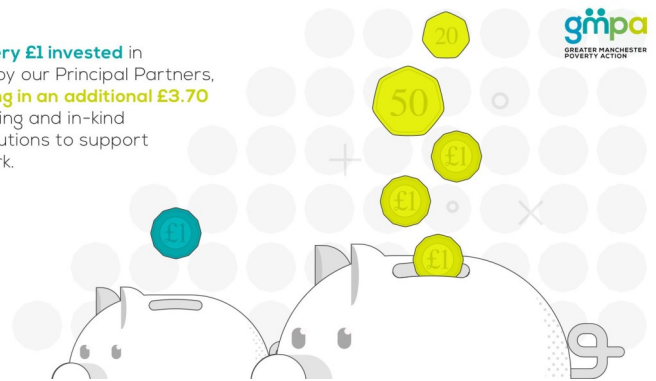


**Principals Partners play a central role in supporting GMPA - could your organisation join them?**

GMPA is reliant on financial and non-financial support from funders and other stakeholders, including from our Principal Partners. The scheme was established in response to organisations who have expressed an interest in supporting the work of Greater Manchester Poverty Action (GMPA) at an enhanced level and contributing to the sustainability of the organisation. Principal Partners commit to supporting GMPA financially each year and through strategic advice and support.

For every £1 invested in GMPA by our Principal Partners, we bring in an additional £3.70 of funding and in-kind contributions to support our work.



Principal Partners share our vision and acknowledge the important role GMPA has to play in strengthening efforts to tackle poverty across the city region. We wanted to thank those organisations who have already confirmed their membership of the scheme in 2021.



**Why do Principal Partners support GMPA?**

*"Oxfam's mission is to tackle poverty wherever we see it, around the world and in the UK, by working with communities to fight the injustices and inequalities that fuel it. We are therefore very pleased to support the work of GMPA as a lead and convener, working in partnership to challenge policies and practices and put the voices of people in poverty at the centre of change, to make Greater Manchester a fairer place for all."*  
Silvia Galandini at Oxfam

*"It's often said that Greater Manchester is a thriving and exciting place to be. If you're doing well, that's true. But it is not true for everyone. We have not eliminated poverty. There are still massive differences in the opportunities, wealth and life expectancy of people who live and work here – something which the COVID19 crisis has highlighted more starkly than ever. Macc is a supporter of GMPA because we want to call attention to these issues, the factors which cause them and build a movement which will create real change."*  
Mike Wild at Manchester Community Central

*"Southway is proud to be a principal partner for GMPA and supports the important work the group does to fight against poverty in Greater Manchester. We are a committed and forward thinking not for profit community based housing provider, and fighting poverty is a key priority for us. Our vision is having thriving communities and a key measure of this is that we will have helped to eliminate child poverty within the next ten years. We recognise that we will only achieve this by working in partnership with others."*  
Helen Sharples at Southway Housing Trust

To read more quotes from our Principal Partners click [here](#).

If you'd like to have a conversation with us about your organisation becoming a Principal Partner please contact [Graham Whitham](#).

## Making Greater Manchester a Real Living Wage City Region



At the launch event for Living Wage Week 2020 on November 9th, the Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, called on every sector partner and stakeholders to work towards making Greater Manchester the first Real Living Wage City Region in the UK. He urged businesses, local government, the public sector, trades unions and the voluntary, faith and community sectors to work together to make a step change in the movement to create a more just and equal society and an economy that works for all.

The Mayor said: “This announcement clearly demonstrates Greater Manchester’s commitment to the Real Living Wage and good employment in the city-region – ensuring that our citizens earn enough to make ends meet, creating an inclusive economy and helping us to build back better.” and he added that he planned to convene an Action Group in GM to oversee proposals to increase the number of accredited Living Wage Employers across all sectors in all ten city-region’s boroughs.

The GM Living Wage Campaign (GMLWC) welcomed this announcement and we have committed ourselves to work with the Mayor and others to achieve this ambition. The goal of Greater Manchester being a Living Wage city region has been a key aim of the GMLWC since it’s inception.

Since the announcement in November the GMLWC Campaign Co-ordinator John Hacking has been working with the GM Combined Authority, The Living Wage Foundation and GM Citizens UK to map out the steps and actions needed to achieve Living Wage City Region status. This process will ultimately see GM accredited as a Living Wage city region by the Living Wage Foundation.

To achieve this accredited status, a GM Real Living Wage Action Plan will be formulated which will include work by a series of sub-groups on the various aspects of the Action Plan to agree the details of the action plan including how partners and stakeholder can get involved, what the timescales are, what the challenges are likely to be and how they might be overcome.

As the Mayor acknowledged “I recognise that individual organisations will need to engage with this ambition at their own pace, and that this may prove especially challenging for some in the current environment.”

There are likely to be sub-groups covering areas such as local authorities, private businesses of all sizes, housing, the VCSE sector, campaigns, and others. There will be a focus on health and social care as a key sector.

