



for tackling poverty in Glasgow

Report of Findings:

Survey 1 | Jan 2014 (FINAL)

Introduction

This report presents the findings of a survey about poverty that was created by 26 third sector organisations in Glasgow. 12 of those organisations went on to invite or support people using their service to complete the survey. With thanks, those organisations were:

- Action for Children
- Aspire
- Cope Scotland
- Crossreach
- Glasgow Council on Alcohol
- Glasgow Homelessness Network
- Glasgow Housing Association
- Glasgow East Women's Aid
- Loretto Care
- Scottish Marriage Care
- Scottish Refugee Council
- Shelter Scotland

249 surveys were returned. The responses were anonymous, but the use of a 'unique identifier' helped ensure that the responses represented the views of different people.

What is the Survey for?

Glasgow has a vision that poverty is made a thing of the past. A group of people who either work or live with poverty have come together to try to make this happen. While the *Poverty Leadership Panel* are leading the action on poverty, it is for *everyone* who lives, works, learns or uses services in Glasgow. 'All in..!' is the participation strand of this work.

Involving People living with Poverty

The Poverty Leadership Panel wants people experiencing poverty to be at the heart of tackling it. This is being done in 3 stages:

- Experts & Advisors** *(from Feb 2013)*
Participation on the Leadership Panel, and on its satellite working groups, provides a 'real time' advisory role.
- Targeted People** *(from Sept 2013)*
Mainly third sector organisations collaborating to bring forward the views of people using their services. The method is a common 'flash' survey.
- Targeted Places** *(from Jan 2014)*
Creating a structure for local people to take the lead. Community workshops will be facilitated in some communities, creating an open space for local people to determine priorities and actions.

This report represents the findings from the first flash survey undertaken during Oct 2013.

The Findings

Table 1: who participated in the survey?

Gender	number	%
Female	153	61
Male	88	36
Not answered	8	3
Total	249	100

We asked people:

How would you DESCRIBE poverty?

People described poverty as not having:

Table 2:

	number	%	rating
Enough money	207	83	1
Enough food for yourself (and family)	198	80	2
Enough fuel to run your home	197	79	3
Good health or good health care	146	59	4
A good place to live	140	56	5
Chances to learn more	116	47	6
Someone to talk to/rely on	108	43	7
Things that make you happy 😊	106	42	8

And we also asked:

Are YOU in any of these situations?

People identified that *they* did not have:

Table 3:

	number	%	rating
Enough money	136	55	1
A good place to live	89	36	2
Enough fuel to run your home	86	35	3
Enough food for yourself (and family)	81	33	4
Good health or good health care	81	33	4=
Things that make you happy 😊	80	32	6
Chances to learn more	74	30	7
Someone to talk to/rely on	70	28	8

People were invited to add other examples of poverty, including about their own situation:

- Day to day living without worrying about bills;
- Being able to make own choices;

- Feeling ashamed of being skint;
- Not having enough clothing;
- Warmth and peace;
- Not feeling safe in local area;
- Policy and legislation creates poverty when it discriminates against a group of people;
- Information about food in supermarkets going cheap at the end of the day;
- Not having access to exercise facilities;
- Struggle to budget money;
- More advice needed on savings and allowances for energy bills, especially for older people;
- Being able to socialize regularly;
- The mental stress and anxiety poverty causes;
- Lack of faith and hope;
- Cost of fuel for transport, including for work.

Our next question was:

Table 4: Who or what would make the biggest difference to your situation?

This was an open-ended question. The 5 most common examples are categorised below:

Key Improvement to Situation	number	%
1. Housing (including: overcrowding; location; rent; dampness; homelessness; unfurnished accommodation; aids and adaptations)	57	23
2. Employment (including: moving to full-time; better jobs and wages; skilled asylum seekers)	41	16
3. Energy Costs (including: not using heating; use of pre-payment meters; advice on allowances)	27	11
4. Government Intervention (including: welfare reform; benefits; tax and income levels; income inequality)	27	11
5. Social Networks (including: no friends/family or nearby; wanting to repair broken relationships)	22	9

The next most common examples people gave of what would make the most difference to their situation are:

Key Improvement to Situation	number	%
6. Learning & Opportunities <i>(including: vocational for young people; language barriers; going to college)</i>	18	7
7. Money <i>(including: for unexpected purchases; to treat the children occasionally)</i>	17	7
8. Health <i>(including: addictions; waiting times; support with caring bills; mobility)</i>	12	5
9. Safety/Peace of Mind	11	4.5
10. Attitudes <i>(including: being respected and listened to; hopes and wishes considered)</i>	8	3
11. Winning the Lottery	7	3
12. Food	7	3
13. Myself <i>(including: taking personal responsibility)</i>	7	3
14. Financial Advice <i>(including: to budget)</i>	7	3
15. Community Empowerment <i>(including: helping each other more and arranging local activities)</i>	5	2
16. Someone to talk to <i>(not friends and family)</i>	4	1.5
17. Transport	2	<1

We wanted to know:

Does the area you live in experience poverty?

