

# A Community Manifesto for Cornwall



***Community Manifesto  
Proposals to make Cornwall  
a fairer and more just place***





## Community Manifesto Proposals to make Cornwall a fairer and more just place

### 1. Health and Wellbeing

"Our vision for Cornwall is a place with universal and comprehensive health care and where everyone's well-being both young and old is at the heart of policy making and decisions."

### 2. End Food Poverty

"Our vision for Cornwall is a place where no-one goes hungry"

### 3. Housing and Homelessness

"Our vision for Cornwall is a place where everyone has a genuinely affordable home and where no-one is homeless"

### 4. A Sustainable Economy

"Our vision for Cornwall is having a strong sustainable economy offering secure work and a Living Wage"

### 5. Strong, Flourishing and Distinctive Communities

"Our vision for Cornwall is a place that enables the public, faith and voluntary sectors to play their part in strong and distinctive communities which are inclusive with equality of opportunity for all"

### 6. A Benefit System that works

"Our vision for Cornwall is a place where everyone has access to speedy effective and caring welfare support when they need it"

### 7. Flourishing Communities for All

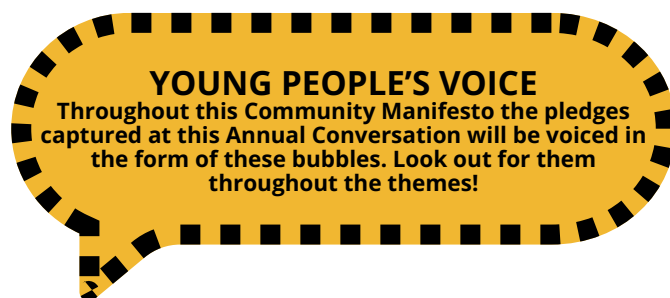
"Our vision for Cornwall is a place where the recovery and growth of the natural environment are at the heart of a flourishing zero carbon economy"

### 8. Public Services for All

"Our vision for Cornwall is a place where local people and communities have a full and active say in the delivery of public services that matter to them"

### The Annual Conversation

The Annual Conversation is a facilitated dialogue between children and young people (aged 10 to 24 years old) and Council Leaders. Before the event the children and young people spend time training to be Ambassadors. As Ambassadors they champion not only their own views and ideas but the views of other children. Work has been taken on by Cornwall Council to put these pledges into action, but the pledges need further awareness and support in order to see their fruition.





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## Community Manifesto, Proposals to make Cornwall a fairer and more just place.

Introduction from Joel Dougan-Davies, Social Responsibility Officer for the Diocese of Truro



The stark and growing level of poverty that exists in Cornwall at the moment is no secret. Every community in Cornwall has prevalent issues connected to mental ill-health, insufficient housing & homelessness, debt, physical ill health & disability and social isolation. It is vitally important to look into areas of need, recognise the good there is and be with and for these communities to seek a fairer and more just Cornwall for all.

Most of us are acutely aware of this poverty stricken context we live in and the need for change to see healing in our communities. I have found a familiar echo to this feeling in much of the political campaigning that has been broadcast this year and in the mantra displayed in Labour's early days in government. They have consistently spoken of the situation we are in as a country and reminded the public that there is no quick, easy fix. Yet there has also been a continued narrative of enthusiasm and hope for change to come.

The beauty of Cornwall is found in the passionate heart of people to seek change and bring justice, resulting in many fantastic organisations that are seeking social transformation. These organisations have been invited to document their voice and aspirations for seeing Cornwall become a place that is genuinely for and with those in need. In the following pages you will find a great range of projects and proposals. They are starting points to building a better Cornwall for all. I implore you to read these proposals, seek their fruition and consider what each of us can do to be with and for those that in are need in Cornwall.

## Cornwall Independent Poverty Forum

Andrew Yates, Chair

Cornwall Independent Poverty Forum involves people with direct experience of poverty, in the development of partnerships between local, county and national organisations, working towards the reduction and eradication of poverty. We seek to enable individuals suffering poverty, to regain control of their lives and to take their rightful place in society, utilising their talents for the benefit of their communities and ending their social exclusion.

Our work combines active, practical support to the homeless and disadvantaged, with raising awareness and campaigning about poverty issues. Examples of our projects include the Backpack Beds Project which provide a temporary, weatherproof shelter for those sleeping rough helping to improve their health, safety, self-esteem and wellbeing, and also the Cornish Christmas Giving Catalogue Project in partnership with the Diocese of Truro Our efforts to raise awareness of poverty issues in Cornwall include working with Church Action on Poverty and the campaign for Cornwall to become a Real Living Wage Place.

We have produced a number of reports including 'You Still Can't Eat the View' and 'Challenge Poverty Week Real Living Wage' and all available at [www.cornwallindependentpovertyforum.com](http://www.cornwallindependentpovertyforum.com)

The Forum meets monthly on the FIRST TUESDAY in the morning - usually on zoom but we hold three in-person meetings each year too. Our meetings are open to all who are committed to the eradication of poverty within Cornwall. For information about joining the Forum please contact Rosey Sanders [Rosey.sanders@truro.anglican.org](mailto:Rosey.sanders@truro.anglican.org)



## Project Proposals Theme 1 - Health and Wellbeing

The following are project proposals that will help address this theme:

### Project Proposal No. 1

#### Bespoke Cornish Healthcare Provision

Cornwall has specific needs for healthcare provision arising from many rural communities' distance from Treliske Hospital.

There are 3 main priorities we would like to see:

1. Mobile NHS dentistry services to alleviate the dental care needs of the community in Cornwall.
2. Access and use of West Penwith Hospital to be reviewed and extended, including extending its hours beyond the current 0800-0000 provision.
3. Investment and commitment to universal youth services and out of school provision supporting families on low income that is inclusive and does not create division. (The current Time2Move provision is a great for supporting summer clubs and food poverty but children have commented that they know they are on this because of low income.) Increase the voices from the families that these initiatives are 'aimed' at in evaluating the provision and so ensure that they are making a real difference.

#### St Mary Penzance Action On Poverty Group



### YOUNG PEOPLE'S VOICE

#### Smoking and Vaping Group

1. Trading Standards to run a marketing campaign. The campaign will enable anonymous reporting about shops which sell to young people.
2. Develop a film about safe communal social spaces in schools. Let schools know how young people feel about toilets and vaping.