GMLWC Co-ordinator John Hacking is keen to ensure that the regions’ campaign supporters and activists can be involved in the drive to achieve Living Wage city region status as they have a wealth of knowledge, experience, and information to contribute to this process.

This a good time for the GMLWC to discuss how we can make the best and most effective contribution. To this end there will be a meeting on Tuesday February 23rd, 2021 at 2pm.

The meeting is open to all who are interested in campaigning for the Real Living Wage in GM and will focus on the work to be done to achieve Living Wage City Region Accreditation. There will be an opportunity to hear the latest update on the Living Wage City Region Action Plan and how to get involved. We want to hear your ideas and suggestions that can help us to make this ambition a reality and improve the lives of tens of thousands of low paid workers and their families. There is much for us to build on but a real prize for us to gain. It would be great to see as many people as possible getting involved.

If you want to attend the meeting please book at [Eventbrite](#).

In addition, if you have ideas, questions or comments ahead of the meeting we would be delighted to hear from you.

Best Wishes and Stay Safe.

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

Email: [john@gmpovertyaction.org](mailto:john@gmpovertyaction.org)

Twitter: [@GMLivingWage](#)

Facebook: [facebook.com/gmlivingwage](https://www.facebook.com/gmlivingwage)



John Hacking

## We are recruiting

GMPA is now recruiting to [two new roles](#), both of which will play a central role in the organisation's development and delivery. Both roles are for an initial 18 months, working 3.5 days per week.

We are seeking a **Fundraising Officer**. This role will predominantly focus on supporting funding applications to trusts and foundations, as well as supporting income generation through other sources and developing and overseeing the organisation's fundraising strategy alongside the CEO and COO. It will suit someone with fundraising experience, with strong written and people management skills.

The deadline for this role is 5pm on Thursday February 25th, 2021. For full details of how to apply please go to the [jobs page](#) of our website

We are also seeking a **Policy Officer**. The postholder will inform local responses to poverty, including influencing local poverty strategies, the work of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and local welfare provision. At a time when poverty is growing nationally, it has never been more important to identify what we can do locally to address the issue. We are looking for someone with experience in either policy, advocacy or research roles.

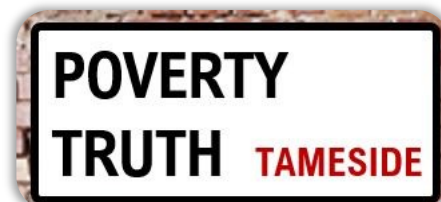
The deadline for this role is 5pm on Thursday March 5th, 2021. Full details of how to apply can be found [here](#).

If you would like an informal chat about either of these roles, please call Graham Whitham on 07917 644435.

## Tameside Poverty Truth Commission: Recruiting for Commissioners

Do you have lived experience of poverty and live in Tameside or know anyone who does?

Would you be interested in sharing your story of the struggles you have faced with people in positions of influence within Tameside so that together we can come up with ideas that will help others living in poverty?



The Poverty Truth Commission is a unique project where relationships are prioritised. A group of people who would not normally meet are brought together because of their lived experience and expertise and are able to use their voice to influence and shape a better Tameside.

We are looking to invite 12-15 people of all ages and backgrounds to join this commission. Initially we will meet weekly (using zoom until we can meet face to face) to get to know each other. There will then be a launch event where we will invite key decision makers to hear the impact of poverty in Tameside. After that, we will meet monthly with a group of 12-15 civic/business leaders and together we will spend time getting to know each other and deeply listening to the struggles that people face. We will not jump to quick solutions but instead think about better solutions that will help Tameside become a place where everyone can thrive.

If you are interested in joining this commission we would love to hear from you. Do get in touch with either Lizzie Bassford on 07898 710537 or Beatrice Smith on 07423 014430. Alternatively, you can email [Lizzie](#)

## From Poverty to a Good Society

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February 6.00pm to 7.30pm – on Zoom

Why does a society that is so rich accept so many people living in poverty? What does it mean for those who suffer and crucially what are we to do about it?

A discussion with Professor Ruth Lister, author of [Poverty](#) 2nd Ed. Ruth will outline the key arguments and respond to questions from Barry Knight, co-Chair of the Compass Board and author of [Rethinking Poverty](#). Barry will then host a wider discussion with Ruth and a panel that includes: Mary O'Hara, Author and Journalist; Mubin Haq, CEO Standard Life Foundation; Professor Francesca Klug, leading human rights campaigner; Bea Roberts, ATD Fourth World and Kate Green MP, Shadow Education Secretary and child poverty spokesperson

"It is critical we get the political strategy for a society without poverty right. That means how we frame the debate, including through human rights and dignity and recognition and respect, and how we build coalitions for change in society and politics, with people who experience poverty at the forefront of the campaigns and the decisions."

Please book [here](#).

