Greater Manchester Poverty Action - Anti-Poverty Programmes Internship

# Money Matters Programme Evaluation and additional responsibilities at GMPA

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Money Matters Logo

## Overview

My data fellowship took place at an NGO named Greater Manchester Poverty Action (GMPA). My main task was to conduct an evaluation of the programme named Money Matters, which GMPA has been ruining since the summer of 2022; my additional responsibilities were to help out other members of GMPA with work they do on other programmes, consulting and fundraising. Money Matters is focused on delivering debt and benefit advice to families directly through schools. (Delivery of benefit and debt advice in non-traditional settings).

To write the report, I needed to gather both quantitative and qualitative data, conduct both primary and secondary research and find an original way of presenting this data to make it easy for decision-makers to navigate the report.

## Data Analysis

I arranged, conducted and evaluated more than 20 interviews with different stakeholders. I developed questions which would be necessary to ask for an evaluation, drafted and sent questionnaires and created a framework for post-interview questionnaires to gather data to present it in graphs. After collecting all of the information qualitative information, I analysed each interview and pulled quotes and relevant info into separate documents for easy access to the notes. I also got my hand on quantitative data from which I could interpret the following: Financial impact, gender distribution, number of debt reduction/benefits claimed, ethnic distribution and more. Then I created an Excel document where I kept all of my information, was able to clean the data, transform them into graphs, pie charts and etc.
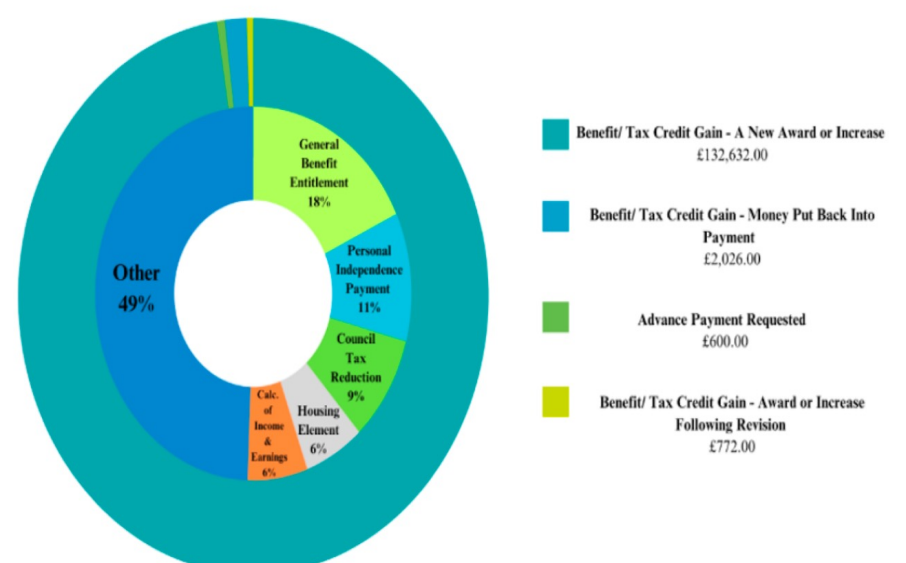
## Findings

*   Money Matters supported 97 families to secure gains worth a total of £142,678 over a 12-month period. The average gain per family supported over this period was at £1470.90.

*   Matters participants, almost 80% are women, while only 20% are men. This can be explained by Money Matters being delivered in school.
*   Almost 50% of Money Matters beneficiaries were from non-white backgrounds. Money Matters managed to be inclusive and help people from different ethnic backgrounds.

## Key Skills Learnt

*   Analysis of large quantity of Data and presentation of the Data in a report.

*   Creation of eligibility Quizzes, Questionnaires.

*   Interview skills (formulating interview questions relevant for research, leading focus groups of 10+ people)

*   Presentation Skills & Public Speaking

*   Networking (by attending events like MAD FER IT)

*   Restructuring of documents, creation of new templates & organising documents to improve efficiency.

*   Learning about the ethics of collecting research.

*   Scheduling and time management.

*   Advanced my knowledge in the following software: Excel, Canva and Zoom.

*   Confidence: Proved to myself that I can do any task if I put enough work into it.

### Distribution of Gains From Benefits and Top 5 Areas of Benefit Gains



General Benefit Entitlement 18%

Personal Independence Payment 11%

Council Tax Reduction 9%

Housing Element 6%

Calc. of Income & Earnings 6%

Other 49%

Benefit/ Tax Credit Gain - A New Award or Increase £132,632.00

Benefit/ Tax Credit Gain - Money Put Back Into Payment £2,026.00

Advance Payment Requested £600.00

Benefit/ Tax Credit Gain - Award or Increase Following Revision £772.00

**Total Gain From Benefits: £136,021**

Pie Chart shows the distribution of gains from benefits and % of the top 5 areas of benefits gains by Money Matters beneficiaries.