

## We want your views - GMPA Annual Impact Survey 2022

By Lucy Bird, Fundraising Officer

Click [here](#) to complete the Greater Manchester Poverty Action Annual Impact Survey 2022. Deadline is Friday 29<sup>th</sup> July.

We run our [annual survey](#) to find out more about how the people in our network perceive our work, what they value and the different ways in which GMPA has an impact. The findings will help inform our work and support us when making a case to funders and other stakeholders.



The [survey](#) should take around five minutes to complete and not every question is mandatory. We really value how our network engages with and supports us and would greatly appreciate you taking the time to complete the [survey](#). The more responses we receive, the better it can shape our work.

Through providing us with your views, you are helping us get closer to achieving our shared vision of a Greater Manchester free from poverty.

“I have found things out in the GMPA Newsletter or through other activities that have helped to shape the way in which my work is delivered.”

GMPA Impact Survey 2021 Respondent.

“GMPA has played a very important role in bringing those stories of lived experience into the public domain [...] This will hopefully influence policy going forward.”

GMPA Impact Survey 2021 Respondent.

“[GMPA has] raised the bar. Raised the profile and highlighted the importance of anti-poverty work. [...] Brought like-minded organisations together, coordinated [...] campaigns focusing on benefits uptake. Presented decision makers with key ways to tangibly reduce poverty, giving them evidence which supports the reasons for this accompanied by compelling arguments and data to back up recommendations.”

GMPA Impact Survey 2021 Respondent.

“I think GMPA has banged the loudest drum and continues to apply pressure to help GM achieve more around living wages!”

GMPA Impact Survey 2021 Respondent.

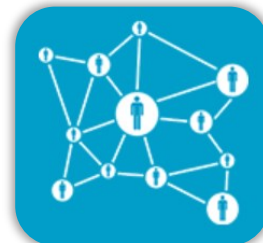
[Click here to complete the survey.](#)

You can view the results of GMPA’s 2021 Annual Impact Survey and read more about our impact [here](#).

Deadline for completing the survey is 5pm on Friday July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

## Policy Updates

As the cost-of-living crisis continues, we want to keep you up to date with the latest regional and national policy announcements. Over the last few weeks there has been a slew of research reports and policy recommendations so, we have put together the top updates from the last few weeks to keep you informed.



### Ending the need for foodbanks

The Times this weekend covered the growing food insecurity across the country, describing food banks as the [“nations newest emergency service.”](#) At GMPA we understand that foodbanks play an important role but charitable donations are not a sustainable response to the widespread and rising poverty we see.

At GMPA we believe that the most effective response to poverty is getting more money into people’s pockets. We advocate for a [“cash-first” approach to local welfare](#), and an “advice first” approach to other support services. We are currently working on co-producing [Money Advice Referral Tools](#) in six of boroughs in Greater Manchester. The tools will describe all the places that people can go for advice and other income maximisation support.

GMPA recently responded to the [Ending the Need for Foodbanks](#) All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) Inquiry into ‘Cash or food? Exploring effective responses to destitution’. We will share our response in due course.

### Rise of the number of pensioners in absolute poverty

Data from the [Institute for Fiscal Studies](#) shows that if you are over sixty-five there is now a one in four chance you are living in absolute poverty. The research analyses how household incomes and income poverty rates have been affected by the increase in the state pension age from 65 to 66 for men and from 60 to 66 for women.

Raising the state pension age has left many who rely on benefits poorer. Across Greater Manchester more than £100m in benefits goes unclaimed each year including approximately £70m in unclaimed Pension Credit – it is so important for everyone to check if there are benefits they may be entitled to.

### Local responses to poverty

At GMPA we work with local authorities to maximise the effectiveness of local welfare assistance schemes and support the development and design of anti-poverty strategies. It is great to see that Durham County Council plans to [“change political will”](#) on poverty by directly lobbying the government and also setting out plans to refresh and refocus their anti-poverty action plan.

Here are a several more recent reports that shed more light on the realities of the cost-of-living crisis.

