

Greater Manchester Real Living Wage Campaign Update

Living Wage Week 2022

Living Wage Week is the annual celebration of the Living Wage movement and will take place from November 14th - 20th, 2022. This year, with prices rising at their highest rate in decades, the Real Living Wage is more important than ever. That's why this Living Wage Week we will be taking the opportunity in GM to celebrate the employers who have shown a commitment to their workers by paying at least the Real Living Wage. We will also celebrate the workers and campaigners throughout the city region who have fought in their workplaces to convince their employers to pay at least the Real Living Wage and to become an accredited Real Living Wage Employer.



Some of the events taking place in GM, including two organised by GMPA, are listed below and include details of how to book a place or join in online.

The launch of Living Wage Week in GM is on **Monday November 14th** 10am -12 noon. The event is called 'Shining a Spotlight on Low Pay in Greater Manchester' and takes place at the Octagon Theatre in Bolton (GM's 500th Living Wage Employer). The event will have speakers from Living Wage champions, including Mayor Andy Burnham and Real Living Wage employers One+All and the Octagon Theatre. You can book a place [here](#).

The first of the events organised by GMPA takes place on **Tuesday November 15th** from 11am - 12.30pm at The University of Bolton Stadium, the home of Bolton Wanderers FC. The event, *The Real Living Wage in Bolton- How it Benefits My Business* is organised in partnership with Bolton Real Living Wage employer [Boo Consulting](#). It is a business to business networking event to find out more about the Real Living Wage. Whether you are already accredited as a Real Living Wage Employer or interested in finding out more, this event is for you. At the event you will hear from representatives of the Bolton business community, the GM Living Wage Campaign, [The Living Wage Foundation](#) and The [GM Good Employment Charter](#). **Bolton based employers** can book a place [here](#).

On **Wednesday November 16th** an event organised by [Pro-Manchester](#) called 'Exploring the Business Case for the Real Living Wage' takes place from 12.30pm - 2.00pm in central Manchester. This will focus on the business case for the Real Living Wage and the Good Employment Charter, featuring business leaders. The event is open to all and places can be booked [here](#).

On **Friday November 18th** the second of the events organised by GMPA, in partnership with [Rochdale Borough Housing](#) who are a Real Living Wage accredited employer, takes place online from 10am -11am. This event, entitled 'The Real Living Wage: What is it? Why Pay It? How Do I Accredit?' is for Rochdale employers to find out more about the Real Living Wage and how becoming a Living Wage Accredited employer can benefit their business. Hear from Rochdale Borough Housing as well as the GM Living Wage Campaign and The Living Wage Foundation. Any **Rochdale based employer** is welcome to join the webinar and can book a place [here](#).

These are just a few of the events taking place in Greater Manchester during [Living Wage Week 2022](#).

Follow events through the week on the GM Living Wage Campaign social media Twitter: [@GMLivingWage](#) and Facebook: [facebook.com/gmlivingwage](#).

More information about the local campaign can be found on GMPA's website [here](#).



Best Wishes,
[John Hacking](#)
Greater Manchester Living Wage Campaign Co-ordinator

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

Reflections on GMPA's Cost-of-living Crisis Conference

"As ever with GMPA, another well organised event. A variety of speakers, together with differing subject matters made the day enjoyable but more importantly, informative."



Cost-of-living Crisis Conference

20th October 2022

A huge thank you to everyone who attended our Cost-of-living Crisis Conference on October 20th.



GMPA non-exec director Justin Watson opens the conference.

We were excited by the passion in the room for cash first responses to poverty and the need to ensure we are doing everything we can locally to maximise household incomes.

Particular thanks to our speakers, many of whom travelled from outside of Greater Manchester to be with us. A number of speakers commented on the value of bringing stakeholders together in this way and would like to replicate the approach in their area!

We've had lots of positive feedback on the conference and a number complimentary comments:

"Excellent speakers and event, great atmosphere for networking. Very enjoyable and useful event."

"It was great to see what other organisations are offering."

"Well done GMPA for delivering a well organised and interesting day. We look forward to hearing more from your work and being part of challenging poverty and inequality in GM."

"Excellent. Timely. Practical. Looking forward to watching the filmed sections I missed."

