



Cost of a Child 2018

CPAG's 2018 Cost of a Child report published in August shows what it costs to raise a child to age 18, based on what the public thinks is a minimum standard of living.

The overall cost of a child (including rent and childcare) is £150,753 for a couple and £183,335 for a lone parent.

A combination of rising prices, benefits and tax credits freezes, the benefit cap and two-child limit, cuts to housing benefits, bedroom tax and the rolling out of universal credit have hit family budgets hard. Life has been getting progressively tougher for families on low or modest incomes over the past ten years, with families on in-work and out-of-work benefits hardest hit.

Even families with two parents currently working full time on the 'national living wage' are 11% (£49 per week) short of the income the public defines as an acceptable, no-frills living standard. For lone parents, even with a reasonably paid job (on median earnings) will be 15% (£56 per week) short of an adequate income because of the high cost of childcare.

Many families – both in and out of work – get support from the social security system to help free them from the worst effects of poverty. Next year universal credit will be rolled out to everyone claiming one or more of the benefits it will replace. But the way the government plans to do this risks increasing hardship.

For a start, the way the government wants the 3 million people affected to move onto universal credit puts all the risk on to the shoulders of claimants – many of whom are vulnerable.

CPAG are asking MPs to persuade the government to change their plans. [You can help by writing to your MP.](#)

CPAG have proposed an alternative system which puts the needs of claimants at the heart of the process, and greatly reduces the risk of families facing destitution. You can help them make the case for this approach by asking your MP to push for changes. MPs will have chance to debate these rules and vote on them, but they can't make changes once they've reached parliament. So the time to act is now.

Half of all children in the UK live in families who will receive universal credit when the rollout is complete. Can we ensure that these children don't face hardship in the process of moving on to universal credit?

The full CPAG Cost of a Child 2018 report is available on their [website](#)



Good Employment Charter

Throughout 2018 Greater Manchester Combined Authority have been working with employers, employees and others on what should be in a Greater Manchester Good Employment Charter, and how it should be structured.

They are now seeking your views on the draft Employment Charter, which will help them finalise what it looks like for people across Greater Manchester.

They particularly want to hear from employers and employees in the private, public and voluntary and community sectors, people working in organisations responsible for employment practices, and representative bodies such as business groups and trade unions. Please share details [of this survey](#) with anyone you think will be interested. It should take no longer than 15 minutes to answer the questions.



The consultation is available [here](#) and there's a link through to the full consultation document there as well.

"We want Greater Manchester to be the best place to live, work and invest. Our Good Employment Charter is right at the heart of those plans. It sets out a vision of good employment - jobs which are secure, fairly paid and fulfilling, with opportunities to progress and develop." Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester



INTERNATIONAL ARTS & HOMELESSNESS SUMMIT & FESTIVAL, MANCHESTER 2018

The right time, the right place

With One Voice Director Matt Peacock explains why Manchester is the perfect place to host the inaugural International Arts and Homelessness Summit & Festival

I always arrive into Manchester the same way, leaving Piccadilly Station and walking down into the heart of the city past high street shops, criss-crossing tram lines, to the open space of Piccadilly Gardens. Over the last decade it has been a sobering experience since this is the stretch of Manchester where most of the people who are sleeping on the streets congregate. As in many cities, not everyone who is street homeless is begging and not everyone who is begging is homeless but the visible homeless situation is chronic.

Street homelessness has steadily risen year on year, [1,100% since 2010](#) and more recently, the situation has become increasingly worse with a noticeable increase in drug use on the streets. Addressing the homelessness situation is so urgently important that it became Andy Burnham's main election pledge when he was running for Mayor of Greater Manchester.

Fantastic work is already being done. Manchester can boast one of the most innovative homelessness strategies both nationally and internationally. And crucially, one where the voice of people who are or have been homeless is central to decision-making. The Manchester Homelessness Charter was set up in 2016 to create a collaborative and combined approach between all sectors, alongside people who are or have been homeless. A consultation was also recently announced on providing a bed for every person sleeping on the streets between November and March – and Greater Manchester was announced as a '[Vanguard City](#)' by the Institute of Global Homelessness.