**Going without** - The Joseph Roundtree Foundation’s latest report [“Not heating, eating or meeting bills: managing a cost of living crisis on a low income”](#) examines the worst-off 40% of households and shows that, “7 million low-income households have either gone without, enough food in the previous 30 days, or gone without at least one essential such as a warm enough home or basic toiletries because they can’t afford it, since the start of 2022.”

**The broken benefit cap** - [Analysis from Child Poverty Action Group \(CPAG\)](#) has shown that 35,000 more families will face the benefit cap next year – with DWP figures showing that more than 120,000 households were subject to the cap in February 2022. When inflation rose to 9% these families faced a real-terms income cut of £1,800 (£2070 in London) including losing the £20 a week universal credit uplift.

**Half of all children in lone-parent families living in relative poverty** – [Data from the IFS](#) shared with the Guardian shows that relative poverty for children in lone-parent families has risen at a significantly faster rate compared with other households.

We hope you found this roundup useful. The cost-of-living crisis is hitting those on low incomes the hardest and it is vital organisations working to prevent and reduce poverty continue to highlight the injustices along with lobbying government for change and campaigning locally.

We are delighted to welcome a new member to the team this month.

## Daniel Oliver - Head of Programmes

Dan has worked for organisations at local, regional and national levels, including Christian Aid and the National Crime Agency. He is an experienced Community Organiser and has used his skills in charities and social enterprises to achieve change. This included being a leading member of a campaign to deliver a National Databank, providing mobile data for those in crisis to keep them connected in our modern society.

Dan leads GMPA's Programmes team, delivering innovative programmatic responses to poverty across Greater Manchester. These programmes are designed to boost household incomes and financial resilience, and/or to ensure that those living in or affected by poverty are involved in reducing and preventing it.

Dan is passionate about communities leading change and is keen to explore how we embed lived experience in decision-making processes across Greater Manchester. He has led other lived experience programmes and is passionate about bringing people and networks together to share power and create positive change.

Dan lives in Stockport with his family. Outside of his GMPA role, he runs a youth group and raises money for a national cancer charity.



## In the Red Index

A new tool from Citizens Advice for understanding the cost-of-living crisis.

More and more people are coming to Citizens Advice in financial crisis than at any point since the start of the pandemic.

One of the most powerful indicators comes from their debt advice. Citizens Advice do detailed budgeting exercises with tens of thousands of people every year, trying to help them come up with sustainable ways to get out of problem debt. But for almost half of the people they help, because of the cost-of-living crisis, their advisers now just can't make the sums add up.

Citizens Advice are now publishing a new regular index for this data called 'In the Red Index' because it shows the proportion of those who come to them in debt who can't make ends meet. They're literally in the red. Since the cost-of-living crisis began, the proportion of people in a negative budget has only been going in one direction: up.

They are seeing the highest proportion of people in negative budgets since their records began. In early 2019, the number of people they were supporting in a negative budget was 36%. In the first quarter of this year — before the energy price cap had increased - the figure had reached 46%.

The financial support available throughout the pandemic was keeping people afloat eg Universal Credit £20 uplift.

The trend for every demographic group is upwards; the increase in essential costs is catching everyone to some degree. But the crisis is discriminating — it's making things tougher for groups who were already struggling.

It's security of income and security of tenure that matters, in addition to actual income level. If you can't predict when you'll be paid - as for example self-employed people often can't - you could be more likely to end up in a negative budget.

And because Universal Credit calculations about entitlement are complex, and because it can vary month by month, it's hard to work out what your payment is going to be and that variability often makes it harder for people to budget effectively.

Read the full article [here](#).



## Greater Manchester Real Living Wage Campaign Update



Mayor Andy Burnham with John Hacking,  
GMPA's GM Living Wage  
Campaign Coordinator

### Living Wage hat trick!

On July 5th, 2022 the Living Wage Champions Awards ceremony was held in London, and we are delighted to say that there were three winners from across Greater Manchester.

- The Living Wages Places Award won by the GM City Region Living Wage Action Group.
- The Living Wage Campaign of the Year Award won by the GM Care Workers Demand a Pay Rise
- The Living Wage Week Event Award won by Pro Manchester.

