

Keep the lifeline

As you are no doubt aware, in October the Government plans to cut the £20 a week (£1040 a year) uplift paid to those in receipt of Universal Credit and Working Tax Credit introduced at the beginning of the pandemic. For years before the pandemic, cuts and freezes to social security had already left many families living with constant financial insecurity.

This cut will have a huge impact on six million families and will be the biggest cut to the basic rate of social security since the modern welfare state began, more than 70 years ago.

Many charities, think tanks and leading organisations plus six former Conservative work and pensions secretaries are urging the Government not to go ahead with this cut, which will further weaken social security support, cause severe hardship for families who are already struggling to stay afloat and generate a surge of people being pulled into poverty.

There has also been a call on the Government to stop discriminating against families receiving 'legacy benefits', such as Employment Support Allowance, Jobseeker's Allowance and Income Support, by not giving them this uplift.

Since signing a joint open letter to the Chancellor last September, an ongoing campaign has been active, led by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) together with many organisations including GMPA, determined to prevent this cut. If this is something you feel strongly about, there are many ways to get involved.

JRF have produced some very helpful tools. You can [read more about the campaign here and why this lifeline must be kept.](#)



- There is a [web page](#) with information for Universal Credit and Working Tax Credit claimants including a template for writing to your MP. A separate [web page](#) with information for legacy benefit claimants, again with a template for writing to your MP and a [web page](#) for **supporters** with write to MP instructions.
- A '[Campaign guide](#)' - for small organisations or leaders who are keen to get involved. It has details of the campaign, links to assets, write to MP guidance and suggested tweets.
- A '[Stakeholder toolkit](#)' – for larger organisations with networks.

What you can do to help

If you do one thing, write to your MP and/or request a meeting ([see the helpful guide from the End Child Poverty Coalition](#) for how to prepare). It is so important that MPs hear from as many different voices as possible about the impact of the cut – from charities, local leaders, claimants and supporters. We need them to know that this is a huge risk for families and communities, and for them politically.

Tell your network about the cut

Sadly, despite the severe impact this cut is likely to have on families, the complexity of the system and lack of communications means that too few recipients are aware it is due to happen and that it will affect them.

Raise the issue on your social media

Use the #KeepTheLifeline and help to keep this issue trending.

There are plans for a national day of action on August 17th. Keep an eye on social media #KeepTheLifeline for more information.



Greater Manchester Real Living Wage Campaign Update



We always like to celebrate good news in the newsletter and there was plenty to celebrate at the Living Wage Champion Awards 2021 organised by the [Living Wage Foundation](#) and held virtually in June. The awards celebrate individuals and organisations that have made an outstanding contribution to the Living Wage movement.



As always there was a strong representation from Greater Manchester and this year we celebrate four winners.

We at GMPA are proud to say we have worked with all of these organisations through the Living Wage Campaign and look forward to continuing to do so.

The list of winners from GM are:

Against All Odds Award
Charity and Funders Award
Living Wage Places Award
Living Wage Weeks Award

[Anchor Removals](#)

[Salford CVS](#)

[Salford Living Wage City Action Group](#)

[Boo Coaching](#)

@anchorremovals

@SalfordCVS

@RLW_Salford

@BOO_HQ

The full awards ceremony can be viewed [here](#)

[John Hacking](#),

Greater Manchester Living Wage Campaign Co-ordinator

Twitter: [@GMLivingWage](#) Facebook: [facebook.com/gmlivingwage](#)



The Greater Manchester Living Wage Campaign is a Greater Manchester Poverty Action programme.

Tameside Poverty Truth Commission - Update and Job Opportunity

Launch event: We are making progress towards launching the [Tameside Poverty Truth Commission](#) (PTC), many thanks to all who answered the [call for help recruiting Commissioners](#) as we are now 75% of the way there - though we would still appreciate further introductions to prospective Commissioners. We are looking for a launch date in November 2021 and will share details as soon as possible - watch this space!



Job opportunity: We are also ready to add to the team, having co-created a full-time Poverty Response Officer job with Tameside Council. Half of the Officer's time will be spent coordinating the PTC and half will be driving forward changes to the Council's welfare offer and other poverty responses to poverty in Tameside. They will be employed by the Council, but co-managed by GMPA. Please see the [job advert](#) for more details and how to apply. The deadline for applications is August 16th, 2021.