And this is the context where social movement With One Voice is preparing the first [International Arts and Homelessness Summit & Festival](#) in November throughout Greater Manchester.



The people of Manchester would be forgiven for thinking there are more pressing concerns than putting on a set of arts events. The question, 'why arts?' has often been asked when it comes to homelessness and other social issues but perhaps it is even more vital to talk about this in Manchester when the situation is so severe.

The new strategy in Manchester recognises that homelessness is often the result of multiple issues coming together - poverty, employment, mental and physical health issues, relationship breakdowns, substance issues and more. The strategy argues that multiple issues call for multiple solutions with healthcare, housing, recovery, community building, investment in people's well-being and self-esteem coming together to help people who are or have been homeless move forward more successfully long-term. Combining practical care with personal empowerment is key. Manchester and Greater Manchester will be the first authorities in the UK to integrate the arts into homelessness strategies – this is through With One Voice's [Jigsaw of Homelessness Support](#) a model where interventions come together to create a whole picture of support. It is a bold and important step for Manchester to recognise the power of arts and creativity in the homelessness sector.

As well as this holistic approach, Greater Manchester is adopting a 'whole-society' approach where every sector from business, to faith and culture are coming together to help solve homelessness in the Charter through pledges. With this background, Manchester is *exactly* the right place to hold the world's first International Arts and Homelessness Summit & Festival.

And the cultural and homeless sectors have really stepped up to make this happen. We will shortly be releasing details of the brilliantly diverse programme of art and photography exhibitions, poetry projects, a public mural, and many more events. The Festival culminates in a four-day Summit and conference at The Whitworth where an estimated 300 delegates from at least 15 countries will assemble to discuss arts and homelessness around five main themes: Practice, Policy, Performance, Partnerships and People. We are committed to making this the first fully integrated homelessness event in history with 50% of delegate passes being given to people who are or have been homeless.

We estimate around 20,000 people will see an arts and homelessness project during the week, creating huge exposure for artists and creatives who are or have been homeless.

As with many events of this nature, we are putting a lot of energy into what happens afterwards. This cannot be a flash-in-the-pan and must result in lasting positive change. We will talk more about legacy and long-reaching impact in the coming weeks. I will make many more walks from Piccadilly Station through Manchester in the lead up to and following the Summit & Festival this November. I am certain the homeless situation in general, including visible homelessness will improve as nowhere else in the world have I seen all elements of the city pull together to tackle homelessness. The cultural sector is standing by to do its part and I am confident that once the world sees how arts and creativity is part of the homelessness solution in Manchester – enriching the lives of people, building their well-being and voice – more cities and regions will follow suit

With One Voice is an international arts and homelessness movement that seeks to connect and strengthen the sector worldwide and is produced by Streetwise Opera. More information about the Festival and Summit is available on the following page.



INTERNATIONAL ARTS & HOMELESSNESS
SUMMIT & FESTIVAL, MANCHESTER 2018

International Arts and Homelessness Summit and Festival

As cities around the world struggle to solve homelessness, delegates from 15 countries will come together for a Summit and Festival at The Whitworth in Manchester from November 12th - 18th, 2018 to explore and celebrate the role the arts can play in tackling homelessness.

Homelessness is not just about housing, and people who are homeless can suffer from a multitude of challenges from practical 'house-lessness' to low well-being, social isolation and stigma. The arts are being used effectively around the world to reduce social isolation by building social networks and increasing both physical and mental health, improve public attitudes, promote understanding towards homeless people and enable homeless people to express themselves so their voice can be heard.

