

## University of Manchester Q-Step Summer Project 2018:

### Ref: #32 UoMQStep Centre for Children Poverty in Manchester

For enquiries contact Prof Jackie Carter, [jackie.carter@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:jackie.carter@manchester.ac.uk) or Dr Mark Brown, [mark.brown@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:mark.brown@manchester.ac.uk), Q-Step Co-directors.

**Organisation name:** Greater Manchester Poverty Action

**Team/Department:** N/A

**Address:** GMPA C/o CofE Diocese of Manchester, Church House, 90 Deansgate, Manchester, M3 2GH

**Provisional title for project:** Quantifying the poverty premium in Greater Manchester

#### **Abstract:**

The poverty premium, whereby low-income consumers face higher per unit prices for everyday goods and services, is of interest to policy makers. In Greater Manchester, there is a keen interest in understanding how tackling the poverty premium might alleviate the financial pressures facing low-income households, but not enough is known about the scale of the problem. This project will develop a) a notional poverty premium for Greater Manchester, b) quantify the number of people affected and c) identify the average or typical financial impact of the premium on low-income households.

*Data sources: Living Costs and Food Survey, Family Resources Survey, Mintel, Keynote or other market research data as appropriate, price comparison websites, online and high street retail outlets.*

**Key words:** Poverty premium, poverty penalty, household spending, household income, UK poverty, child poverty, consumers, marketplace, goods and services, fairness.

#### **Essential and desirable skills:**

**Essential:** Ability to use multiple data sources and to consider how these relate to each other; secondary data analysis of government and other datasets; willingness to adapt and vary research processes depending on interim findings or unexpected challenges; ability to work on your own and to use your own initiative; excellent written skills; ability to hold data that may be sensitive or confidential in an appropriate way; strong organizational and time management skills.



**Desirable:** an understanding on poverty in the UK; an awareness of the poverty premium; ability to present findings to other.

**Where the work will be carried out:** Primarily desk based either at home or at Church House, 90 Deansgate, Manchester, M3 2GH. Some non-desk based fieldwork may be necessary but will only be carried out under supervision by GMPA and in accordance with our own and the University of Manchester policies.

**Preferred selection method:** Interview to take place at Church House, 90 Deansgate, Manchester, M3 2GH.

**Support and training offered by the organisation:**

Induction to Greater Manchester Poverty Action.

Induction into the poverty premium as an issue and its relevance to policy debates. Time spent with the Greater Manchester Poverty Action team and key stakeholders to discuss interim findings and any challenges presented by the research project. A detailed and clear project overview identifying key research outputs.

**Supporting information:**

We have already made a significant contribution to the fight against poverty, publishing a poverty monitor for Greater Manchester, working with local authorities in Greater Manchester on their anti-poverty strategies, publishing interactive maps (<http://www.gmpovertyaction.org/maps/>) detailing where people experiencing poverty can access support and advice, and working through our network of Special Interest Groups (SIGs) on food poverty, fuel poverty, early years and work and wages. The SIG network has brought together 50 individuals from across 40 organisations. Our fortnightly newsletter (<http://www.gmpovertyaction.org/news/>) is sent to over 1000 stakeholders. We also host the Greater Manchester Living Wage Campaign. In December we held a major conference with over 100 attendees and contributions from Andy Burnham (Mayor of Greater Manchester), Paul Dennett (Mayor of Salford) and Carolyn Wilkins (Chief Executive of Oldham Council).

**Financial assistance offered by the organisation:**

We will be able to offer desk and meeting space and we will cover any reasonable travel expenses not covered by the University.