The GM Living Wage Places Award was accepted on behalf of GM partners by Mayor Andy Burnham and a number of the awards were presented by Chris Smallwood of Salford based Real Living Wage Employer, Anchor Removals.

This year there were twenty-two winners across twelve categories. A full list of the 2022 winners is available [here](#).

### Increase in Real Living Wage Brought Forward

To help millions deal with the cost-of-living crisis the [Living Wage Foundation](#) will be bringing their annual announcement of the Real Living Wage rates forward to September. Usually announced in November as part of Living Wage Week, the Living Wage Foundation have this year decided to announce the new rates two months early to encourage employers to pay staff the increased rates as soon as possible. The rate is currently £9.90 in the UK and a higher London rate of £11.05 to reflect the higher cost of living in the capital.

### More Real Living Wage Employers in Salford

This month Salford have announced great progress on the number of accredited employers in the borough. Currently there are 92 accredited employers across Salford which represents 24,485 workers now earning the Real Living Wage. This is excellent news and ahead of the targets set 3 years ago when the Real Living Wage City Action Plan was launched.

The Campaign's mission has always been to make Greater Manchester a Living Wage City Region. In 2021, [that became Greater Manchester's mission](#). GMPA is helping to make this a reality. There were just 26 Real Living Wage accredited employers in Greater Manchester when the GM Living Wage Campaign started. By the end of June 2022 there were 498.

However, our recently launched [2022 Poverty Monitor](#) found that 195,000 workers in Greater Manchester earn less than the Real Living Wage of £9.90 an hour – which shows there is still so much work to do across our city region.

If you want to join in the campaign against low pay and for a Real Living Wage get in touch for more details.

Best Wishes,  
Greater Manchester Living Wage Campaign Co-ordinator  
[John Hacking](#)

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



## Job opportunities at Oxfam



Oxfam Great Britain is looking for a Team Support Executive to work collaboratively within a small Business and Project support team to provide a range of effective and reliable administrative and logistical support to Team and Project Managers. Based in Manchester with hybrid working options, 36 hours per week Salary £20859 - £29396. This role is currently being offered as a Fixed Term opportunity however a permanent role may become available. More information [here](#).

Oxfam Great Britain is also looking for a Programme Support Executive to support the business needs of Project and Programme Managers and help ensure compliance across Impact Division. The role will provide a crucial support to the Impact Division's programmatic work. Based in Manchester with hybrid working options, 36 hours per week Salary £20859 - £29396. This role is currently being offered as a Fixed Term opportunity however a permanent role may become available. More information [here](#).

## GM Big Disability Survey 2022

We are Disabled People's Organisations and we use the data gathered by this survey to push to make the changes you tell us you want in the survey. The first survey already made change happen, including:

- making humanitarian aid hubs during Covid in councils more accessible
- co-producing a new Mental Health Wellbeing plan
- piloting a new concessionary fares process to include neurodiverse people
- making digital inclusion a Mayoral pledge
- making plans for transport and train stations to be more accessible, and ensuring vaccinations were accessible.

We also use the survey to show the government where it is failing and how it should improve policies for disabled people. The answers you provide gives us more information so that we can keep the work going to make Greater Manchester a better place to live for disabled people\*.

[Click Here To Start The Survey](#)

Deadline: noon Tuesday August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022. You don't have to answer every question. Please get in touch if you need any assistance or other formats. Email: [Panel@gmcdp.com](mailto:Panel@gmcdp.com) or Text/Call: 07367 754 595

\*We use the [Social Model of Disability](#), ie anyone facing disabling societal barriers due to their impairments or conditions and this includes mental health, hearing or visual impairments, learning disability, physical impairments/conditions, neurodiverse people, and those with chronic illness or fatigue.



## Greater Manchester Good Employment Charter

If you haven't already listened to the [Good Employment Chatter podcasts](#), you might be interested in checking them out.

Series One - Insights into good employment

Series Two - Good employment practices

Series Three - Equality, diversity and inclusion

The [podcasts](#) aim to spread more awareness of the good employment practice that is needed to make GM stronger and fairer to all.

## 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](#).

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.