Tickets for all Festival events are free and delegate passes can be purchased for the Summit (November 15th - 18th) here. 50% of delegate passes will be given free to people who are or have been homeless – get in touch for more info. [More information](#)

The Salford Foundation Trust



The Salford Foundation Trust is a grant giving charity that helps children and young people aged 5-25 years living in Salford (minimum of 3 years residence) to develop their hobbies, interests, skills and talents. Limited family income is a barrier to opportunity and the main focus of the Trust is the removal of those barriers. They are now open for applications. To find out how to apply, who can apply, how much you can apply for and what they will consider funding, please visit their [website](#), contact by [email](#) or call 0161 787 3834

If you are unsure if what you would like to apply for fits their criteria, please get in touch and they will be able to answer any of your questions. Support is available for completing an application form. The closing date is November 2nd, 2018.

Forthcoming events

Exploring the poverty premium

Greater Manchester Poverty Action provides training to organisations working to address poverty across the city region and the rest of the UK. We aim to support organisations to better understand some of the complexities around poverty. This includes training in how poverty is measured and how to identify data, to understanding the recent history of welfare reform and how it affects different groups of people.



One course is currently open for booking: Exploring the poverty premium, a half day course on **October 18th, 2018**. [More information and booking](#) (The course on Understanding poverty data was fully booked but do let us know if this course is of interest to you as we are planning to run it again in the New Year.)



Filling the vacuum – the need for local child poverty strategies

On Friday October 26th, 2018 from 1.30pm - 3.30pm at Kelloggs, Orange Tower, Media City UK, Salford M50 2HF

There is currently a sizeable policy vacuum in respect of tackling family poverty in the UK. The UK government no longer has a child poverty strategy in place. The 2020 child poverty targets and the requirement on councils to have local poverty strategies were both scrapped by the Coalition Government. With child poverty currently increasing and expected to reach 5.2 million by 2022, urgent action is needed locally to mitigate the impact of central government policy. Local authorities and their partners in different parts of the country have begun filling this vacuum through the implementation of child or family poverty strategies and initiatives such as poverty truth commissions. In Scotland, the Scottish Government has introduced its own child poverty reduction targets and is asking local authorities to create Child Poverty Action Plans.

At this event we will discuss how we can ensure Greater Manchester is at the forefront of tackling family poverty and also explore how we can work together across public, private and VCSE sectors to ensure that all parts of the city region have comprehensive poverty strategies in place.

[More information including a list of speakers. Places are limited so please book](#)



End Hunger UK campaign conference 2018

On Tuesday October 16th, 2018 from 11am - 4pm at Central Hall Westminster, Storey's Gate, Westminster, London SW1H 9NH

Come together with other campaigners and food poverty activists for a UK where everyone has access to good food and no-one has to go to bed hungry.

Speakers include: Emma Lewell-Buck MP who has worked extensively on household food insecurity; Rt Rev Tim Thornton, Bishop at Lambeth and Trustee of Feeding Britain; Alison Garnham, Chief Executive of Child Poverty Action Group; Ann Jones, vice chair of the National Federation of Women's Institutes; Professor Jon May, Chair of Trustees, the Independent Food Aid Network; Emma Revie, new Chief Executive of the Trussell Trust; Laura Sandys, Chair of the Food Foundation and many others, including people who have first-hand experience of being caught up in hunger and those who work on the frontline tackling it.

Debates will include discussion of what it will take to end hunger, ensuring children get food 365 days a year, the future of our benefits system, and the need to measure household food insecurity. There will be workshops on activism, the right to food and working in your community.

Tickets cost £10 - £55 [More information and book](#)

Launch event: Poverty Proofing the school day in the North West

On October 16th, 2018 from 9.30am - 3.30pm at Manchester Hall, 36 Bridge Street, Manchester M3 3BT



Currently 4 million children in this country are living in poverty and it is predicted that this will continue to rise dramatically in the coming years with over 5 million children set to be living in poverty by 2022; this will inevitably have a dramatic impact on schools and classrooms across the country. Poverty Proofing the school day is an innovative programme that identifies barriers to learning for students who do not have the same financial resource as their better off peers. This conference will explain the poverty proofing ethos sharing best practice from schools and delivery partners across the country, as well as looking at the evaluation completed by Newcastle University identifying a wide spectrum of positive impact on the school day around inclusion, attendance and attainment. The conference will consider how schools in the North West can respond to the poverty proofing work and explore how it can be best implemented in the region.