"Great how you bring like-minded people and organisations together."

We have been following up directly with speakers and delegates since the conference. The event provided a good chance for people to meet with members of our team in-person for the first time. As always, do reach out to relevant members of the [GMPA staff team](#) if there are areas of work we can support you with and/or opportunities for partnership working.

We are grateful to our main sponsors:



And to our session sponsors:



Lottery 'win' for North Manchester Charity

Press release from Yes



Yes Manchester CIO has been awarded funding by the National Lottery Community Fund's (NLCF) Reaching Communities programme, one of only a handful of North Manchester organisations to be successful.

The NLCF has awarded £300,000 over the coming three years to the charity that helps people to get into work. The funding will be used to help pay for Yes Manchester's activity to support people living in poverty in North Manchester.

Yes Manchester provides support to people looking for work in North Manchester and helps people to get the skills, experience, and confidence to succeed. Yes became a registered charity in November last year. Established in 2013 as a social-enterprise subsidiary of a Northwards Housing, it became an independent charity after the housing association became part of Manchester City Council. Since opening more than 1,000 people have got jobs with the help of Yes, and 100s more have entered training or education.

Sheila Sturgeon, Chief Executive of Yes Manchester, said us: "We are so grateful to NLCF and to everyone that plays the lottery each week. This money helps us enormously to remain sustainable and will help to unlock cash from other funders too. It really will make a massive difference to the hundreds of people that rely on our help to become financially independent."

Yes Manchester is based in Newton Heath and has a second office in Collyhurst. The charity also meets customers and potential customers in The Avenue Library and North Manchester Library on Thursdays most weeks.

Anyone not in work, or working but needing state benefits to make ends meet, can call 0161 260 1600, email using yesinfo@yesmanchester.co.uk, drop in to 115 Briscoe Lane or 35-39 Southchurch Parade or the libraries, or can use the 'Ask Yes for Help' button on the charity's [website](#) to make an appointment to speak confidentially with one of the charity's expert advisors.

Yes Manchester CIO has recently been accredited to the [matrix Standard](#) (the international quality standard for organisations that deliver information, advice and/or guidance (IAG), either as their sole purpose or as part of their service offering), demonstrating the high quality of the services they provide to unemployed and underemployed people in their area of the city.

Case Studies

Anthony Borg, age 55, came to Yes after being his wife's full-time carer. After so much time away from the labour market he had lost his confidence, and also needed help to understand how to apply for and get a job in a very changed world.

He was referred to the Green Employment Project, a government funded project Yes delivers with One Manchester and other not-for-profit Greater Manchester organisations. Marika Ellul, Yes's Green Employability Coach, helped Anthony identify and overcome the issues identified and encouraged him to apply for one of the project's paid work placements.

After some interview coaching with Marika, Anthony secured a placement with [Fareshare](#) as a Warehouse Operative and is hopeful of securing permanent work very soon.

Kai Painter, age 24, came to Yes for help around 18 months ago after being made redundant.

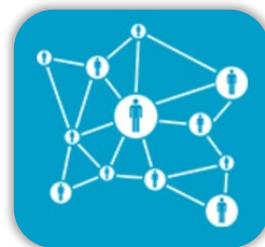
Sammy Logan, one of the charity's most experienced IAG advisors, remembers that first meeting. She said: "He was very low, and lacked confidence, but I was impressed with his determination to find a job. Over the next few months, we worked on his CV, his interview skills, and his confidence and then I suggested he apply for an administration Kickstarter vacancy at Yes".

Kai did apply, and he got the job. He was made permanent at the end of the 6-month placement and began a Level 2 Apprenticeship as a Data Technician.

He said: "I'm so grateful to Sammy for her advice and support." Kai told us "Thanks to her, and to everyone at Yes, I have a job I enjoy, and a real career and real prospects. I even have my own flat now and it's all thanks to Yes Manchester".

Policy and Research updates

We are providing a summary of the latest news and policy developments to keep you up to date with what is happening across the UK.



