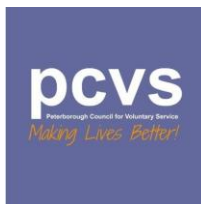


# Q2 Poverty Truth Newsletter



poverty  
truth  
network



**‘Nothing about us, without us, is for us,’**

Lasting social change happens when those who experience the struggle participate in generating that change

## Poverty Truth Update

**Quarter 2** has been very busy with the primary focus being on the development of the Community Commissioning Group. A key priority has been to engage people across diverse groups and experiences to ensure their stories are heard and reflect the wider communities of Peterborough. To do this we have continued to build relationships with the many support hubs, churches and community settings as well as reaching out to people who want to use their experience of struggle as a means for change.

The initial stage of building the Civic Commissioning Group is now in place. The positive response to the project has been fantastic. We now have over 20 confirmed Civic Commissioners representing high level commitment from a wide range of organisations within the statutory and Voluntary sector. Their involvement will depend on the priorities of the Community Commissioners and this will emerge out of the ongoing work we are doing to evolve a cohesive group who will agree their key issues going forward.

The Peterborough Poverty Truth commission launch will take place on **23rd November at Kingsgate Community church from 2-5pm**. This event will focus on listening to the stories of the Community Commissioning Group as well as celebrating the first year of the project. This will be something very special and a chance to really understand the the lived experiences of people experiencing poverty. Invitations will be sent out in early September so remember to book your place as spaces will be limited.

## Poverty Truth Highlights: Chester



On the 18th and 19th of May, James attended an annual residential gathering in Chester of facilitators from Poverty Truth Commissions all over the country. The central question of this year's gathering was:

### ***What does good facilitation look like?***

James reported: It was great to hear about all the successes that PTCs across the country have experienced and really energized everybody in the room, and as for the challenges, a problem shared is a problem halved. The values of the Poverty Truth Network ran through the gathering like writing through a stick of rock. The team didn't just tell us what good facilitation looked like; they showed us.

To get to be a part of the same process that we are bringing to Peterborough totally opened my eyes to the possibilities of a Poverty Truth Commission.

Overall, it was a great experience. It was heartening to hear about how successful other commissions had been, and it was good to learn that the network continues to expand. Peterborough no longer has the youngest commission, and we all had something to share and teach each other. I've come away refreshed and full of hope for what our Poverty Truth Commission can be.

## Poverty Truth Highlights: Birmingham



On the 19th of July Peterborough's facilitation team went to a Poverty Truth Network gathering in Birmingham, at the Birmingham and Midland Institute. We took along four Community Commissioners as well as a Civic Commissioner who had the opportunity to link with people from other Poverty Truth Commissions from, Lincoln, West Cheshire, Birmingham, Derby, Leeds and Salford.

Like Chester the relational approach is the cornerstone of the Poverty Truth process and the thread running through almost every commission: a fear of having the courage to speak, but not being listened to. Some examples of good listening:

- Actively listening, asking open questions, restating to show you've understood
- Making eye contact if you can and having an open body language
- Suspending your judgement by not making assumptions
- Be honest in your responses about what you can or can't do for people

It was a great day and our Community Commissioners were amazing given what could have been incredibly intimidating. We all got a great deal from the experience. And if there was one specific word that came up a lot, it was "Hope"

## Poverty Truth Highlights: The First Community Commissioner Meeting

Peterborough's Poverty Truth Commission has put in some great work over the last five months, raising awareness about the project and getting people involved, but on 25th July we took the more informal conversations with our first, more formal meeting of our Community Commissioners.

It was a small group who turned up but you couldn't fault their enthusiasm and commitment. They all seemed comfortable with each other and one of our commissioners actually read us some of her own poetry, unprompted. Definite signs these relationships are forming fast. We did also talk a bit about the launch, something the commissioners would have been told about but had not been discussed in detail. Nobody ran away screaming; encouraging sign.

For our group, "telling your story" might not look like standing up in public and talking, a daunting task for anyone, but when they were asked about how they would like to tell their story they came up with some amazing ideas making us feel both humbled and excited about the possibilities of a launch to remember.

## Poverty Truth Network: Amplifying local issues



Peterborough is part of a larger network of Poverty Truth Commissions across the UK with some being established for many years. Sometimes issues arising for local areas reflect the need for change at a national level. Amplifying these issues is part of the Poverty Truth Network's objectives who act as a lobby for challenging and changing current policy on issues such as, accessing services, mental health provision, housing, and cost of living. So what comes out of our own Poverty Truth Commission plays an important contribution to the wider need for change and to potentially affect so many people in need.

## Contact Us



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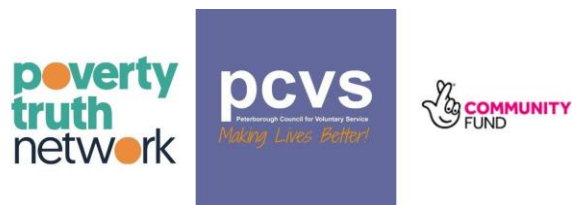


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## Who We Are



The Peterborough Poverty Truth Commission is hosted by PCVS, supported by the Poverty Truth Network, and funded by the National Lottery.