

## The Cost of the school day in England: Pupils' Perspectives

A report by the Child Poverty Action Group

Child Poverty Action Group's (CPAG's) Cost of the School Day project works with schools and local authorities in England, Scotland and Wales to ensure that all children, regardless of financial background, can take part and be happy at school.



[The Cost of the School Day in England: Pupils' Perspectives](#) is a report focusing on the research so far in England. It highlights some of the positive work being carried out by schools to ensure that opportunities are affordable and inclusive, while also drawing attention to the multitude of ways that pupils from low-income families face exclusion and stigma.

CPAG hopes that by listening to the issues identified by children and young people, readers of [this report](#) will take action to bring about greater equity of experience and opportunity within our education system. A recorded webinar was held earlier in the month to coincide with the launch of the report, including excellent presentations by pupils. The webinar can be viewed [here](#).

"It's a 'free education', but it's not really free." (Pupil)



### Selected Findings

- **Curriculum and learning:** Pupils experiencing poverty in England are financially excluded from full participation in a wide range of school subjects and activities, including PE, music, swimming and art and design.
- **Stigma:** Day-to-day practices in English schools often unintentionally draw attention to family incomes and make children feel embarrassed and different. These include expensive uniform policies, non-uniform days and requirements to bring in material possessions like pencil cases.
- **School fun:** Families are borrowing money to pay for school activities like school trips, not wanting children to lose out on these valuable learning opportunities.
- **School food:** Policies and practices relating to food in school often mean that children experiencing poverty don't have the same options as their peers at lunchtime.

### Key recommendations for the Government

- Provide funding to schools to ensure all curriculum-related costs are removed for pupils and all children have the resources and tools they need to fully participate in school activities both at home and at school.
- Provide local authorities with additional funding and a statutory responsibility to help families with school costs through targeted initiatives such as school clothing grants and subsidies for trips. Initiatives like this already exist in all other UK nations.
- Provide universal free school meals to school-aged children in England so that all pupils have equitable access to food while at school.
- Provide a statutory framework, strategy and additional ring-fenced funding so schools in England can provide programmes, activities and services that go beyond the core function of classroom education, such as breakfast and after-school clubs.

### Key recommendations for schools

- Plan all teaching, events and activities with affordability and accessibility in mind. Wherever possible, remove or minimise charging for school-related activities.
- Explore and review current school costs. Take a holistic view of the school year and determine the cost of full participation in school life.
- Ensure that all staff, including non-teaching staff, are aware of the nature, causes, extent and impact of poverty and how to reduce the stigma that children can face in school.
- Provide meaningful opportunities for pupils and families to give feedback on their experience of school with a focus on school costs.

## Job opportunity at GMPA: Head of Programmes

GMPA seeks to deliver innovative programmatic responses to poverty in localities across Greater Manchester. These programmes complement our advocacy, policy and research and network support activities. They contribute to our strategic objectives to boost household incomes and financial resilience and to ensure the voices of people with lived experience are engaged in decision making.

We are recruiting to a new Head of Programmes role to manage and oversee the delivery of our current programme offer, as well as to develop new activities in line with our vision and strategic objectives. The postholder will also play an important part in the overall management and development of GMPA, forming a senior leadership team with the Chief Executive Officer and Head of Advocacy, Policy and Research.

This is an exciting opportunity for someone with experience of project management and/or programme delivery, who is passionate about preventing and reducing poverty.

### Particulars:

Location: A combination of home based and working at GMPA's office in St Thomas Centre, Ardwick Green North, Manchester M12 6FZ.

Contract: Full-time. Length of contract: Permanent. Probationary period: 6 months.

Salary: £37,000 to £41,000 dependent on experience. Hours per week: 35 hours.

### How to apply:

Application is by CV and covering letter. The deadline for applications is 5pm on Monday April 4th, 2022. Interviews will be held by the end of April.

Please note: Applications must directly address the items listed in the person specification of the job description.

Further details can be found [here](#)

## Lived Experience Employment Podcast Series by Inspiring Change Manchester

Inspiring Change Manchester designed the GROW Traineeship programme to help break down barriers into work for people with lived experience of multiple disadvantages. The programme created paid placements to provide practical experience and the support and guidance to secure further paid employment, while drawing on their lived expertise to improve our practices as an organisation. The team worked closely with [the Elephants Trail](#) to co-produce a series of podcasts that delves into the realities of lived experience employment, both in terms raising awareness of the benefits of it for organisations and people alike, while also tackling the more challenging aspects of delivering programmes like these successfully. Details about each episode and links to listen can be found below.