## Greater Manchester Mental Wellbeing conversation findings published

By Charlene Mulhern, Greater Manchester Health & Social Care Partnership



Findings from the Greater Manchester Mental Wellbeing conversation have been published with over 4,000 people emphasising what is important for their mental wellbeing.

The aim is to use this information to understand what matters and to shape future initiatives to improve mental wellbeing, making sure they reflect the needs of local people. Key findings have indicated that:

- The majority, (97%), of Greater Manchester citizens think that mental wellbeing is important or very important;
- Whilst significantly more people know what to do if they wanted to improve their mental wellbeing, (58%), there are 42% who are either unsure or who have no idea;
- Work (and/or college) is the single biggest factor associated with poor mental wellbeing and cited by around 1/3 of all respondents, followed by existing mental health illnesses and / or disabilities;
- Almost two in three people in Greater Manchester (61%) don't feel connected to their community or place;
- An emphasis of green open space, the ambiance of the surroundings, good facilities and events and people behaving in a more supportive 'community' way would meet most people's needs (63%) for a place of positive wellbeing. This reinforces that improving mental wellbeing is as much about shaping places as it is about engaging people
- The people surveyed highlight that too many people aren't very happy (5.2/10), don't find life satisfying (5.1/10) and worthwhile (5.7/10) and have fairly high levels of anxiety (5.6/10)

Responses to questions clearly indicated that there is no one single solution. Improving mental wellbeing across the population will require a whole system approach which involves everyone working together to bring about sustainable long-term system change. A plan to respond to feedback is now underway.

Access to the detailed report can be found [here](#)

## Cost of Learning in Lockdown Survey



Building on the Cost of Learning in Lockdown report in June 2020 and as part of the [Cost of the School Day](#) project, CPAG would like to hear from children, young people, and families across England about their experiences of the first term back in school and the Christmas period. This research would be an opportunity to hear from families and children about what has worked well for them so that CPAG can champion the successes of schools and share best practice across the sector, but also help them to understand where there are gaps, and the impact these gaps have had on families living in poverty.

The surveys can be accessed [here](#).

Areas of focus:

1. The school day
  - Additional costs for families associated with this academic year
  - Additional support provided by school (or local authority) as part of the response to the pandemic (e.g. tutoring or catch up lessons)
2. Homeworking (for those pupils who have had to isolate)
  - Understanding whether families have the resources they need at home and what support is being provided, and whether this has improved since school closures in March
  - What FSM provision has worked best for isolating families
3. Financial & holiday support
  - Levels of concern about finances and the reasons why (e.g. increased bills)
  - Available holiday support and how well that works for families (e.g. Covid Winter Grant Scheme)



## Worth a mention

### GMPA Food Providers Map - can you help?

Many of our readers will be aware of our Food Providers map that, along with our household items and repairs and advice and information maps, can be accessed on our website [here](#).



Since the pandemic began the food map has been visited on average 80 times a day.

The current circumstances are exceptional and some food providers have, for the time being, changed the way they work but it is so important that the data we have on the map is up to date. The last thing anyone needs is to make the effort to contact a food bank or pantry only to find out that it is, for instance, not open or fully subscribed.

If you are familiar with any food providers in Greater Manchester, we would be grateful if you could take the time to look at the map, firstly check that the ones you know are there and then that their details are accurate. If any changes are needed please [contact Chris](#) with the correct information. Many thanks.

### Training courses available to GMPA's network over the next 6 months

Over the last 2 years GMPA has delivered a small number of paid for training courses in partnership with Policy North Training. The courses equip stakeholders with the knowledge they need to fight poverty both in Greater Manchester and across the UK as a whole.



*Maximising support for people on low incomes* – Thursday January 28th and Monday June 28th. [BOOK HERE](#).

*Understanding poverty measurement, definitions and data* - Thursday March 25th and Tuesday May 11th [BOOK HERE](#).

*Identifying poverty data in Greater Manchester* – Thursday April 15th – [BOOK HERE](#).

*Exploring the poverty premium* – Friday June 25th – [BOOK HERE](#).

[Full course overviews and costs can be downloaded from the training page of our website.](#)

### Achieving a fairer Greater Manchester is the focus of Inequalities Commission as new survey launches



People across GM are being asked to help tackle inequality to inform the work of the city-region's Independent Inequalities Commission. The drive to make Greater Manchester a more equal society will be informed by the online survey designed to capture the views and experiences of residents.

To find out more and undertake the survey log onto [www.gmconsult.org](http://www.gmconsult.org).

### Promote how you are helping communities this winter on Macc's Manchester Online Directory

As part of Macc's Winter Kindness Campaign they want to make sure everyone has access to up to date information about the support available from VCSE sector organisations in Manchester and, for those wishing to help, how they can support the work of local community organisations to ensure nobody is left behind. Macc's directory of basic information will be expanded with much more detailed information about the support and services on offer, opening times, contact details and information about what organisations need, such as volunteer support or asks for donations and fundraising campaigns.



[Register your organisation on the online directory here](#) If you have any questions please email [Michelle](#)

### 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.