New team member: We are also delighted to welcome Hannah Lamberth to the GMPA team. Hannah will support the delivery of the PTC as Administrator and Events Organiser. Originally from Southampton, Hannah moved to Manchester in 2003 to join an organisation supporting disadvantaged communities. She has since worked in both the corporate and charity sector, leading teams and projects – most recently for a large Manchester based Church, coordinating their pastoral care. For the last few years Hannah has been a full-time carer and Mum to her two children. She is passionate about releasing the voices of those who have been silenced and enabling them to be heard.

Tameside Poverty Truth Commission is a Greater Manchester Poverty Action programme.

Your Work Your Way

By Jane Jacoby, Child Poverty Action Group

The number of families affected by in-work poverty is rising. Parents on low pay now need the equivalent of 1.5 earnings to keep their families out of poverty. In families where one parent works, a growing number of the non-working parents identify as being unemployed, yet while seeking work many of these potential second earners face barriers such as childcare, transport, skills and confidence. This important group also tend to be overlooked in Job Centre targets and by most employment support programmes; hard to reach out to and often requiring intensive but flexible support that recognises they may not be able to access many jobs due to family commitments and the challenges of juggling work and childcare with a partner.



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In response Child Poverty Action Group are offering practical employment support to couples families in Bury. Your Work Your Way offers a year of in depth, individualised employment support to families who are living on low wages topped up by Universal Credit or Tax Credits. Participants will also have access to specialist welfare rights advice as well as access to a support budget which can be used to assist with work-related costs such as course fees, childcare and transport. Participants are also eligible to apply to Barclays' Rebuilding Thriving Local Economies Fund which can provide financial assistance to people who have been adversely affected by Covid.

“When I was looking for a job after my child started school, I remember feeling confused about everything - jobs, money, childcare, the impact on family life - after being out of the world of work for a few years. There’s so much to think about! If someone had offered me the opportunity to sign up with a project like Your Work Your Way for tailored support and advice, I’d have jumped at the chance. It’s great to be able to help participants to really understand what it will mean for their family finances, including benefits, if both they and their partners work - so that any changes they make, they can have confidence in.” Dee Lynch - YWYW Welfare Rights Advisor

“We use a solution focused approach to really help participants explore work which is right for them and their families. It is great having time to support participants explore options around jobs, training and volunteering.” Jane Jacoby – YWYW Personal Support Coach

Your Work Your Way are seeing participants in a central Bury office location. They are happy to take referrals or be contacted for a friendly chat. The project is open to men or women who:

- have a partner who is working
- have children
- are receiving Tax Credits or Universal Credit (or are entitled to them but not claiming)
- live in Bury

Your Work Your Way is funded by Barclays. Bury was selected as a location by Barclays as part of their commitment to Bury through their Thriving Local Economies initiative. Further details can be found here:

[Your Work, Your Way | CPAG](#) on [Bury Directory](#) or on our [Facebook page](#)



Jane Jacoby

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Community Savers is a network of women-led savings groups which engage in regular peer support: sharing ideas, experiences and strategies for reducing poverty in their neighbourhoods, towns and cities. They have been learning from the approaches of a women-led movement called [Shack/Slum Dwellers International](#) since 2016 and work in alliance with [Community-Led Action and Savings Support](#) (CLASS).

Women have always played a critical role in community action in the UK (and across the world). Since the onset of austerity policies in 2010 which has reduced spending on public services and social support, women have been at the forefront of the battle to provide a safety net for the most vulnerable in our society. And now [COVID](#).

The gendered nature of community action usually goes unrecognised. It is almost always unpaid, and the cost of activities are frequently shouldered by communities themselves.

This presents the Community Savers-CLASS alliance with a significant challenge. The Community Savers approach amplifies and builds upon the expertise and resilience of grassroots women leaders to make change happen. But this creates additional demands on women who are already shouldering many of their own community, family and work pressures.

Yet, being in the network also builds resilience and enables effective strategies to spread. Throughout the pandemic, savings group leaders have been able to fall back on their network for moral support, ideas and information, or just to offload when things get tough. Crisis resources have been shared between groups. Before COVID, groups were travelling to learn from each other's projects and approaches, where a savings group set up in one place, a food project would replicate in another.

Women in the lead

Building on 30 years of [SDI's learning by doing](#), the Community Savers-CLASS alliance are attempting to build a genuinely alternative form of community-professional partnership.