### Project Proposal No. 2

#### Alcohol and Substance Misuse Reminiscence

We use reminiscence as a therapy to help Alcoholics and Addicts recover. We ask members of the project to reminisce about a happy memory. This could be a game they enjoyed playing as a child or their favourite lesson at school. Reminiscences are recorded and then transcribed and will be included in an A4 booklet to be distributed. Each person will receive a copy of the booklet to have as a keepsake.

Benefits to the Service User:

- Feeling valued
- Someone taking time to hear your voice
- Meeting others in the project
- Building a positive community group
- Meeting in a safe space
- Help to help you identify your self worth

Benefits for Volunteers:

- Reaping the rewards of seeing changed lives
- Interacting with people who are seeking recovery
- Feeling supported by Partner organisations who compliment our project.

We would like to see this project further supported and promoted in order to make the reminiscence booklet an accessible reality.

**Jackie Holden - CIPF**





## Project Proposals Theme 1 - Health and Wellbeing

The following are project proposals that will help address this theme:

### **Project Proposal No. 3 The Chy-Sawel Project**

Chy-Sawel, Cornish for 'House of Health Giving', is a project for people suffering from acute mental ill health. Currently offering information and signposting to beneficial holistic support, the project hopes to make a step-change to set up a Mental Wellness Retreat to be that house of health giving.

Chy Sawel believe that too often, in our time pressured world, acute mental disorders are medicalised and not supported by empathetic understanding of how the patient can be involved in their own treatment. World Health Organisation (WHO) studies have shown that recovery rates from a single psychotic incident, are higher in developing nations than in industrialised nations. This may be due to more supportive community care and cultures and less of a reliance on often expensive drugs treatments.

The Chy-Sawel Treatment Centre hopes to provide a template for a radical and systemic shift in how mental health is approached. With mental health being the cause of almost half of ill health for people under 65, the societal problem and financial burden on the NHS is enormous. Therefore, the pressure to medicalise a problem is attractive – a seeming quick and relatively effective fix. Except the people behind the Chy-Sawel Project disagree.

Through a programme of education, rehabilitation, innovation and research, the team hope to offer a credible alternative that puts the patients and their families at the heart of recovery. Offering respite, care and time, the Chy-Sawel approach aims to: lessen relapse rates; reduce hospital admissions; facilitate significant reductions in medication; help people manage their own recovery and find a way back to leading meaningful and fulfilling lives, where they feel accepted and secure.

Chy Sawel is working in 2024 to offer support for those suffering from mental health issues, who are already based at social housing projects. The support will be based around blood testing and analysis, diet and nutrition and healthy living and well being.

**Sandra Breakspeare - The Chy-Sawel Project**

[www.chy-sawel-project.co.uk](http://www.chy-sawel-project.co.uk)

### **Project Proposal No. 4 Helping Those Living with HIV, Their Families and Carers**

Research on people living with HIV, including family and carers, points to connection with an understanding and experienced community as vital to mental wellbeing. Those living with the condition can gain confidence and a sense of purpose though being mentors or guides, as well as sharing their own experiences to alleviate stress. Given the broad distribution of KPS service-users across Cornwall, we have identified isolation and fear of stigma as contributing factors to the common experience of social anxiety.

We go into schools to give talks on HIV but would like to engage with mature and socially active groups who are open to advancing understanding, estimating that learning in elders will filter through to other family members and defeat stigma organically. Peer group support is vital for mental wellbeing, but to break the barrier we need to grow inclusive communities that do not judge each other on disabilities or income levels. We therefore see a connection with other groups, while not a replacement, nevertheless a fundamental requirement for social shifts and broader inclusion.

**Helen Lewarne - Kernow Positive Support**

### **Project Proposal No. 5 Impact of Air Pollution on Children in the Perinatal Period**

We would like the impact of air pollution during pregnancy and first year of life to be addressed. The greatest negative impact of air pollution is experienced by children in the womb and in first year of life, due to their developing lungs. We would like to see action to increase tree planting in areas with lower tree coverage, particularly where there is temporary or emergency housing. The lowest tree coverage in Cornwall is in Pool, where there is much temporary housing and children are living with higher levels of air pollution. We would like to see a new tree mapping of Cornwall which can demonstrate that any child in Cornwall in the perinatal period will have enough local tree coverage to prevent negative impact of air pollution on their developing lungs.

**Jo Davies - WILD Worker, CEO**





## Project Proposals Theme 2 - End Food Poverty

The following are project proposals that will help address this theme:

### Project Proposal No. 6

#### Sustainable and Sufficient Food for Cornwall.

We ask that elected politicians do not see foodbanks as embedded norms. The intention must still be to contribute to a society where foodbanks are not needed.

We ask that elected politicians do everything to promote the local growing and distribution of food. There must be an effective Food Policy for Cornwall that co-ordinates food supply and regulates waste.

We ask that those elected to represent our community commit to securing the availability of affordable nutritious food, and to support the work of identifying what experiences people go through, working with those of lived experience to change the future of Cornwall.

Every policy debate should include two questions:

1. What assistance can foodbanks offer?
2. How long should they offer it for?

**Simon Fann - Truro Food Bank & Sam Williams - Transformation Cornwall**

### Project Proposal No. 7

#### Own the Reality of Food Poverty

We call on our MPs and all policy makers and decision takers to:

- Accept that poverty, inequality and injustice in society is clearly present in Cornwall today and that the high income/low income gap is ever-widening. Therefore accept that food poverty is part of poverty generally and needs to be central to socio-economic and business policy making.
- Accept that food poverty is interlinked with other vital areas such as climate change. There are huge benefits to seeing the food production and distribution chain as part of the climate change agenda: what we eat, how it is cooked, how many miles the food has travelled.

With acceptance comes ownership. If policy makers and decision takers in government and industry accept the relevance of food crisis to the above economic and climate contexts then actions MUST follow.

**Simon Fann - Truro Food Bank**

### Project Proposal No. 8

#### Holistic Food Hubs

There are 5 main issues that visitors to Newquay Food Bank have: housing, seasonal work, low wages, mental health & street homelessness. We established a Newquay Hub where a number of organisations, voluntary and statutory, work together to support their clients, to move towards a more positive future.

**Zoe Nixon, Newquay Food Bank**

### Project Proposal No. 9

#### Accessible Resource of Cooking Information and Guidance.

Community Organisations, Charities and Cornwall Councils Public Health team recognise the need for easy to access information that can support households to 'Eat Well - Spend Less.' Whilst there is lots of advice and support available online, it can sometimes overlook the realities that many people face on a daily basis including a lack of utensils or equipment, affordability and access to ingredients or confidence to try new foods. There are some excellent examples of community created resources such as [Truro Food Bank](#), [Eccabi](#) and [Healthy Cornwall](#) who have responded to these challenges.

