



# York Poverty Truth Commission

*'Nothing about us, without us, is for us'*

Alison Semmence, Chief Executive  
York CVS

March 2022

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# What is a Poverty Truth Commission



- A Poverty Truth Commission puts those with direct experience of poverty first
- It asks them to share their knowledge about what's truly needed to make change
- They set the agenda
- It links them with decision makers in the area, building real relationships and real trust
- It humanises the system which is currently in place to tackle poverty
- It is a power-dynamic equaliser, all people within the PTC should be heard, and everyone's opinions are valued

# Poverty and York

York is a great place to live for many, however it is a tale of two cities...

- There is a 13 year difference in life expectancy from the least to the most deprived parts of the city
- York has a higher number of part time, insecure and low paid jobs than average
- 1 in 3 people live in social or rented property
- The ratio of rent to earnings is comparable to London
- In May 2021, 12,746 York residents were on Universal Credit (7159 in work). 5541 residents received Council Tax support
- Over 2020 and 2021, over £3.5m has been distributed to local people in financial support



# What excites people about a PTC?



- The mechanism of the commission will allow for voices to be truly heard
- An opportunity for real change
- Bursting the bubble of complacency
- Becoming 'more human' to one another

# What concerns people

- Can we persuade enough local decision makers to give this their energy?
- That no power is really given to those who should be equal
- The need to achieve beyond a few tweaks which should be changed anyway
- Lots of noise with no result

# Next Steps

- First two co-production events held – more to follow
- Funds for year 1 raised
- Two new 2 co-ordinators employed from 1 March 22
- Community Commissioners are being identified
- Civic Commissioners will then be identified
- Community & Civic Commissioners brought together to work together to bring about change
- Poverty is reduced!



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