

The Poverty Truth Commission Process After Launch



Now we've begun our Poverty Truth Commission process with our launch and first meeting, what happens next? That's a question many of you have asked so here's a brief overview of how the process typically unfolds:

Where we are now ...

Once the commission is formed, the first step is to facilitate a process of sharing stories and listening to each other. We did this last time hearing people's perspectives on 'what is poverty' and listening to personal experience. Next time we'll ask what personal experiences, skills or viewpoints we have which help us tackle these questions of poverty, what it is and how we tackle it. This first stage is a crucial one where "lived experiences" are shared openly in a safe space for individuals to speak freely.

This stage is aimed at deepening empathy and understanding among all participants and lays the foundation for informed discussions about the policy changes needed.

Identifying Priorities

As the storytelling sessions progress, we will begin to identify recurring issues or themes that are at the heart of poverty in our community. These might include lack of affordable housing, mental health or barriers to education. The group identifies **priority areas** for action, based on both the urgency of the issues and the potential for meaningful change. This should begin in our sessions before and after Christmas.

Co-Creation of Solutions

The next step is to move identifying the problems to working on some ideas and solutions. We will do this through co-creation - where commissioners work together to brainstorm and propose solutions that are grounded in the experiences of people living in poverty. This could look like:

- **Policy Recommendations:** Concrete suggestions for policy changes or new initiatives aimed at reducing poverty or mitigating its effects.
- **Community-Led Actions:** Proposals for grassroots actions that can empower communities and individuals to address local challenges.
- **System Change:** Long-term strategies for addressing the root causes of poverty, such as advocating for structural changes in the economy, education system, or healthcare.

The key element in this stage is that solutions are designed collaboratively, ensuring that those most affected by poverty have a central role in shaping responses.

Public Reporting and Advocacy

Once the commission has developed a set of recommendations and action plans, the next step is to make these public. Our commission will produce a **report** that highlights its findings, the personal testimonies shared, the issues identified, and the proposed solutions. This report will be presented far and wide - to policymakers, local government officials, and the public, to encourage widespread awareness and action.

The commission may also engage in **campaigns**, mobilizing communities and allies to support the recommended changes. The idea is to build momentum for reform and ensure that the voices of people living in poverty continue to be heard in broader public discussions.

Implementation and Embedding

The final stage involves monitoring the implementation of the recommendations and holding relevant authorities accountable for progress. This may include:

- **Ongoing Dialogue:** Periodic meetings or check-ins between commissioners and decision-makers to assess the progress of implemented policies.
- **Evaluation and Feedback:** Collecting feedback from people with lived experience to see if changes are having the intended effect on reducing poverty and improving quality of life.
- **Continual Advocacy:** Continuing to push for further change where necessary, ensuring that the PTC remains a driving force for social justice and equality.

The PTC process is not a one-time event, but rather an ongoing effort to ensure that poverty remains a central issue in public discourse, with meaningful actions taken at the local, regional, and national levels.

Conclusion

The Poverty Truth Commission process is a transformative journey that prioritizes the voices of those most affected by poverty in decision-making and policy development. By engaging decision-makers and people with lived experience in a collaborative, respectful process, the PTC aims to create long-lasting, sustainable solutions to poverty that are grounded in the lived realities of communities.