In the coming year we will collaborate to bring all of these into one resource that is free and can be shared to support everyone. We would love your support with this project.

**Matt Sharp - Konsel Kernow / Cornwall Council**

### Project Proposal No. 10

#### Therapeutic Support for Child Trauma

CLEAR is Cornish Charity with a vision for a community safe and free from abuse with the opportunity to flourish after trauma. Our mission is to help children, young people and adults to heal from harm caused by abuse and emotional trauma and to prevent abuse from occurring.

Our ask is for greater investment in therapeutic support for childhood trauma (including support for adults) and for survivors of sexual abuse/violence in Cornwall. Recognition and response to understanding trauma is a significant barrier to attending school, attainment, relationships and accessing and remaining in the labour market and the right therapeutic support at the right time can make a difference.

**CLEAR** [www.clearsupport.net](http://www.clearsupport.net)

### Project Proposal No. 11

#### No Hungry Child in Cornwall

We ask for a clear commitment to reducing child poverty in Cornwall. This involves:

- Free school meals for all in Cornish schools. This is already in place in Scotland and London and being rolled out in Wales.
- Breakfast clubs in all schools, working with local businesses to support this and ensuring that all schools run a model that is inclusive for all.
- All pregnant people, babies and children living in any kind of emergency or temporary housing being to have access to nutritious hot food and preparation and storage facilities.

**St Mary Penzance Action On Poverty Group & Jo Davies - WILD Worker CEO**



## Project Proposals Theme 3 - Housing and Homelessness

The following are project proposals that will help address this theme:

### **Project Proposal No. 12** **Accessible Home Ownership**

For too many years affordable housing has been on the agenda but action has been too slow. However, the situation is not the same as 20 or 30 years ago. House prices in general have rocketed. In recent times disposable income, resulting from high salaries, bonuses and pensions, for example in London, has been directed at the acquisition of second homes at inflated prices in rural areas. House prices which were two or three times the average salary are now well beyond the reach and affordability of 'local' families. Without a concerted effort by those in positions of political influence the situation will not change. The financial pressure from developers and wealthy incomers is increasingly excluding local people from the property market.

We ask for:

1. Regulation to require that residential property for sale should be offered first (for a period of time) to local residents.
2. Initiatives that restrict 'selling on' the housing stock to the highest bidder to be implemented.
3. An increase in supported and transitional housing in Cornwall, including an increase in housing stock with tied support.

**Lesley Michell, Dr. Nigel Haward & Mrs Jane Haward - Ludgvan, St Mary's Penzance Action On Poverty Group**

### **Project Proposal No. 13** **Keep Cornwall Carpeted**

For Social Housing Providers we would like to see the removal of carpets and flooring being done so on a case-by-case basis. The automatic and unnecessary removal of carpets and flooring during the void process, and the subsequent replacement when new tenants move in, has been identified as one of the key drivers of individuals and families having to access food banks across our communities.

The cost of carpeting an entire property is high and often unachievable for people moving into the property following time spent in supported accommodation, Cornwall Council temporary accommodation, or refuges where individuals have fled (often with children) from unsafe homes.

For those who do afford to carpet their new home they are often left without enough money for food and have to access food banks or other emergency food provisions in the community. What is often the case is that people can only afford to carpet some of the property (usually the sitting room and the children's bedroom), leaving the rest of the property insufficiently insulated causing people to spend more in order to keep their homes warm, choosing between heating and eating and therefore having to seek out referrals to food banks.

We recognise that at the end of a tenancy some carpets and flooring may be in such a state that is beyond uncleanable or unsafe in the home, but this is in the vast minority for the approximately 33,000 social housing properties in Cornwall.

**Sam Williams - Transformation Cornwall**

### **Project Proposal No. 14** **More Controls on Second Homes**

In order for the housing situation to be improved in Cornwall there must be tougher restrictions on the purchase of second homes. According to Cornwall Live, Cornwall has the most empty houses of any local authority area in England. Cornwall tops the list with its 18,621 empty houses, of which 13,642 are second homes mostly used as holiday houses. When levels of second home ownership rise so too do average house prices, making entire areas unaffordable for working Cornish communities. For example, in five parishes of Cornwall where second homes account for more than 35% of all housing the average house price is 87% above the Cornwall average. In 2016, more than 80% of residents in St Ives voted to reserve new homes for full-time residents. Despite consistent attempts to undermine the town's second home ban by estate agents, politicians, and other interested parties, the second home ban has not failed. The price of new homes in the town is 13% below what it might have been if the previous growth rate had continued, and the price of existing homes has risen at a rate consistent with the rest of Cornwall. More work must be done to either crack down on second home ownership or ensure those that own second homes still contribute to Cornish communities when they are not occupying their properties.

**Daniel Mantell-Roberts**





## Project Proposals Theme 3 - Housing and Homelessness

### **Project Proposal No. 15** **Adequate Housing**

All homes should have running hot water. Based on applications to the Government's Home Upgrade Grant programme, 13% of applicants in Cornwall report living without heat and hot water.

We pledge to identify homes with no running hot water and support the resident to install or repair adequate water systems.

All homes should have an adequate and accessible form of heating. 46% of properties in Cornwall are not on the mains gas grid, with only 10% of these on full electric heating, a large proportion of homes in Cornwall are still reliant on solid fuel. Cornwall's population is older than the national average and the physical effort of using solid fuel for some is too great, instead they are left within a cold and consequently damp home, reducing both their physical and mental wellbeing. We pledge to identify homes where customers are physically unable to heat them due to health needs e.g. shovelling coal or chopping wood, and support them to install suitable alternatives.

**Dr Caroline Court MBBS MSc FFPH - Cornwall Council**

### **Project Proposal No. 16** **Emergency Accommodation for Young People in Cornwall**

Cornwall Nightstop is a project being developed by the Cornwall Independent Poverty Forum. Cornwall Nightstop will initially operate as a pilot project.

Cornwall Nightstop is a project that provides emergency accommodation for 16 to 25 year olds, who find themselves homeless, throughout Cornwall. Accommodation is arranged on a night by night basis, with a volunteer host, but a young person can potentially stay with a family for up to three nights, whilst the referral agency continues to work with them to find a more permanent solution.

