

A Report into Current Anti-poverty Strategies and Work in Greater Manchester

By Shannon Jones

University of Manchester Summer 2023

This report provides an outline to poverty in the UK and Greater Manchester. It then investigates current anti-poverty strategies across Greater Manchester. It states some of their priorities, describes how they embed local voices in their strategies using Poverty Truth Commissions, and explores how local people with lived experience of poverty that are involved can be supported during these commissions

It then turns to explore the work of food aid providers in Greater Manchester, summarising some of the work that they do, describing how they take a 'more-than food' approach and some challenges that they face. Finally, it focuses on examples of anti-poverty networks currently operating in Greater Manchester, summarising how they support and bring organisations together to minimise and eradicate poverty. It concludes by providing a summary of the findings and recommendations for policymakers concerning anti-poverty strategies and work in Greater Manchester

As of February 2025, all ten local authorities in Greater Manchester have either implemented or committed to implementing anti-poverty strategies.

It's important to note that while all ten local authorities have shown commitment to addressing poverty, the specific strategies and stages of implementation vary considerably across different councils.

While not all strategies explicitly mention health, there is a growing recognition among Greater Manchester's local authorities of the intrinsic connection between poverty and health outcomes. Some explicitly address the link between poverty and health. For instance, Manchester City Council's "Making Manchester Fairer: Anti-Poverty Strategy 2023-2027" focuses on systemic inequalities and the social determinants of health that impact life outcomes

Currently the following the local authorities have an anti-poverty strategy;

- **Making Manchester Fairer: Anti-Poverty Strategy 2023-2027**

[file:///C:/Users/bhups/Downloads/105987_Manchester_Anti_Poverty_Strategy_Design_v5_Acc%20\(1\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/bhups/Downloads/105987_Manchester_Anti_Poverty_Strategy_Design_v5_Acc%20(1).pdf)

Extract from their strategy:

We will work with Manchester Local Care Organisation to target mental health support in areas where poverty and debt have a significant impact on residents' mental health.

- **Building Resilience Tackling poverty in Tameside 2023-27**

Extract from their strategy:

Tackling poverty cannot be done in isolation but instead requires a coordinated approach with commitment from all stakeholders. As a statutory function where political, clinical and professional community leaders come together to improve health and tackle inequalities Tameside's Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) is well-placed to oversee the implementation of the Strategy. This will involve the creation of a sub-group where an Action Plan can sit and will be accountable to the Board for delivery.

- [Trafford Poverty Strategy 2023-25](#)

Extract from their strategy:

Tackle mental health and isolation We will put the impact of poverty on mental health at the forefront of the design of new services such as the One Stop Shop. This means that people are not expected to repeat their story over and over again.

- [Rochdale's Anti-Poverty Strategy 2024 -2029](#)

Extract from their strategy:

The impact of poverty on health and wellbeing

Being poorer than others has a profound long-term impact on health. This was shown by the work of Professor Marmot who found that as income and wealth increased so did health and wellbeing. This gradient not only existed when comparing rich people to poor people but also for those in between.

The relationship between poverty and health is complex and multi-directional. Poor physical or mental health and addictions can cause loss of income and poverty, and poverty can cause ill health. There are complex structural and policy issues which come into play in these circumstances too, which include the well-known inverse care law in which you find that more services are provided in wealthier areas even though the most need is in poorer areas

- [Bury - The Bury Partnership Anti-Poverty Strategy 2022](#)

Extract from their strategy:

The new strategy will focus on several elements:

- *Poverty and wellbeing – supporting the Getting Help helpline and the Bee Well young persons' social prescribing provision.*

- [Salford - A strategy to prevent and reduce poverty in Salford 2021-2024](#)

Extract from their strategy:

We're working hard to tackle health inequalities linked to poverty which is both a cause and a consequence of poor health. Through Salford's Locality Plan, we continue to improve support for a range of conditions linked to deprivation, such as poor mental health, cardiovascular disease, drug and alcohol misuse, as well as social isolation and loneliness.

Strengthen the role and impact of ill health prevention to support more people to adopt healthy behaviours. This includes investing in local community organisations to support social prescribing and encouraging increased engagement with the city's health improvement services so everyone in Salford has the best opportunity of living in good health regardless of their income.