

November 2018

POVERTY TRUTH MANCHESTER



Manchester Poverty Truth Commission is setting out with this question:

What if people who have directly faced poverty were involved in decisions about poverty?

This is the question we will be exploring when we launch in late spring 2019. We are inviting you to consider becoming a member of the Commission. All you need is to be able to tell your story, be willing to listen to others, and have the courage to build relationships with people from across the city. If you are interested, there's a three-stage process for you to join.

1 Initial meeting

We'll come to you or meet somewhere you feel comfortable to talk about the Commission.

2 Meet others

Meet regularly with other potential commissioners.

3 Join the Commission

The Commission starts in late spring 2019.

POVERTY TRUTH

We start with people's direct experience of poverty.

POVERTY TRUTH

The extent of change that can happen is in direct proportion to the depth of listening.

POVERTY TRUTH

Working this way can have profound and lasting effects for the people involved.

Grassroots commissioners

What to expect

January to March 2019

The Commission team will be out and about meeting new people who have direct experience of poverty. We will be listening to their stories and telling them a bit about the Commission.

March to May 2019

We will be gathering together people we've met over the past few months so that they can tell their stories, listen to one another, begin to explore what poverty means in Manchester, and eat together. This will happen once every week. Also during this time, the team will be meeting with civic and business leaders who might want to join the commission.

May 2019

The 'grassroots' commissioners (those with direct experience of poverty) and the 'public life' commissioners (civic and business leaders) will meet together at a public launch event. It will be an opportunity for stories of poverty to be told. Then all the commissioners will decide what three issues the commission will tackle.

June 2019 to July 2020

Working groups will meet to look at the issues in more depth. These will meet every month, and include both grassroots and public life commissioners. There will also be a number of full gatherings of all the commissioners throughout this period.



Summer 2020

There will be a final event of the Commission where its findings are presented.

Autumn 2020 and onwards

Organisations that have been involved in the Commission will seek to embed its findings within their practice.

The Commission is sponsored by Sue Murphy (Deputy Leader of Manchester City Council) and Dr Ruth Bromley (Chair of Manchester Health & Care Commissioning Group) (tbc).

Photographs in this leaflet show Poverty Truth Commissions which has already taken place successfully in Leeds and Salford.

Potential issues to look at

Commissions in Glasgow, Leeds and Salford have explored several issues which all arose from grassroots commissioners' own experiences: the relationship between mental health and poverty, the stigma of poverty, and helping young people and families to achieve potential. Through this they realised that housing significantly impacts the stigma associated with a neighbourhood and that worklessness limits young people's potential.

The Manchester Commission might look at similar issues, or decide that others are more important here.

If you have a story to tell about them or are interested in being involved with the Poverty Truth Commission, please contact us.

Sinéad O'Connor: 07553 310 051 or
manchesterpovertytruth@cheethamadvice.org.uk