Emergency accommodation can help when a young person experiences sudden homelessness, and would otherwise risk sleeping rough. Many young people find themselves vulnerable by suddenly becoming homeless.

There is no other organisation offering this service in Cornwall. Cornwall Nightstop aims to have 12 volunteer hosts and expects to receive over 150 referrals in the period of the pilot project of 6 months.

The emergency accommodation will be provided by a free, safe and supportive and welcoming environment in the home of a volunteer host.

Cornwall Nightstop is affiliated with DePaul Nightstop UK, an organisation that has helped successfully establish 37 Nightstop services nationally. DePaul Nightstop UK has provided support and guidance for the project and will ensure all necessary Quality Assurance standards are met, as well as helping establish standards of good practice and opportunities to learn from other services, through their forums and networks.

We ask for your support in making Cornwall Nightstop a reality.

**Paul Green - CIPF**

### **Project Proposal No. 17** **Penzance Citizens Panel** **Reducing Street Homelessness**

The Provision of mobile or fixed night shelters in population centres. The aim is to address immediate needs of vulnerable rough sleepers.

#### **Young People**

We need more Warden supported accommodation for young single people Cornwall. YMCA already provide this but extensions and adaptations to this model could include constructed mini communities for single people with warden support - for example converted shipping containers or static caravans with adequate heating and insulation

Implement early intervention mental health support for young people vulnerable to homelessness. They may be living at home, or with friends but have reached the point where neither they or friends and family feel they can cope with their behaviour. They may be vulnerable to homelessness as a result of mental health, drug and alcohol issues and therefore need early and ongoing support to prevent homelessness.

#### **Emergency Accommodation for families within Cornwall**

Emergency accommodation for homeless families must not rely on B&B's and Travel Lodge type hotels. Shipping them out of the towns, away from their friends and familiar surroundings is not a solution for many.

#### **Affordable Housing**

We also stress the need to re-define 'affordable housing'. Until now, 'affordable housing' has been defined in terms of market rates, not local wages. It makes no sense to say that a rent or house price is 'affordable' because it is at or below 80% of the market rate, when such housing still remains far beyond the financial means of most local people. Affordability should instead be redefined in terms of local wages.

#### **Penzance Citizens Panel**

### **Project Proposal No. 18** **Cornish Assembly to Aid the Housing Crisis**

We need to campaign for council housing, but we have to be realistic, and we also have to campaign for a system that allows the building of council houses. We also have to work in partnership with other social housing providers in Cornwall.

Establishing a Cornish Assembly could enable Cornwall to make its own rules, policies and decisions, that would help address the lack of housing in Cornwall. Loic has established and is also Secretary to the Truro Community Land Trust, that enables communities to develop and provide truly affordable housing, for local people.

**Loic Rich - Truro City Councillor & CIPF**

### **Project Proposal No. 19** **Extending the Pod Scheme**

I would encourage the Council to look carefully at the situation of homeless and potential rough sleepers and consider extending the Pod scheme which has provided an effective bridge into better conditions for street homeless. Also it could provide emergency accommodation for men made homeless by job loss or relationship breakdown to prevent them sliding into street homelessness and give them a base from which to establish themselves again.

**Andrew Yates - CIPF and Penzance Breakfast Project volunteer**

## Project Proposals Theme 3 - Housing and Homelessness

### Project Proposal No. 20 Affordable Renting

For many 'local' people renting will always be the only option in an unfair and unequal marketplace. When renting out a property becomes a source of income as in 'buy to let', monthly rents then become beyond those on basic wages or salaries in the county. Affordable rents are as contentious as affordable housing. The added extra that plagues the sector is a lack of security for tenants especially in a popular seasonally tourist county such as Cornwall. Clearly length of tenancy is a balance between owner and tenant.

House ownership and renting is one of the most urgent issues that should be tackled as a priority in an imaginative way by our elected representatives.

**Dr. Nigel Haward and Mrs Jane Haward, Ludgvan**

### Project Proposal No. 21 Childhood Trauma and Homelessness

This proposal is based on the research undertaken by Evolve Housing and their subsequent report 'Breaking the cycle of trauma' in 2018. The Objectives of the research included; identifying the links between trauma and homelessness and understanding the impact of childhood trauma which may cause them to become homeless. Issues that can be suffered in childhood are; separation and loss, violence and physical abuse, substance abuse and sexual abuse. These experiences can lead to multiple complex traumas in later life if left untreated. Trauma in childhood is directly linked to mental health issues and homelessness, later in life.

What needs to be done?

- Counselling services should be embedded in all support services for those who are homeless
- Access to counselling after a traumatic event needs to be timely
- Psychologically informed wellbeing practitioners should be available to homeless people who experience multiple and complex traumas in addition to homelessness.
- Interactive approaches to therapy should draw upon a range of models, including those that address previous trauma
- Personal wellbeing should be taught in schools, youth clubs and community centres along with education about recognising types of trauma and homelessness.
- Connecting people to their community to ensure early identification and treatment of trauma can be put in place
- Positive mental wellbeing activities should be embedded in all services, to ensure that those experiencing trauma can get the support they need.
- Good practice around working with trauma and homelessness should be celebrated and shared between agencies.

**Paul Green - CIPF**

### Project Proposal No. 22 Generation Rent

The new government have launched its plans for the year ahead, and after so much campaigning alongside supporters like you, we're pleased to see a Renters' Rights Bill included as a priority.

If the government do what they say they will, then we should finally see the end of Section 21 no-fault evictions and action taken on exploitative bidding wars. But we need these reforms to do more than that, to give us more time to enjoy our homes without fearing eviction, and more notice and financial support if this happens. Plans to empower tenants to challenge rent increases won't work if we still end up with rents rising faster than our incomes.

The government faces a big test to reassure voters that it can quickly turn promises into action and change things for the better - and we at Generation Rent are putting our all into making sure they don't forget it., and I look forward to working with you to secure real and lasting improvements to renters' rights in England.

**CIPF & Generation Rent in partnership.**

### Project Proposal No. 23 A Secure Start

We would like to see all pregnant people accommodated throughout their pregnancy. Children's development in the womb is significantly affected by stress experienced by their pregnant parent. Babies exposed to stress in the womb are born with a higher heart rate and increased threat response. The stress of homelessness can therefore cause developmental problems for the growing baby in the womb. We would like to see accommodation offered as soon as pregnancy is confirmed, not just when it become viable, or when the parent is due to give birth.

