



Process Notes for organisations helping to gain Lived Experience stories of Poverty.

Background:

The Poverty Truth Commission in West Northamptonshire is supporting local organisations to gain Lived Experience stories from individuals, customers or beneficiaries. These stories help to highlight poverty, and are used to influence local decision making for the better. Ultimately, we are looking for individuals to tell their stories to local politicians at cabinet, but we realise this is a difficult ask for some people, and especially at the beginning of any new idea.

How can stories be obtained?

We realise that organisations which provide front line services are the best people to ask, because they work so closely with individuals or families who might be living with the affects of poverty. This could manifest itself through poor housing, an inability to access food, or by individuals or families living in debt. We want to hear these stories.

Stories can be obtained in two main ways:

Number 1:

You can interview the beneficiary and ask these questions:

What does Poverty mean to you?

How does it affect your life?

What are the barriers or challenges to overcoming your problems?

These can be written up and sent to russell.rolph@voluntaryimpact.org.uk.

Costs:

The cost of administering this process will be met by Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire which includes the time taken to interview and write up the story (based upon your individual organisational hourly rate): Invoices should be sent to Russell.rolph@voluntaryimpact.org.uk.

Number 2:

The best possible stories are those told by people who are willing to talk into camera and be recorded. This has the maximum influence over politicians, and is the next best thing to talking at cabinet itself. Organisations which can do this will be reimbursed for their time. If gaining the necessary video equipment is an issue then please contact Russell.rolph@voluntaryimpact.org.uk. Voice recordings are also useful, and photographs of the individual which accompany the story really bring the experience to life (be mindful and check Data Protection Principles though).

Organisational staff that work with beneficiaries can also post their personal reflections on poverty and these will be entered onto the Commission website as Blogs. No reimbursement is available for these. Any reference to individuals will be anonymously accredited.

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