Cost-of-living: Measures to help poorest tackle fuel poverty this winter £14bn short, say campaigners. [Read more.](#)

DWP Universal Credit payments face £40 a week cut if inflation ignored in benefits rise. [Read more.](#)

'Lives will be lost if benefits and wages don't rise with inflation'. [Read more.](#)

A new study by accounting firm PwC shows that the cost of extending free school meals to all school children in poverty is far outweighed by the benefits, with PwC reporting a net benefit of £2.4bn over 20 years. 72% of the public in England back the expansion of free school meals to all children on universal credit, according to a poll by You Gov. [Read more.](#)



100,000 pupils in the North West are missing out on free school meals. This amounts to 30% in poverty. [Read more.](#)

Cost-of-living crisis: 'I am shivering while I'm on dialysis'. [Read more.](#)

Cost-of-living crisis: are you missing out on help from your employer? [Read more.](#)



The Resolution Foundation, which focuses on issues facing lower-income households, said more than 5 million families will see their annual mortgage payments rise by an average of 5,100 pounds over the next two years. [Read more.](#)

Some 1.8 million children face poorer quality school meals as a result of the rising cost of food, according to a new survey. [Read more.](#)

The cost-of-living crisis will force students to choose between studying and eating. [Read more.](#)

The cost-of-living crisis is placing nearly 300,000 UK students in financial peril, with a disproportionate number of older, working-class or Black students likely to drop out, according to analysis by a university group. [Read more.](#)

The cost-of-living crisis is wreaking havoc on our children's mental health. [Read more.](#)

Research developments

Analysis reveals a quarter of the UK's residential care workers lived in, or were on the brink of, poverty. Nearly 1 in 10 experienced food insecurity. And around 1 in 8 children of residential care workers were 'materially deprived', meaning they may not have access to essential resources such as fresh fruit and vegetables or adequate winter clothing. [Read more.](#)

The use of temporary accommodation has increased over the last decade and is now back to the record levels last seen in the mid-2000s, according to the Smith Institute. Most of the increase has been driven by London and Greater Manchester, which combined account for 63% of all temporary accommodation in England. The number of children living in temporary accommodation in London has increased by almost 60% between 2011-2022. On current trends the numbers of children in temporary accommodation in London and Greater Manchester could reach 100,000 by next year, the report warns. [Read more.](#)

The cost-of-living crisis will continue to intensify as inflation soars and government support lags. Organisations and campaigners must continue to call on the government to do more to tackle the harsh economic realities for the most vulnerable. More articles are available on our [website.](#)

Local Link

Local Link offers a flexible transport service for local journeys in areas where public transport services are limited. Book a shared minibus to travel anywhere within a [Local Link service area](#).



The service is available to everyone, there are no restrictions and they don't even have to live in the Local Link service area. Local Link can take you anywhere within an individual service area, including connecting you to a bus stop, tram stop or train station, within the service area, to continue your journey.

People can book their journey between 1 hour and 7 days before you want to travel and then will be picked up within ten minutes either side of the agreed pick-up time. We must be informed of any cancellations of a journey as far in advance as possible.



New customers will need to register with Local Link before they can use the service. Registering is free and can be done [online](#), or by calling TfGM on 0161 244 1000.

More information about the service, fares and conditions of carriage can be found [here](#).

New Meal Referral Service



Thanks to funding from [The Big Life Group's](#) 'Social Prescription Fund', [Cracking Good Food](#) are now supporting the wellbeing of hospital discharge patients and other Manchester residents at-risk of hunger, poor diet and other food security challenges with weekly deliveries of healthy, hearty and delicious 'ready meals'.

The meals, which are tailored to the dietary and cultural needs of those receiving them, are cooked by their team, supported by their amazing volunteers in the community kitchen in Brunswick Church, Ardwick and delivered to the community each Wednesday. For more info or to make a referral, please email [Gemma](#).

PROJECT WORKER

37.5 hours per week

Closing date: Monday November 14th, 2022 at 9am

Interview: Friday November 18th, 2022



Cornerstone Day Centre is a community centre based in Hulme, Manchester for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The Centre has recently undergone extensive building work, the service has been re-launched post Covid and we are now recruiting a Project Worker to help support the re-modelled service. The Project Worker will work on a co-production basis using strength-based approaches with people who visit Cornerstone to design, deliver and evaluate the service and ensure that it is meeting their needs. [More info](#)

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.