**Jo Davies - WILD Worker, CEO**





## Project Proposals Theme 4 - A Sustainable Economy

The following are project proposals that will help address this theme:

### **Project Proposal No. 24** **Cornwall as a Real Living Wage Place**

A group of organisations and businesses are now promoting that Cornwall should be a Living Wage Place. There are 18 such places in the UK – all the others are cities like Bristol, Manchester, Cardiff, Dundee. We are the first to seek to do this as a county. It would mean encouraging employers to pay all directly employed and contracted staff the real living wage as determined by the Living Wage Foundation. This is the only independently assessed amount that is necessary to allow an employee to survive currently £12 per hour.

We ask for:

1. Politicians to use all avenues to promote the real living wage and end the abuse of imposed poor employment practices.
2. National Living Wage to be extended to all employees of any age, replacing the National Minimum Wage that applies to workers aged 16-20.
3. Devolution to be used to offer Cornwall as a pilot for basic stable income to address long term, entrenched poverty.
4. Closure of the 'health pay gap' for full-time workers of £2.50 per hour, which means that people with a work-limiting health condition on average earn 15% less per hour.

**Joyce Duffin - Transformation CPR & Anthony Ball**

### **Project Proposal No. 25** **Funding for Grassroots Organisations**

Cornwall Community Foundation is proud to be supporting the incredible grassroots organisations across Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. Since 2003 we have distributed more than £20 million to charities, community projects and social enterprises who are embedded in their communities, offering local solutions. Their work was vital during the Covid Pandemic and they continue to provide essential services through the ongoing cost of living crisis.

Projects that frequently receive funding from us include local community land trusts, community spaces, foodbanks, homeless shelters, soup kitchens, youth clubs and other frontline organisations. Our community outreach helps new groups to apply for funding. We are the eyes of Cornwall that see the need, the ears that listen and the hands that enable our communities to make Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly a better place for all.

**Tamas Haydu - Cornwall Community Foundation**  
www.cornwallcommunityfoundation.com

### **Project Proposal No. 26** **Cornwall Community Wealth Fund**

Cornwall is one of the poorest regions in Europe. While large sums of money and investment come into Cornwall, much of it goes out again leaving marginalised communities largely untouched.

The aim of the community wealth fund is to ensure that more of the wealth created in Cornwall stays in Cornwall for the benefit of local people, particularly the most marginalised. It aims to achieve this with a mix of equity investments and loans to local businesses, community enterprises and co-operatives, particularly those businesses which are part of the transition to a green economy. Income from loans and equities will then be recycled back into the local economy and local communities.

As the name, it will be community-owned with a board of governors drawn from elected representatives, VCSE organisations and ordinary members of the public chosen through democratic lottery. The board of governors will lay down long-term strategy, leaving day-to-day investment decisions in the hands of a small team of investment experts

This proposal was received positively by Cornwall Council but without significant pump-prime funding backed by central government, it is unlikely to be realised. We therefore ask our MPs from all parties to do all they can to access the necessary funds.

Supporting documents

The full submission document

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1C5jEbzoalBWeLr9tH3sVqKaTjXAc3cp/view>

The letter addressed to Cornwall Council with signatories from community organisations

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1bCw6GElw-DLCX9LUiBVpDbVOulDT8WWP/view>

**Gavin Barker - CIPF**  
gavinbark@gmail.com





## Project Proposals Theme 5 - Strong, Flourishing and Distinctive Communities for All

The following are project proposals that will help address this theme:

### Project Proposal No. 27 Cornwall Lived Experience Partnership

When we talk about lived experience initiatives, often the diversity tick-box is checked, a 'consultation' email is sent out, and a strategy or policy is developed without true coproduction or holistic consideration, leaving us with insufficient mechanisms for change.

The Cornwall Lived Experience Partnership was formed in late 2023, through a growing feeling of concern across the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector in the way systems are led and enabled in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, with our diverse communities who experience multiple barriers often left in the dust when it comes to change and decision-making processes. Currently representing 18 Lived Experience Organisations, each of which representing a specific community group, including the Protected Characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 and further, our shared and nuanced perspectives make up a large picture of what is happening in our communities on the ground and we want to work with others to ensure our voices are heard. Our mission is to ensure equal representation of all communities by centering intersectional lived experience. Our Vision is a fair, just and equitable Cornwall and Isles of Scilly for everyone.

The Cornwall Lived Experience Partnership is a mechanism for change, a truly co-produced partnership, equitably owned across our members, offering a grassroots front door to our vibrant communities, providing a critical friend to hold you accountable and help. We want to work with all sectors to foster and sustain a fair, just and equitable Cornwall and Isles of Scilly for everyone, and we ask our MPs to urgently call on the Council to join us to make this happen. Let's truly put the people in progress and platform the communities that make this beautiful county our home.

### Cornwall Lived Experience Partnership



*'Nothing About Us Without Us'*

**YOUNG PEOPLE'S VOICE**  
**Feeling Safe in our Communities Group**  
 particularly in the dark

1. Cornwall Council to find out about the cost and practicality of introducing motion sensor street lighting.
2. Call out for volunteers to help keep youth groups and young people's activities running.
3. Marketing campaign about the support and resources in the community for children, young people and families. A QR code will be used so people can find out about it. Video/webinar to share with schools and other groups for sharing far and wide to make sure it reaches young people.

### Project Proposal No. 28 Cornwall Disability Alliance as the Recognised Body for Our Community

The Cornwall Disability Alliance are a dynamic pan-disability user led alliance, a team of voluntary, community, and social enterprise organisations and advocates, established in 2020. We support people of all ages throughout Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly living with a long-term health condition, disability and/or sensory condition, their carers and families to improve their economic and social wellbeing. Our mission is to make our communities inclusive and equitable for every citizen.

Our commitment is to be a force for meaningful change, and to make Cornwall and Isles of Scilly a place where our stakeholders can thrive within inclusive communities, and the ability to live independently with dignity, choice, control and opportunity. To realise our vision, we are on a mission to become the recognised body, voice and platform for our community.

We aim to work collaboratively with all sectors, shaping the future of our county through coproduction and engagement, breaking down barriers and building a society that truly and equitably values and supports every person.

