

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Chancellor's Autumn Statement does not safeguard those experiencing poverty against the prevailing cost-of-living crisis, says Greater Manchester Poverty Action

- **Government does the right thing by ending the freeze to Local Housing Allowance and uprating benefits in-line with September's inflation figure, but the benefits system still isn't fit for purpose**
- **No mention of funding measures for local welfare support demonstrates a failure by government to tackle poverty robustly within localities**
- **Lack of a UK plan for ending poverty underlined by Autumn Statement.**

The Autumn Statement, delivered against a backdrop of hardship and rising destitution levels in the UK, proved a missed opportunity to provide extra support for those who need it most, according to Greater Manchester Poverty Action (GMPA). In response, GMPA put out an urgent message: the UK needs a plan that stems growing destitution and sets out how poverty will be eradicated.

Responding to the Autumn Statement, Graham Whitham, GMPA Chief Executive, said:

“There remains a cost-of-living crisis for people up and down the country. It is wrong that more wasn't done in today's Autumn Statement to support low-income households. It is right that the Chancellor has chosen to stick with convention and raise benefits in line with September's inflation rate, but this should never have been in question. The bigger picture is that 13 million people in the UK are living in poverty, driven by an inadequate benefits system.”

Graham continued:

“It's disappointing that the Chancellor didn't commit to further local welfare funding through a Household Support Fund extension. This funding has played an essential role in enabling councils to respond to the needs of residents facing a financial crisis but ends in March. An extension is vital to stop more people falling into destitution.”

GMPA is calling on the government to introduce a national plan for ending poverty in the UK. This would include redesigning the benefits system and boosting pay so everyone can afford a decent standard of living. It would recognise the importance of local responses to poverty as part of a national plan, backed by funding for councils to support people at risk of financial crisis.

Ends.

Notes to editor:

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Interviews 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/>.