£50 per delegate. Lunch will be provided. To register for the day please email: donna.botham@children-ne.org.uk

Harpurhey Together

Tuesday October 16th, 2018 from 12.30 - 3.30pm at Harpurhey Neighbourhood Centre, Carisbrook Street, Harpurhey M9 5UX.

Bringing together local people, North Mancunians with new residents from Central and Eastern Europe sharing ideas, experiences and future plans. A partnership project between Parasol - bringing hope and friendship for European nationals and Harpurhey Neighbourhood Project - working with the community for 40 years.

To book a free place contact Graeme on 07460 988361 or email : harpurhey@aol.com Free lunch on arrival and free parking

Immigration detention: Get Informed and Take Action

On Tuesday 16th October 16th, 2018 6 - 8pm at Theatre A, University Place, University of Manchester, 176 Oxford Rd, M13 9PL



Every year, around 30,000 people in the UK are locked up in prison-like conditions, with no time limit. Staff and students at the University of Manchester, These Walls Must Fall, Medact and the Northern Postcolonial Network are bringing together a panel of practitioners, academics and experts by experience to raise awareness of immigration detention and look at what we can do to take action. The event is free but please [register](#) to attend

Embarrassment and gratitude: The experience of food bank use in England

On Thursday October 18th, 2018 from 12 - 2pm at Allerton L417, University of Salford, Frederick Road Campus, Salford M6 6PU

Speaker: Alan Connolly, PhD student, Lancaster University. Alan's research examines the rise in demand for food bank services in England over the past decade, utilising the Liverpool City Region, the city with the highest use of food banks in England, as a case study. [More information and to book](#)

Practical Community Development Manchester Community Development Practice Working Group

A conference for community development workers by community development workers

On October 31st, 2018 from 9.30am - 4pm at Levenshulme Methodist Church, 824 Stockport Road, Manchester M19 3AW

Practicing community development is fun, creative and exciting but like many good things, difficult to do well. This conference is an opportunity for people carrying out community development (across Greater Manchester) to find out more about community development work, refresh their skills, build connections with other community development practitioners and find out what is going on in Manchester and further afield. The conference will be interactive, fun and friendly with useful resources for you to take away. Drinks and food will be provided. All workshops will be allocated on the day on a first come, first served basis.

Cost: Public Sector: £50 Voluntary Sector £20 Less, if paying the full amount means that you can't come and you really want to come (contact us). [More information and to book a place](#)

Save the Date for the huge Tesco Food Collection 2018

The Tesco Food Collection is one of the biggest and best opportunities to get involved and help FareShare and the Trussell Trust feed people across the UK. Between 26 November 26th and December 1st 2018, volunteers will be asking Tesco customers to donate items in store to boost the stocks of non-perishable products in the run-up to Christmas. Three hours of volunteering time brings in enough for, on average, 600 meals!



FareShare deliver to over 7,000 charities and community groups across the country. You can volunteer [here](#). The Trussell Trust distribute through their network of food banks with over 50 distribution points in GM. If you'd like to volunteer please contact [your local food bank](#) to find out where the nearest collection will be held.

Tesco also donate a 20% financial top-up on all the food that is donated.

The Manchester Sleepout

On November 9th, 2018 the Booth Centre will be holding their annual Sleepout at Manchester Cathedral

to raise funds and awareness to support people experiencing homelessness in Manchester.

Last year, 400 people braved the cold and rain to raise a stunning **£120,000!** This year, they are asking you to help them smash that figure. Sleep out for one night so others don't have to every night.



[Register now](#) The money raised allows the Booth Centre to provide fresh, healthy meals every week, offer expert advice and a huge range of arts and activities to improve wellbeing and self-esteem

Do you have any events that you'd like GMPA to publicise? Please [Email us](#) with the details.

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 for inclusion in a newsletter please [get in touch](#)

For more information please contact us by [email](#) or call 07419 774537 and we will reply as soon as possible.

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



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