### Cornwall Disability Alliance





## Project Proposals Theme 5 - Strong, Flourishing and Distinctive Communities for All

The following are project proposals that will help address this theme:

### **Project Proposal No. 29 Community Skatepark in Looe**

We are working with other community partners to provide a skatepark in Looe. We are grateful for your support and help in providing this vital service.

Boundless Trust runs weekly youth clubs and holiday activities from our dedicated youth centre in Looe. We aim to provide a safe space where young people can get support, have fun and learn new skills. The young people are given opportunity to experience a range of activities promoting fitness and wellbeing. During the holidays children and young people are provided with a delicious nutritious meal where many who are reliant on Free School Meals during term time would otherwise miss out.

**Boundless Trust**

### **Project Proposal No. 30 Anti-Racist Cornwall**

Black Voices Cornwall, an anti-racism Charity, is striving to enable Cornwall to become an actively anti-racist region. We desire Cornwall to become more racially inclusive, accepting and welcoming of people from the global majority and celebrate our differences.

**Black Voices Cornwall**



### **Project Proposal No. 31 The Voice of Young People with a Learning Disability in Local Government**

disAbility Cornwall & Isles of Scilly and Cornwall Accessible Activities Programme (CAAP) are passionate about partnering with organisations to amplify the voices of young people with learning disabilities and additional needs in the political arena, including voting. Many people with learning disabilities are unaware of their right to vote, or that they can receive support when voting, so, ahead of the General Election 2024, we called on local government to support these initiatives, collaborating with us to coproduce political and voting workshops led by the young people themselves.

In collaboration with The Down Syndrome Policy Group, TalkMore Cornwall, CHAMPs, Citizen Checkers, Cornwall Partners, Healthy Cornwall, and Health Watch Cornwall, we developed a highly successful voting workshop which was held at County Hall with representatives from the Liberal Democrats and Labour present. This initiative empowered more of our community to exercise their right to vote, ensuring their voices were heard.

However, our mission doesn't stop here. It's crucial to involve people with learning disabilities in local government not just during general elections, but in local elections and initiatives as well, ensuring they have representation and a voice in decision-making,

We ask our MPs to urgently call on the Council to partner with lived experience organisations and provide the necessary funding to support and equip our community with the skills and knowledge needed to navigate the voting system and secure their rightful place in local government.

Let's make inclusivity and representation a reality for all!  
**Marie Whitehurst on behalf of disAbility Cornwall and CAAP**

## Project Proposals Theme 5 - Strong, Flourishing and Distinctive Communities for All

The following are project proposals that will help address this theme:

### **Project Proposal No. 32 Integrated Refugee Support**

Newquay Refugee Support Group aim to provide a comprehensive support service to families with refugee status who have been granted asylum in the UK to resettle in the Newquay area.

We will do this by:

- Raising funds in order to provide financial support.
- Providing a range of support across all areas of family life to ensure the family has the best chance of settling into a new landscape and culture.
- Partnering with other local groups such as local faith communities to ensure the family's religious and/or spiritual needs are met appropriately.

We propose to work with the local council to achieve the best outcomes for vulnerable families and ensure their inclusion into our local society is supported in the best and most appropriate ways possible.

We would like support from the council by their sharing their experience and knowledge to ensure we are making the best choices.

We would like guidance from the council to those other agencies who have a statutory obligation towards refugees or who can help and support us in our aim.

#### **Qudsia Ward - Newquay Refugee Support Group**

### **Project Proposal No. 33 Cross-party Working**

We ask members of parliament to look towards increased cross-party working to identify solutions and approaches to community issues. In the spirit of Gordon Brown's call for a 'coalition of compassion' to combat the challenges of poverty, cross-party initiatives working free of partisan lines could discover effective ways to help struggling communities.

#### **St Mary's Penzance Action On Poverty Group**

### **Project Proposal No. 34 Civility Charter**

We ask for a united charter for Cornwall stating the agreed participants, organisations and businesses will all speak with civility, care for one another, respect and understanding as we go about our working lives. Let's all work together.

#### **Inclusion Cornwall**

### **Project Proposal No. 35 Centre for Peace and Faith at the Peace Field Dor Kemmyn**

Cornwall Faith Forum (CFF) promotes understanding and dialogue between faith communities. We bring together people from Muslim, Christian, Pagan, Jewish, Hindu, Buddhist, Baha'i communities, the Humanist Association and everyone working for peace and fighting prejudice.

Sharing for Peace, Learning for Peace and Building for Peace. Our vision under Building for Peace is to create Dor Kemmyn - an Inter Faith Centre for Peace. This will provide a sacred space for those Faith Communities who do not have their own dedicated building and a resource for the Religious Education support we offer to schools and colleges.

We are grateful to Cornwall Council for the offer of an 'option to lease' a field at Penmount Crematorium as a site for Dor Kemmyn when we have raised sufficient funds. Dor Kemmyn is the Cornish word for Common Ground. Already our Field of Human Kindness has connected people who would never have met each other through events like: The Big Lunch, Thanksgiving for our Emergency Services, UN Peace Day, Holocaust Memorial Day, Celebrations for Eid-ul Fitr, Diwali, Baha'i New Year, Wesak, Pagan Lammas festival and Creationtide. The proposed site now has 18 Peace Poles with unique designs by all of the Faith Communities and many of our partner organisations.

Our proposal is that our Cornwall MPs support the Dor Kemmyn project to help Cornwall be a place where the public and voluntary sectors, faith and local communities are all enabled to play their part in building caring and flourishing communities.

#### **Cornwall Faith Forum**





## Project Proposals Theme 6 - A Benefit System that Works

The following are project proposals that will help address this theme:

### Project Proposal No. 36 Sick Pay Reform

We advocate the following changes

1. The removal of the Lower Earnings Limit for Statutory Sick Pay - extending coverage to 1.3 million employees that are currently not eligible.
2. The removal of the waiting days for Statutory Sick Pay - making it payable from the first day of illness, rather than day four.
3. An increase in the rate of Statutory Sick Pay.

A study on why this would make a positive difference detailing the cost and benefits of these reforms can be found at this address:

<https://wpieconomics.com/publications/ssp-reform/>

**Amanda Waters**

### Project Proposal No. 37 Removing the Two-child Benefit Cap

We ask all members of parliament to support lifting the two-child cap on benefit claimants. This has been in place since 2017 and as a result has caused impoverishment of families.

