

June 2021

# POVERTY TRUTH

TAMESIDE



Tameside Poverty Truth Commission is setting out with this question:

## What if people who have directly faced poverty were involved in decisions about poverty?

This is the question we will be exploring when we launch in Autumn 2021. We are inviting you to consider becoming a member of the Commission. All you need is to be able to tell your story, be willing to listen to others, and have the courage to build relationships with people from across the city. If you are interested, there's a three-stage process for you to join.

### 1 Initial meeting

We'll come to you or meet somewhere you feel comfortable to talk about the Commission.

### 2 Meet others

Meet regularly with other potential commissioners.

### 3 Join the Commission

The Commission starts in summer 2021.

## POVERTY TRUTH

We start with people's direct experience of poverty.

## POVERTY TRUTH

The extent of change that can happen is in direct proportion to the depth of listening.

## POVERTY TRUTH

Working this way can have profound and lasting effects for the people involved.

## Grassroots commissioners

### What to expect

#### Summer 2021

The Commission team will be actively recruiting people who have direct experience of poverty through partner organisations and referrals. We will be listening to their stories and telling them about the Commission.

We will be gathering together over Zoom and in person for a cuppa and chat with people we've met so that they can tell their stories, listen to one another, begin to explore what poverty means in Tameside, and eat together. This will happen every week. Also during this time, the team will be meeting with civic and business leaders who might want to join the commission.

#### Autumn 2021

The 'grassroots' commissioners (those with direct experience of poverty) and the 'public life' commissioners (civic and business leaders) will meet together at a public launch event. It will be an opportunity for stories of poverty to be told.

#### December 2021 to March 2022

The commissioners will decide on three issues to tackle together. Working groups will meet to look at the issues in more depth. These will meet every month, and include both grassroots and public life commissioners. There will also be a number of full gatherings of all the commissioners throughout this period.



#### Early 2023

There will be a final event of the Commission where its findings are presented.

Organisations that have been involved in the Commission will seek to embed its findings within their practice.

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](http://www.gmpovertyaction.org)

*Photographs in this leaflet show Poverty Truth Commissions which have already taken place successfully in Leeds and Salford.*

### Potential issues to look at

Commissions in Glasgow, Leeds and Salford have explored several issues which all arose from grassroots commissioners' own experiences, including the relationship between mental health and poverty, the stigma of poverty, housing, worklessness and helping young people and families to achieve potential.

The Tameside Commission is launching its work in the midst of a pandemic and therefore it might look at similar issues, or decide that others are more important here.

If you have a story to tell and are interested in being involved with the Poverty Truth Commission, please contact us.

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