

POVERTY TRUTH TAMESIDE

Could you share your story and help to tackle poverty in Tameside?
Are you a local leader or influencer who would like to support change?

Get in touch

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Help us tackle poverty for future generations by getting involved with Tameside Poverty Truth.

Name:

Address:

Contact details:

Comment:

Who's involved?

At the very heart of this project are local people with a range of direct experiences of poverty. This group, called Grassroots Commissioners, build relationships, share their stories, and then work with a number of organisations, civic leaders and businesses within our borough to identify and tackle poverty in all of its forms.

This process ensures that we all listen and understand the real issues and brings everyone together to deepen understanding, challenge stereotypes and make better decisions.

Organisations working to create the Commission include Tameside Council, Jigsaw Housing, Action Together, New life Church Tameside, Tameside Citizens Advice Bureau, Onwards Housing, Silver Cord, Ikea Ltd, Nazarene Theological College, Brother Ltd and Tameside South and Longendale Foodbank. We anticipate many more will support the initiative as priority areas start to emerge.

We have been greatly assisted by the Scottish and Leeds Poverty Truth Commission.



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Nothing about us,
without us,
is for us

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The Tameside Poverty Truth Commission is a Greater Manchester Poverty Action (GMPA) programme. For more information about GMPA's work please visit: www.gmpovertyaction.org

It all starts with a question...

What if people living in poverty could help shape the way our borough's leaders make decisions surrounding the support services in place?

Would it make a difference to the decisions that are being made?

Would it strengthen relationships, change attitudes and create solutions to some of the difficult questions poverty creates?

Following on from the success of the very first Poverty Truth Commission in Glasgow, Scotland, a number of community, voluntary, faith and public sector organisations came together to support the setup of a commission here in Tameside.

With the aim of tackling and eradicating the root causes of poverty, the commission differs from the norm in that it ensures that people with first-hand experience are at the heart of how the borough thinks and acts in tackling poverty and inequality.

It's about a culture change – could you be part of the challenge?

So what is the Tameside Poverty Truth Commission?

The Tameside Poverty Truth Commission aims to give a face to the facts. By creating safe spaces for people to tell their stories and opportunities for those making and influencing decisions to listen. The project will deepen understanding of the emotive and difficult sides of poverty, improve perceptions, challenge stereotyping, and lead to better decision-making by the borough's leaders across business, public and voluntary sectors.

The role of the Commission is to support the group of Community Commissioners who have experienced poverty to develop new relationships with others to gain the skills and confidence to be able to tell their story.

The group will take centre stage at a special launch event in the summer where they will share their stories with an audience of civic, business, voluntary and faith leaders and key decision makers who may be best suited to identify and implement the necessary changes.

They will then all work together on specific priority issues. Inspired by the powerful individual stories, they will identify what change would look like and agree key priorities for the commission going forward. The whole project will be completed over a 15-month period.

We believe there are experts and experience on all sides. It's about building relationships and watching change happen.

What we want to achieve:

- Explore the impact of Covid-19 on existing levels of poverty
- Ensure those affected by poverty feel they are more able to take control of their situations
- Ensure their voices, including the voice of the usually excluded, are heard
- Identify the key symptoms and causes of poverty within Tameside
- Influence and affect significant change at individual, organisational and policy level
Facilitate change across the borough to alleviate poverty
- Create a framework to ensure that change in how decisions are made is permanent