Their work together is led by, for, and with grassroots women but protecting that principle requires constant dialogue, reflection and renegotiation. Where to find the time and space to have these discussions without needing to rush to school pick up, hospital appointments, food collections, or tonight's campaign meeting?

In September, Community Savers and CLASS will be going on a 2-day rural retreat. They would like to enable four amazing women from each of the affiliate groups to attend but need to raise an additional £1,000.

If you can, consider helping them to reach their target by [making a donation](#). You can also [email](#) for further info.

Trafford Poverty Truth Commission - Facilitators and Coordination Support roles

Friends of Stretford Public Hall have been invited by Trafford Council to coordinate Trafford's first Poverty Truth Commission. Trafford PTC will be led by a small team of facilitators.

They are seeking to recruit two co-facilitators and a coordination support worker, who will work together to facilitate the Trafford Poverty Truth Commission. Further information is available [here](#)

GM Moving in Action: Launch and Conference

An online Conference on Monday September 13th, 2021



Join people and partners from across Greater Manchester at the GM Moving in Action launch, the shared vision and plan for a healthier, happier city region.

Over the last six months, GM Moving partners have engaged with over 2,000 people on the strategy; and are delighted to be able to launch it at the 2021 GM Moving in Action Conference. It will be a day full of inspiration and action, with opportunities to learn, connect and commit to our future role in this movement, for movement.

Sign up [here](#) and spread the word. Think diverse. Think local, GM and national. Think about people across sectors and across places, all part of a whole system approach to active lives and tackling inequalities.

Whatever they do, wherever they are, whatever their role. This is about all of us, and everyone is invited.

The Green Homes Grant

By Ryan Tute, GMCA



Have you got the itch to make the switch and save money on your energy bills?

Residents in Greater Manchester could be missing out on grants of up to £10,000 on home improvements which could save money on energy bills.

The Green Homes Grant scheme aims to tackle fuel poverty by increasing low-income homes' energy efficiency rating while reducing their energy bills. While also delivering cost effective carbon savings to progress the city-region's eco ambitions. The grants can be used towards the cost of installing insulation, including external wall, loft and cavity wall insulation, and low carbon heating systems, for example an air source heat pump.

Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) is working with energy provider E.ON to deliver the scheme, although residents do not need to be E.ON customers to apply.

How much can you get? For owner occupiers, the grant will cover 100% of the cost of the improvements up to a maximum government contribution of £10,000.

Who is eligible for a Green Homes Grant? You're eligible for the Green Homes Grant and Local Authority Delivery Scheme if:

- Your home has an EPC energy efficiency rating of E, F or G
- Your household income is less than £30,000 or someone in your home receives benefits such as Universal Credit, Income Support, Disability Allowance and more.
- Your property is in Greater Manchester
- You own your own home (including long-leaseholders and shared ownership)
- You own a park home on a residential site (including Gypsy or Traveller sites)

What energy efficiency measures are available? If eligible, the scheme provides money towards energy efficient measures, such as:

- External wall insulation
- Room in roof insulation
- Smart heating controls
- Air Source Heat Pumps
- Window replacements (single glazed)
- Solar PV
- Underfloor insulation
- Door replacements

If successful, what next? E.ON will find approved installers in your area to complete the work for you.

How do I apply for the Green Home Grant? Head online to the [website](#) Call the Green Homes Grant team at E.ON on 0333 202 4820 or send an [email](#).

Job opportunity with ACORN

ACORN is looking for a Member Defence Organiser to build power to fight for social and economic change in Manchester, to start work on 4th October 2021.



As an Organiser with ACORN, you will be responsible for recruiting, developing and supporting members to take action on issues affecting them and the communities they come from. The role has a specific focus on organising with women across Manchester and so it is a requirement of the position that applicants are women. Deadline August 22nd, 2021. More information and how to apply [here](#)

For more information about Greater Manchester Poverty Action

please visit our [website](#), follow us on [Twitter](#) or visit our [Facebook](#) page.



We want to find new ways of working together, share the network's successes and provide a voice for the people living in poverty in our region but we can only do this with your help and support.

Copies of previous newsletters are available on our [website](#) If you would like to submit an article please [get in touch](#) For more information please contact us by [email](#).

NB GMPA does not have full-time dedicated administrative support so please do not expect an immediate response.

Views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily the views of GMPA. We try to fact-check all articles and events, but if you notice an error please [let us know](#) so we can correct it in a future newsletter.