?**

Concentrating on support for working age adults, this course will assess the current state of support for low income households through the social security and wider support system. It will:

- Review cuts and reforms to working age benefits since 2010
- Look at benefit take up and opportunities for maximising support through the social security system for low income households
- Assess the impact of financial pressures on local authorities on local service delivery and support
- Review the extent and nature of VCSE sector support and delivery and consider how this has developed and evolved since 2010
- Look at case study examples of effective joined up support at a local level
- Discuss what learning from the course means in respect of your work.

**Contact: Graham Whitham on 07917644435 or [graham@gmpovertyaction.org](mailto:graham@gmpovertyaction.org)**

### **Prices:**

- Students/small VCSE organisations with fewer than five employees: £65
- VCSE/Third sector organisations with more than five employees: £90
- Public sector organisations (including housing providers): £125

- Private sector organisations: £155.

**Facilitator:** The course will be run by GMPA co-director and founder Graham Whitham. Graham is a leading expert on poverty in the UK and has a wealth of policy, research and campaigning experience from his time working as a senior policy advisor to Save the Children and Oxfam. Graham has been heavily involved in debates around how to measure poverty and has used poverty data to influence government policy at a Westminster and devolved government level. He has also represented the UK as a non-governmental expert on poverty internationally, been a keynote speaker at several academic conferences and represented both Oxfam and Save the Children in national, regional and local broadcast media.

*Policy North Training delivers training in partnership with Greater Manchester Poverty Action.*



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#### **About Policy North Training**

Policy North Training has been established to increase the amount of training offered to Greater Manchester Poverty Action's network in 2020/21. Beyond 2020/21, as well as continuing to deliver training in Greater Manchester, Policy North Training will look to deliver training courses in other parts of the country to help increase the amount of revenue raised to support GMPA's activities.

#### **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.