### [Episode One - "Intro to ICM and the GROW Programme"](#)

What the GROW programme is in more depth and what can be expected from the rest of the series.

### [Episode Two - "The Glass Ceiling"](#)

Is there is a glass ceiling for people with lived experience of multiple disadvantage when wanting to further their career. This episode explores the changes that can be made in workplace practice and culture to open up opportunities for people with lived experience and enable them to progress in their career.

### [Episode Three - "Lose the Labels"](#)

With more organisations wanting to employ individuals with lived experience to improve services, this episode explores how it feels to be employed in those roles and carry that 'label'. Also discussed are how employers can better support staff with lived experience, the importance of choice and having ownership over sharing individual stories, and the recognition of the value that individuals with lived experience bring to the table.

### [Episode Four - "Barriers and Benefits"](#)

The final episode is looking at the barriers and benefits of lived experience employment, as the myths and misconceptions about employing people with lived experience are explored.



## Transport revolution

Greater Manchester Mayor, Andy Burnham, has announced a series of major steps to move Greater Manchester towards a London-style public transport system with London-level bus fares, including the announcement that under a franchised bus network adult single journeys would cost no more than £2, and child single journeys no more than £1.

The move will be the first step towards the Greater Manchester public being able to access a more affordable public transport network.

The Mayor is also expected to set out a revised timetable for the introduction of bus franchising, which will see:

- Regulated buses in Bolton and Wigan as well as parts of Salford and west Manchester from autumn 2023;
- Bury, Rochdale, Oldham and areas of north Manchester to follow in Spring 2024
- Stockport, Trafford, Tameside, South Manchester and remaining parts of Salford to run by end of 2024

Andy Burnham said: “We will make travelling by public transport more appealing, easier and, significantly, put our people before profits.” More detail is available [here](#).



Andy Burnham

## Greater Manchester Real Living Wage Campaign Update



### Big Steps forward for the Real Living Wage in Greater Manchester

On March 14th GMPA attended the New Era for Greater Manchester event organised and led by Mayor Andy Burnham. The event was an update on the Greater Manchester Strategy and contained a number of key announcements on topics such as the environment, economic development, transport and housing.

Two key announcements relating to the Real Living Wage were:

1. The commitment by all ten of the GM Local authorities to pay at least the Real Living Wage to all of their social care workers. Six of the ten will pay this from April 2022 with the remaining four implementing the increase soon after. The measure will cover all social care staff in domiciliary, residential and supported care. There are more details to emerge and we will update on those in future newsletters. This is a major step forward and something that GMPA as convenors of the Greater Manchester Living Wage Campaign have been pushing for along with key partners such as UNISON and GM Citizens.
2. A move by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and the ten Local Authorities in the city region to only procure from companies that pay the Real Living Wage. This is a significant step forward and we will provide further details on this plan as they become clear.

### Manchester on Track to Become a Living Wage Place

We met with Manchester City Council on March 15th to discuss the progress being made towards Manchester's ambition to become an accredited Living Wage Place. A steering group has been established consisting of key public, private and VCSE partners from across the city and an application to the Living Wage Foundation is being developed which will outline some key outcomes and targets. An announcement giving more details and information about the plan is imminent and we will provide further details in forthcoming newsletters.

If you have any comments or questions about the Real Living Wage in Greater Manchester please contact John Hacking.



Best Wishes and Stay Safe.  
Greater Manchester Living Wage Campaign Co-ordinator  
[John Hacking](#)

Twitter: [@GMLivingWage](#) Facebook: [facebook.com/gmlivingwage](#)

The Greater Manchester Living Wage Campaign is run by Greater Manchester Poverty Action.

## Scrap the Cap

Greater Manchester Poverty Action is supporting the Poverty Alliance's campaign, Scrap the Cap, which calls on the UK Government to scrap the unjust benefit cap. The campaign is supported by 60 leading charities and grassroots organisations across the UK. We urged the Chancellor to use today's Spring Statement to commit to supporting families living in the grip of poverty by ending the benefit cap.



Right now, people across this country are facing a cost-of-living crisis. Energy hikes, stagnating wages, and the rising cost of food are putting enormous pressure on low-income households. For those affected by the benefit cap, whose social security payments already fall well below a sufficient level, this crisis is even more acutely felt.

