

SPRING BUDGET 2023: Budget reinforces the need to get serious about ending poverty and boosting living standards, says Greater Manchester Poverty Action.

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Greater Manchester Poverty Action (GMPA) urges the government to set out a plan for tackling poverty after the Spring budget leaves households short of the support needed to meet everyday living costs.

GMPA welcomed the announced investment in childcare provision and the postponement of the Energy Price Guarantee, but said that government policy remains short-term and piecemeal, with the lack of long-term, strategic plan for ending poverty and boosting living standards.

GMPA, along with other campaigners, has long been calling on the Government to boost the value of social security benefits given that at present, the benefits given to low-income households are at least £140 a month short of what people need to meet everyday basics, such as food and energy bills.

GMPA CEO Graham Whitham, said:

“The Cost-of-living Crisis has highlighted just how many households up and down the UK were already struggling to make ends meet. As food and energy bills have soared over the last year, millions of families have found that they simply don’t have enough money to cope with rising living costs.

The newly announced budget doesn’t go far enough. As a country, we need a solid plan for ending poverty and boosting living standards that ensures people can afford a decent standard of living year in, year out.”

Notes for editors:

Greater Manchester Poverty Action (GMPA), is a not-for-profit organisation that works to prevent and reduce poverty across Greater Manchester and the UK as a whole. GMPA’s primary objective is to influence strategic responses to poverty and policies and practices which address poverty. In addition, GMPA commits to working to boost household income and financial resilience as well as embedding the voices of people with lived experience in decision-making structures and systems. GMPA works with stakeholders from across public, private and voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sectors to affect change.

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