Table 6:	number	%
Yes	161	65
No	33	13
Not sure	25	10
(Not answered)	30	12
Total	249	100

And what (if anything) would help YOU to get involved to change or improve your area?

Local People Leading:

- Meetings within the community;
- A centre for coming together to get involved and share experiences;

- More local involvement to help improve the way people think and react to people in poverty and hardship;
- I could help my neighbours out and give them support;
- My church has started a foodbank and it is very busy;
- By helping each other and by putting in, hopefully we will all get the same back;
- More community activities;
- More places to go for advice and a chat;
- Make your area a better place to live;
- Become involved in protests with groups to challenge government policies;
- By passing on skills and knowledge to others to improve the area and its people.

Engaging with Professionals:

- Having direct access to decision makers;
- More police on the beat;
- Working towards mutually agreed goals with the political will to support these;
- More organised opportunities to do something that I can 'sign up' too;
- Invest in people and our places;
- More local advice services and access to people who can help and better communication with the community;
- Having the same services as better off people.

Children & Young People:

- Having more things for children - better playgrounds and safe, secure play area
- Young people finding a job to stop hanging about the street;
- More family support and local childcare;
- To raise my children to succeed so that they don't experience poverty;
- More opportunities for our young people so that they don't give up hope.

The Local Environment:

- Improve housing quality;
- Increase availability of housing;
- Create employment opportunities;
- Lack of shops and amenities;
- Not enough green area;
- Too many people in small spaces;
- Dog control;
- More funding for parks cleaning, and renovation of buildings.

And the last word.....

What one thing do you MOST want others to understand about your situation:

"How it makes me feel."

"The area I moved to was depressing but around me are nice areas. I feel ashamed I can't make things how I want as I don't have the money."

"How it can affect you and your family."

"That although you don't have much money, your family can still be happy."

"That I am trying and it takes a lot."

"That I need to live in a happy environment."

"That people who rely on benefits are not scroungers or layabouts."

"That it is not self-imposed and I'd gladly do anything to change it if I could."

"I want people to understand that we all have a story to tell, we're not on drink and drugs because we want to be, we all have problems in our past that's holding us back."

"To understand that I am a carer for my father."

"We are human beings."

"People thinking you're a waster because you're on benefits and fail to realize I'm here through ill health, after having worked for forty years."

"Living with not enough money to heat the house and put food on the table."

"We are not scroungers. We want to work and continue in society."

"Seeing my situation is totally different from being in my situation and walking in my shoes."

"I would like the younger families to teach their children respect for the people and their area and keep it the lovely place it could be."

"We need help."

"I'd like others to understand how difficult it is to come from a total different country and settle in the UK. Where everything is different and not only the language but the whole way of life."

"How my mental health affects me on a day to day basis so people do not pre judge me or make any assumptions about me."

"How hard it is to budget when on benefits and accept that being disabled is not a choice, it is something you have to live with."

"It's not of my choosing- I have no control over my ill health."

"Even when it looks like you've a nice house, doesn't mean you don't have debt and are struggling- and that's with both of us working."

"I am not here by choice and would love to be able to get myself out of this situation."

"I am elderly, I just want peace and quiet and a warm home with simple access to some pleasant food, then I am ok thank you."

"People are homeless through no fault of their own. We do not wish to be in the situation but need help to find a permanent home and get our lives back."

"I am currently unemployed, but I can't get a job because of bad public transport."

"To understand that mental ill health does not mean you are dangerous."

"The loneliness, boredom."

"That I am unable to communicate with others due to the language barriers."

"I don't want everyone to understand my situation because I can sort myself out myself and I like to keep myself to myself and deal with things myself. But if anyone wants to help, welcome."

"It can happen to anyone at any time. You never know what can happen."

"Happiness is important and I would pick that over having lots of money."