Since its introduction, the benefit cap has trapped families across the UK in poverty's grip. By severing the link between need and entitlement, many of those affected by the cap have been forced to rely on foodbanks and pay-day loans just to get by and, for many, it has also caused poor mental health and led to homelessness.

62% of capped households are single-parent families and according to The Supreme Court the benefit cap breaches the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

To find out more about Scrap the Cap, check out the campaign pack [here](#).

## GMPA's Information Maps

Over recent months we have been updating both our food providers map and the household items and repairs map. Trying to keep them as up-to-date as possible is a never-ending task and we would appreciate your help.



If you support or use a food bank, food club or pantry please visit the map [here](#) and check, if you can, that we are showing the correct information. If we are not please email [Chris](#) with the right data so that changes can be made.

If you visit or run a household items outlet or provide a repair service, please check the [map](#) and send any changes that are needed.

Our maps have been visited over 110,000 times since they were launched which shows that they are providing valuable information. Please do help us to keep them up-to-date. Thank you.

## Membership and Information Coordinator role

A busy and varied role within the FareShare Greater Manchester Development team, which primarily focuses on account management, building and maintaining strong relationships with our Community Food Members. The successful candidate will liaise with the FareShare GM Operations on account fulfilment, coordinate monthly invoicing, visit our charity customers, and analyse data for the management team and external stakeholders. The salary is £19k - £23k depending on experience.



Closing date (no CVs please): Monday March 28th, 2022. Interviews are expected to take place w/c April 11th, 2022. Please [email](#) for an application pack.

## Preventing poverty in Greater Manchester March 25th, 2022 from 10 - 11am online

This event is being run in conjunction with [Manchester Credit Union](#) and will focus on the support that businesses can provide to their employees. More information on guests speakers and booking link [here](#).

Relevant for businesses, employees and individuals, guest speakers will be providing advice, raising awareness of the issue, and signposting services that businesses and individuals can get involved with in Greater Manchester.

## Ukraine Support

Here are ways of providing financial support for the people of Ukraine:



**[DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal](#)**: This appeal is on behalf of many organisations such as the Red Cross, ActionAid, Save the Children, Islamic Relief, Christian Aid etc. The British public raised £200 million in the first two weeks but the collection is ongoing.

**[UK-Med's Ukraine Appeal](#)**: UK-Med is a humanitarian healthcare charity based out of the University of Manchester. UK-Med currently have a health assessment team in Poland, working with partners to anticipate the emergency health needs caused by the unfolding crisis. UK-Med have launched their [emergency appeal](#) which has been backed by the GM Mayor, Andy Burnham and the Manchester Chamber of Commerce. UK-Med has more than 25 years-experience responding to health emergencies around the world and drawing from a register of nearly 1000 NHS and international health experts are ready to respond to the crisis unfolding in Europe.

**[Europia's fundraiser for Ukraine](#)**: Europia is raising funds to support Ukrainians, both those in the country and refugees in Poland, Romania and Moldova. The funds raised will be divided equally between Ukraine, Poland, Moldova and Romania to support civil society organisations working on the ground.

## Network and Communications Worker – Manchester Homelessness Partnership

Manchester Homelessness Partnership is a network of organisations working together towards the goal of the Manchester Homelessness Charter to end homelessness in all its forms in Manchester.



They are looking for a Network and Communications Worker to support the Partnership, helping to organise meetings, ensuring members are able to communicate with each other and promoting the Partnership's work. This role is an opportunity to work alongside some brilliant local organisations who are committed to creating change in our city. If you have good organisation, planning and admin skills, enjoy working with a wide range of people and are interested in putting these skills to use in support of efforts to tackle homelessness, they would love to hear from you. Closing date April 4th, 2022, interviews April 14th, 2022. The post is full-time. More information [here](#)

## Beginners Guide to Social Media March 30th, 2022 from 10am - 11.30am Online



This free 90 minute interactive webinar will introduce the most used Social Media applications and how to make the most of them. Social media can be an invaluable tool for your organisation; through raising awareness, fundraising, and reaching more beneficiaries.

By the end of the webinar, you will: identify the most commonly used applications and what they do; understand the benefits of each social media application; discuss how your organisation uses and can use social media; and learn techniques and tips to get the most of your organisations' social media accounts. This webinar is recommended for those that have little or no experience of using social media for their organisation.

Book [here](#)

## 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](#).

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

Views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily the views of GMPA. We try to fact-check all articles and events, but if you notice an error please [let us know](#) so we can correct it in a future newsletter.