**St Mary's Action on Poverty Group**

### Project Proposal No. 38 Launceston Community Hub

Community Money Advice Launceston has a vision to explore, develop and deliver a community-centred support unit that goes beyond providing debt, benefit and budgeting advice and builds on the work currently in progress with the Launceston Community Project akin to what we have seen is achievable in Tiverton, Devon. This would create a safe space to provide a comprehensive service to the local community where local public, private and third sector organisations would either be based in or come into on a regular basis to provide their specialist services.

We plan also to take our services out of Launceston into some of the rural communities in NE Cornwall where many have never heard of our services and others struggle to find the transport to bring them to our offices.

We ask for your support in making this unit possible.

**Sarah Vinson - Launceston Money Advice Centre**  
[www.launcestonmoney.co.uk](http://www.launcestonmoney.co.uk)

### Project Proposal No. 39 Let's End Poverty

Let's End Poverty is a growing movement, joined by individuals and communities who share the same vision of a UK without poverty. There doesn't have to be poverty in the UK. But over many years, our society has been built in a way that traps people in hardship and keeps them there. An overwhelming majority of people think the UK's rich-poor gap is too high. Earlier this year, 88% of respondents in a YouGov poll said more should be done to tackle poverty in the UK. That's almost nine in every ten people, a remarkable level of consensus, at a time when public opinion is divided on so many other issues. A key aim of the movement is to make ending poverty a priority by increasing pressure on political leaders. We need them to step up, take responsibility and take action on poverty and everything that locks people in it. Church Action on Poverty is one of the many partner organisations that are supporting the Let's End Poverty movement along with the Methodist Church, the Poverty Truth network, the Trussell Trust and many more. On the 14th of October, there were Let's End Poverty assemblies across the country to build the movement towards ending poverty in the UK. By connecting with others in a regional gathering or online to show that taking action to end poverty matters to the community. There was a total of ten events, including nine in-person gatherings and an online meeting Niall Cooper from Church Action on Poverty states "I too want to live in a UK in which no one has to go to bed hungry and everyone has access to good food. But beyond that, I want everyone in the UK to have the opportunities that many of us take for granted - to enjoy life in all its fullness. To achieve this we must end the scourge of poverty in what is still one of the wealthiest nations on the planet." The Let's End Poverty assemblies were just the beginning of the growing movement. We are inviting more local people and organisations to get involved, to demonstrate to our political leaders that tackling poverty is important to the communities they seek to represent, and it should therefore be one of their key priorities too.

**CIPF & Let's End Poverty working in partnership.**







## Project Proposals Theme 7 - Address Climate Change

The following are project proposals that will help address this theme:

### **Project Proposal No. 40** **A Cornwall Climate Charter**

Climate change and the biodiversity emergency are the greatest challenges we face and will profoundly reshape the economy and future health and wellbeing of all those living in Cornwall. Given the scale and urgency of these twin challenges, we have no time to lose. We therefore call on our elected MPs and councillors from all parties to come together and commit to the following guiding principles in all the work that they do.

#### **Principles of the charter**

- Environmental sustainability must be at the heart of the legislative agenda of local and central government: this includes assessing the long term impact of decisions and the importance of preserving and enhancing our natural environment .
- Build economic resilience through ecological growth; a strong and diverse natural environment is both our strongest defence against climate change and the foundation of a functioning economy.
- Ensure all investment decisions are aligned with the net zero target. This includes Cornwall Council £2.4 billion pension funds which must move beyond divestment from fossil fuel companies and include strategic engagement with all companies within their pension portfolio on the basis of scope and emissions
- Ensure a just transition: the benefits of a green economy must be shared widely, while also supporting those who stand to lose economically
- Co-design policy at every level: seek out the groups targeted by a particular policy and involve them in the design; listen to lived experience; embed citizens panels and citizens assemblies as part of the decision making process
- Strengthen community health and resilience. Work with communities to develop new forms of self-help enterprise, mutual aid and neighbourhood democracy in order to better prepare for a changing climate and the environmental risks involved.
- Greater autonomy for Cornwall: we urge our MPs and councillors to advocate for a permanent devolution of power; specifically, the rights powers and resources to equip Cornwall Council to accelerate the transition to a net zero carbon economy

#### **This charter should be seen as a living document.**

- To that end we urge MPs to give an account of themselves at an annual open public meeting, setting out how they have aligned their work with the guiding principles outlined above.

- The public meeting would be combined with a family friendly 'climate roadshow' which brings together schools, faith organisations, business, the Universities, VCSE sector, the farming community and community groups, each with their own tables and stalls advertising what they do and how their work aligns with the principles laid out above.

**Gavin Barker - CIPF Trustee**

### **Project Proposal No. 41** **Hold Large Companies to Account, Not Just Individuals**

100 energy companies have been responsible for 71% of all industrial emissions since human-driven climate change was officially recognized. Only focusing on how individual people can fight climate change lets these big corporations off the hook. The rhetoric of individual action, which suggests that we make more sustainable consumer choices like getting rid of plastic straws, suggests an individual solution for a wider structural problem. Businesses and governments themselves also need to take responsibility for curbing emissions, and not just blame the consumers that buy these products. Alongside campaigning for individual action, we must lobby and campaign for structural changes to the organisation of our society and for the companies that shape consumer behaviour to be held to account.

**Daniel Mantell-Roberts**

### **Project Proposal No. 42** **Climate and Nature Bill**

We call on our MPs to support the Climate and Nature Bill when it returns to Parliament. The Bill requires the UK to achieve climate and nature targets; to give the Secretary of State a duty to implement a strategy to achieve those targets; to establish a Climate and Nature Assembly to advise the Secretary of State in creating that strategy; to give duties to the Committee on Climate Change and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee regarding the strategy and targets.

Practically in Cornwall this means for the Climate

- Reducing carbon emissions from homes, communities, the workplace and travel
- Promoting low carbon choices and behaviour change
- Creating new opportunities for renewable energy and for Nature
- Converting or restoring community greenspace to wildlife habitat
- Environmental improvements to a community centre or village hall grounds
- Initiatives to help local people to connect with their environment

**Hugh Nelson - Bishop of St Germans**





## Project Proposals Theme 8 - Public Services for All

The following are project proposals that will help address this theme:

### **Project Proposal No. 43 Cornish Social Value Proxies**

As shown throughout this manifesto there is a great deal of work going on throughout Cornwall in the voluntary and charitable sector. It can be difficult to quantifiably measure the output of this kind of work due to its diverse nature and the fact that service users do not normally pay a fee for the services on offer. However, it is vital to measure the impact, not just for our own awareness and reflection, but also to apply for funding from external sources.

