



**Background:**

The Poverty Truth Commission had its first meeting with 5 Lived Experience Individuals in attendance. These individuals were taken through the premise of a Commission and were asked to look at some of the Themes and Priorities within the recently compiled West Northamptonshire Anti-Poverty Strategy, particularly those classed as **Quick Wins**.

The Lived Experience Individuals had no issues with the Themes (1, 2 or 3). They seemed logical and methodical, although many remarked about the complexity of some of these Themes and how far reaching, they could be.

The Lived Experience Individuals agreed with the Quick Win around Information and Support. It chimed with their experience of not knowing who to turn to and get information and advice from. They identified that some of the Quick Wins seemed complex, and should they truly be classed as Quick Wins?

*We went through several stated questions – Answers of which are provided below:*

**What does Poverty or Financial Vulnerability mean to you?**

**Not being able to afford the basics such as Food, clothes, energy, or household items.**

**Not being able to provide for yourself financially and not knowing where to go for help.**

**Feeling alone. It's too expensive to go out and socialise.**

**Being unable to meet the families' basic needs.**

**Lack of choice.**

**Unable to have a good quality of life. Having to make sacrifices for basic needs.**

**Having to make difficult choices when it comes to heating or eating - Good food costs more.**

**Living in fear of what could go wrong next and the implications that may have.**

**Not feeling part of society and community.**





**What do you think about the quick wins in the Local Authority Strategy?**

**Communication. They need to Ask questions.**

**Better services and better policies.**

**Better links to MP's and policy makers.**

**We want voices to be heard to help represent others in local community.**

**Continuing access and legal support.**

**Work together with local groups to share information.**

**Remove unnecessary barriers. Join your Departments and Policies.**

**Next Steps:**

VIN has appointed an Oral Historian to deliver 30 more stories on Poverty by January of 2022.

These Lived Experience Advocates are happy to meet from January 2022 to talk about the Anti-Poverty Strategy as it unfolds.

VIN will be looking to the VCSE to provide more advocates.