

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Joseph Rowntree Foundation report ‘Destitution in the UK 2023’ – Greater Manchester Poverty Action response

Greater Manchester Poverty Action (GMPA) has responded to a new report published today by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

The report – [Destitution in the UK 2023](#) – highlights an alarming rise of destitution in the UK.

The report finds that 3.8 million people in the UK are currently living in destitution, defined as going without the essentials we all need to eat, stay warm and dry. This includes around one million children – an 88% increase since 2019.

The number of households experiencing destitution in the UK has more than doubled in the last five years – up from 1,550,000 in 2017, with Manchester local authority area having the 2nd highest destitution rate in the country. Elsewhere in Greater Manchester, Salford, Rochdale and Oldham are among the areas with the highest destitution levels.

In response to the report, GMPA’s chief executive, Graham Whitham, said:

“It is a disgrace that 3.8 million people in the UK are experiencing destitution – unable to meet their most basic human needs to stay warm, dry, clean and fed.

“Across Greater Manchester, we have a strong network of local authorities and voluntary and community organisations working hard to try to ensure our communities have the essentials they need. But many of the main drivers to tackle destitution lie within central government – and it is absolutely vital that they act immediately to protect and support our poorest households.

“We urgently need a robust plan for ending poverty in the UK, so that everyone can not only have the basics they need to survive, but also a good quality of life. At the heart of this needs to be an Essentials Guarantee in Universal Credit that ensures everyone, as a bare minimum, has the money they need to afford food and other household bills.”

Ends

Notes to editor:

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Interviews are available with Graham Whitham.

Who are Greater Manchester Poverty Action?

Greater Manchester Poverty Action (GMPA) is a recognised leader on poverty in the UK and exists to end poverty in Greater Manchester and beyond.

We deliver independent, evidence-based activities to address socio-economic disadvantage. These focus on maximising the financial resources available to households, amplifying the voices of people with lived experience, and working with our network to achieve meaningful change.

We won't stop until our city-region is free from poverty.

Work includes:

- [Local anti-poverty strategies: good practice and effective approaches](#)
- [Greater Manchester Living Wage Campaign](#)
- [Money Advice Referral Tools](#), supporting people to access advice and maximise their income
- [Money Matters programme](#), providing debt and benefit advice in schools
- [Fortnightly newsletters](#)

Further information can be found by visiting <https://www.gmpovertyaction.org/>.