

**MORECAMBE BAY POVERTY TRUTH COMMISSION IS NOW UNDER WAY!  
AN UPDATE November 2018**



**The Community Commissioners delivered an amazing launch event on 6<sup>th</sup> July.**

- 150 people joined us for lunch and to hear the community commissioners share some very moving stories of how they experience poverty under four headings: dehumanisation; hidden poverty; things that can help; and poverty can happen to anyone.
- Filmed highlights from the launch, as well as a longer version of the whole event, will be available on our website which is currently under construction.
- 20 Civic Commissioners invited from sectors including local city councils, faith communities, education, the NHS, police, fire service, the university, utilities and transport, DWP and support organisations agreed to commit to the next phase, and have been meeting monthly with 12 Community Commissioners and the facilitation team since July.

**The vision going forward is together to work towards social transformation locally and nationally.**

- The Commission will continue to meet at least monthly through four phases:

**ENGAGE** (July-Dec)

*Meeting as people over food or coffee in between times as well as round the discussion circle, learning to listen actively, and to hear and share in different perspectives and life experiences.*

**EXPLORE** (Jan 19-April)

*Deciding together which aspects of poverty locally we can most usefully explore further, and forming working groups around probably 3 key issues. Nationally these have often been Mental Health, Universal Credit and Food Poverty, but are yet to be decided locally.*

**EXPERIMENT**

*(Apr-Sept)  
Locating situations in the statutory, business, faith and third sectors represented by the civic commissioners to offer new ways of addressing issues discovered in the working groups, in delivering services and improving support and involvement by those with lived experience.*

**EMBED** (Sept on)

*Evaluating and improving the experiments, where possible making them permanent changes, and persevering in conversations, learning and development; continuing to collect & share stories to inform the national picture.*

**Next year there will be a report and celebration of the outcomes but, even this early, some very promising initiatives are emerging.**

Community Commissioners have already contributed to regular conversations with PTCs nationwide; a university panel discussion on poverty & health; an NHS senior leadership consultation; input to UN rapporteur on poverty issues in UK; S.Lakes Council panel; and have been invited to participate in DWP training; LCC council policy discussions; food poverty working group; carers in schools support; young carer support in health centres; a utilities supplier is re-structuring billing to help avoid debt occurring.

For further information, please contact either of the MBPTC Co-ordinators:  
Sue Mitchell [sue@2mt.org.uk](mailto:sue@2mt.org.uk); 07710288503; Ian Edwards [ianedwards1@sky.com](mailto:ianedwards1@sky.com); 07731508472, or  
Development worker, Ally Mackenzie [allymack07@gmail.com](mailto:allymack07@gmail.com)