



Poverty Truth Commission (hereafter known as the PTC)

Notes of the PTC SUG (Start Up Group) West Northamptonshire: 22.07.2021.

VIN introduced the session as hosts and gave some background context to the PTC, arising as it did out of NCF (Northamptonshire Community Foundation) discussions around Sustainable Development, Goal Number 1 of which is Poverty. During these conversations it was suggested that Northamptonshire has a PTC. This model has been progressed in a number of areas across the UK. The Model is segmented into a Start Up Group (those people who want to progress the model in detail) and the wider PTC delegates who share the wider aims and ambitions of the PTC.

VIN were welcomed as hosts not drivers, but did secure a small seed fund from NAVCA (The National Association of Voluntary and Community Associations) with which to deliver a PTC website, which is now live. <https://poverty-truth.org.uk>

Attendees of the SUG or the wider PTC are asked to send their reflections or stories to VIN and these will be continually used to populate the website with content. Useful links or resources can also be uploaded to this Platform. To do this please contact:

Russell.rolph@voluntaryimpact.org.uk

The SUG Role:

Whilst each PTC around the UK is different, the SUG (Start Up Group) role is fairly standard:

The role of the SUG (Start Up Group) is largely to:

Help define Poverty and what that is in West Northamptonshire. This could be a statement or a series of Lived Experience thoughts and ideas.

To identify funding to maintain the PTC (but not to apply as VIN has a dedicated Fundraising Officer who can submit applications).

To identify those people in our communities who might want to talk about their Lived Experience of Poverty. There was much discussion about how this can be achieved, but what best suits the individual has to be considered as a top priority in this work. Options included:

Video or Voice Recording.

Face to Face interviews through known and trusted contact organisations.

Bringing individuals closer to the organisations they know and trust.

Geography:

Whilst Poverty undoubtedly crosses Geographical Boundaries, Northamptonshire now has 2 very distinct Unitary Authorities. The West have pledged some support to a West PTC. The North are considering their approach at this present moment in time. Organisations that predominantly work in the North might want to join a North PTC if that is a decision reached by North Northamptonshire. Equally though, all organisations are welcome at the West PTC as their reflections are important. VIN



will leave this to individual organisations to decide where they feel comfortable sitting. Anyone who wants to leave the SUG because they either feel they are more geographically biased towards the North or do not have the capacity to help should E Mail VIN at:

Russell.rolph@voluntaryimpact.org.uk

To be part of the SUG delegates must be prepared to take actions and work to nurture individuals who have a Lived Experience to tell. The landscape in which organisations currently work is challenging, and resource and capacity is stretched. This is recognised, and any representative of the SUG who cannot commit time and effort needs to contact VIN.

The SUG is the doing Group and there will be actions for people to take away with them.

Action 1: Defining Poverty?

The first action is to think about definitions or statements around poverty and let VIN know those thoughts. VIN will circulate a very useful resource from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation to aid Peoples thinking. However, those who experience poverty must have a say in the definition or the statements that constitute a definition, at some point in the future.

Action 2: Timelines and Wider Communication:

Vicky Rockhall of West Northamptonshire raised the issue of timelines and methods of communicating with a wide range of stakeholders about what the SUG are doing and why. It was suggested a sub group meet in August to kick start this process. Those who put their name forward to meet and help were:

Russell
Vicki
Jonathan
Anjona
Kerri
Syrah
Steve

VIN will send out a zoom invite in due course. Anyone else who wishes to join or were missed in facilitation please let VIN know and the details will be incorporated.

Action 3: Asking People...

VIN also asked for SUG members who feel they do know of individuals who might be interested in telling their Lived Experience story to contact VIN for an offline discussion on how this might best work for all (noting the valid comments made by the United African Association and CENCAB) in this.

Action 4: Anti-Poverty Strategies:

The West unitary Authority are working towards an Anti-poverty Strategy. However, timelines between this and obtaining valuable Lived Experience stories might jar and Vicki Rockhall will be talking to Senior Leaders about how expectation can be managed.



Basic Next Steps:

Action	By Whom	By When
Comments and reflections for the website	ALL	ONGOING
Thoughts on definitions or statements on Poverty	ALL	27.08.2021
Timelines and Communication	SUB GROUP (Meeting to be arranged by VIN)	27.08.2021
Funding	ALL	ONGOING
Identifying individuals for the Lived Experience	ALL	27.08.2021
Next Meeting	VIN	September 2021 TBA

Please note that these notes will be posted to the PTC Website for viewing.

The Start Up Group consists of a number of Voluntary Sector Organisations, individuals and statutory partners. Any offer to join from any sector of our community is welcomed. Simply contact:

Russell.rolph@voluntaryimpact.org.uk