

Delivering benefits advice through existing services



Laura Arrowsmith – [Presentation slides](#)

Maternity Action

Laura Arrowsmith is a Senior Policy Officer at Maternity Action, the UK's maternity rights charity dedicated to promoting, protecting and enhancing the rights of all pregnant women, new mothers and their families to employment, social security and health care. Laura has been working on Maternity Action's Health Justice Partnership project, exploring how the organisation can integrate their legal advice services into maternity services.

Maternity Action is currently involved in an innovative new project being led by Cheshire and Merseyside Local Maternity System, to deliver a maternity Health Justice Partnership with Wirral Women and Children's Hospital.



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Maternity Action is the UK's maternity rights charity dedicated to promoting, protecting and enhancing the rights of all pregnant women, new mothers and their families to employment, social security and health care. Maternity Action is involved in an innovative new project being led by

Cheshire and Merseyside Local Maternity System, to deliver a maternity Health Justice Partnership with Wirral Women and Children's Hospital. The project is delivering a specialist advice helpline to help pregnant women and new mums sort out maternity pay and benefits and resolve any problems at work. The [Wirral Maternity Rights Advice Service](#) is staffed by Maternity Action's in-house employment lawyers, who have expert knowledge of maternity rights at work, maternity pay and maternity benefits. The service can advise on a range of issues including employment rights during pregnancy, maternity pay and benefits, maternity leave, health and safety issues and flexible working requests. Midwives can signpost any women and families who raise questions or concerns about these issues directly to Maternity Action and the service is being promoted in the maternity unit, as well as on social media. The project is being funded by the Cheshire and Merseyside Women's Health and Maternity (WHaM) Programme.



Graham Whitham

Greater Manchester Poverty Action

Graham grew up in Wigan and now lives in south Manchester. He worked for Save the Children as a Senior Policy Advisor for seven years, leading a number of policy and campaign projects focussing on poverty in the UK. During this time Graham successfully influenced policy in Westminster and in the devolved nations. Graham then spent two years in a similar role at Oxfam, helping to strengthen Oxfam's work on economic inequality in the

UK.

In his current role as CEO, Graham leads on GMPA's policy, research and advocacy work and represents the organisation at a strategic level across the city region.

Graham is passionate about applying the skills and knowledge he has gained in national roles in Greater Manchester and believes that there is the potential to do more locally to tackle poverty. Graham is the founder of GMPA and is excited about working with our network to secure action on poverty.

Outside of his GMPA role, Graham is a councillor in Trafford.



Elaine Riozzi

Greater Manchester Poverty Action

Elaine has joined the team at GMPA to develop a project in schools providing advice and guidance aimed at helping parents get in control of their finances.

Elaine is an IMA Accredited debt adviser who has worked at Citizens Advice for 10 years, she has helped many people in this time with accessing the correct benefits and ways out of debt.

Originally from the Emerald Isle, Elaine moved to Manchester when she was 6 and grew up in the local area. She is passionate about the way poverty affects people and how access to the right information and advice can help improve a person's situation.