Poverty Truth commission (PTC) – West Northamptonshire

Dated: 05.08.2022

Background:

The Poverty Truth Commission met on 04.08.2022 at the Northampton Museum.

Andrew Grinnell from the Poverty Truth Network spoke about the history of Truth Commissions, and the support that can be offered across the UK to fledging Truth Commissions, such as the one in West Northamptonshire. He explained that as part of the journey of any Commission, the Lived Experience story gathering, and understanding is crucial, and that over time these stories should be delivered to civic and business leaders by way of an event. This is the logical next step for the West Northamptonshire PTC. The group in attendance then discussed who might they want to invite to such a meeting, and this will be the subject of more detailed discussion in September's meeting (date and venue to be arranged).

The CEO of VIN (Russell Rolph) then informed the group about a PTC starting in North Northamptonshire in the neighbourhood area of Queensway, and that over time it would be good for the two groups to meet.

Russell also informed the group about some developments in the Integrated Care System, and how health is being devolved to Local Area Partnerships. It is hoped that at some point in time Poverty Truth Commissioners could sit in these Partnerships, should they choose too.

The Group then did a workshop session around one of the ambitions around the Public Outcomes Framework (a framework for measuring health impacts at Area Partnership Level).

The ambition was – How can you be valued to take part in Northamptonshire Life.

Responses:

The Group generally felt that whilst they were valued amongst their family and closer networks, the idea of being valued in Northamptonshire was a flawed question.

Comments included:

- Pernicious paternalism coupled with condescension.
- Who are they?
- Who is doing the accepting?
- Who is assessing the value?
- HMOs don't create community – with so much movement it makes it difficult for communities to remain cohesive.
- The question needs positive framing rather than negative.
- Focus on what works.
- People are accepted – it's not simple its complex – who are people?
- Separation & gaps = fragmentation.
- Ambition & outcome – are these complementary.
- Outcomes that you can control from a Local Authority Perspective.
- Is there a sense of community?
- No integrated culture or single culture celebration.

- Race, culture, integration all needs to be developed.

Older people, those with care needs and those at end of life are treated with dignity and respect.

- Inheritance.
- Fair assessment for care.
- Consistent.
- Stable support.
- Individual Merit.
- Money/funding and buildings need to be aligned.

People are a valued part of their community and not socially isolated.

- Inclusion tactics.
- Position.
- Community inclusion – introduction.
- Jobs, transport, and access.
- Prejudice, lack of community and stigmatisation of people and communities.

What does Poverty mean to me?

- No realistic setting.
- No real-world metrics.
- Individual cases.
- Individual merit.
- Wipe away/ clean slate to start again without prejudices.