Many organisations across the UK use a Social Value tool to measure the social return on investment that is taking place. Proxies are used that give an approximate value of a service taking place so that organisations can estimate the financial value of the services they are providing.

For example: The proxy that measures the positive community, social, physical and mental impact for one child attending a football club may be valued at £6 per child, per session. If 11 children attend weekly sessions for a whole year, this gives a total social value of £6 x 11 children x 52 weeks = £3,432.

The proxies used on Social Value tools use UK wide average estimates to gauge the social impact that is taking place in a service. The difficulty is, these are not specific enough to the unique and distinct context of the Cornish voluntary and charitable sector. A project has already taken place at Bangor University to develop Northern Irish proxies and similar work in Cornwall could be hugely beneficial.

We ask for the development of a set of Cornish Social Value Proxies that can be publically available for organisations across Cornwall to measure, develop and fund the wonderful work that is going on across Cornwall. Such a set of proxies would be beneficial for all, bringing transparency and accuracy to our work and impact measurement.

**Joel Dougan-Davies - Diocese of Truro**

### **Project Propopsal No. 44 Connected Services**

How do we transform Cornwall to be more inclusive through faith and social action, and how do we make Cornwall fairer for all? Transformation Cornwall as an organisation has six core themes. Mental Health, Homelessness, Food Insecurity, Modern Slavery, Financial Inclusion and Climate Emergency. As a society we tend to look at each topic in isolation, but as all of us should be aware nothing happens in isolation. The overarching impact will be connecting all our services to deliver long lasting impact on our communities.

**Clinton Sealy - Transformation Cornwall & Truro Nourish Hub**

### **Project Proposal No. 45 Keep Our NHS Public**

The model of a universal, free-at-the-point-of-use NHS works. This 'NHS for all', publicly owned, provided, and accountable has frequently been ranked one of the best health care systems in the world. It is not the model that is broken, it is governments that have failed the NHS – and the population they are there to serve.

The NHS founding principles were sound, but the steady privatisation and defunding of our NHS has led to the worst crisis and worst performance in its history. We must change course before the service collapses completely.

We call for A PUBLICLY PROVIDED NHS

- Ensure access to health care is based on need, free at the point of use
- Uphold the founding principles of the NHS: universal, comprehensive care
- Provide free NHS care and treatment for everyone in the UK at the time of need
- Abolish NHS charges for migrants living in the UK
- End the myth that privatisation brings efficiency
- Commit to all NHS clinical and support services being publicly funded and managed, and bring back outsourced services into the NHS where they belong
- End the diversion of NHS funding into private hospitals
- No more NHS disintegration and private involvement on Integrated Care Boards

### **Keep Our NHS Public**

#### **YOUNG PEOPLE'S VOICE**

##### **Emotional Health and Wellbeing Group**

Training for adults and young people

1. Create a directory of learning opportunities – map what is available and who the training is relevant for
2. Make training more accessible – advertise it where young people will see it.
3. Sign-posting to help and support – where are safe places to publicise this?
4. Safe places within the community for children and young people to be – all to consider where are these spaces? Who are the people who could be trained to listen and to signpost.



## Project Proposals Theme 8 - Public Services for All

### Project Proposal No. 46 Person-centred Support for Individuals with Complex Needs

Konnect Communities is a CIC based in Cornwall providing mentoring support to people leaving prison and those who have a history of offending; people who have been victims of crime; and those who are involved in the justice system more generally. Our primary aim is to enable people to live fulfilled lives through creating positive, lasting changes.

For more information about what we do visit [www.konnect-communities.co.uk](http://www.konnect-communities.co.uk)

Our ask:

- Everyone should have the ability to access stable and fulfilling employment. Unfortunately, people still face barriers to this due to prejudice, stigma and discrimination. Through our work supporting individuals, and helping employers, we want to see a future where every employer sees the person first.
- Everyone needs a safe and secure place to call home. But the prejudice, stigma and discrimination faced by people can be a barrier to accessing this most basic need. We cannot expect people to move on positively in their lives without a safe place to live.

By treating everyone with compassion, we can create safer and more just communities.

**Konnect Communities**

**YOUNG PEOPLE'S VOICE**  
**Transition Group**  
particularly between primary school and secondary school - young people's experience

1. Tell schools it would help pupils if the transition period was longer between year 6 to year 7. And to help build connections and relationships between primary and secondary schools and the pupils.
2. Buddying and mentoring should be available for year 7 pupils (by an older pupil in the school). This is particularly important for SEND / ASD and ensuring pupils have support for the first 12-18 months.
3. Ensure pupils who transition to a school during the year, have the same level of support as those going from year 6 into year 7.

**YOUNG PEOPLE'S VOICE**  
**Being Heard, Values and Taken Seriously Group**  
by people who are there to protect me and keep me safe

1. 'Take Me Seriously' campaign - raise awareness of the importance of voice and rights to be heard.
2. Strengthen Youth Council links to schools and settings across Cornwall.
3. Support 'Relationships Matter' training. A relationship-based approach is important when supporting people to maintain positive social, emotional mental health and wellbeing.

### Project Proposal No. 47 A Fair Start For All Children

We would like public services to report annually against the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, not only in terms of 'voice' of the child being heard (article 12), but also the other articles relating to more basic rights such as right to life, right to health, right to education. We would like our Children's Rights team in Cornwall to work with the voluntary sector children's alliance and CLEP, to report on strengths and areas for improvement, particularly for groups of children who are experiencing inequalities in relation to their rights (eg children of young parents, children from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities), and plans for how public services will address these inequalities

**Jo Davies - WILD Worker, CEO**

### Project Proposal No. 48 Encouraging Community and Personal Resilience

Clearly we are facing multiple challenges in Cornwall. My priority for Bodmin is to strengthen resilience, both within the community for personal and social support, but also in relation to food supply. In these priorities I aspire to bring health to the top of the agenda - health and wellbeing rather than the treatment of sickness. We have many assets within the town to help support this sort of resilience. We cannot attain self-sufficiency, but we can seek a greater level of sufficiency from our own resources. Thus we shall be less dependent on the outputs of public policy.

**Paul Holley - Bodmin Way**

**YOUNG PEOPLE'S VOICE**  
**Cost of Living Group**

1. Find support to help with the impact of the cost of equipment for young people with disabilities and health problems.
2. Can we do anything to support the hidden costs for rural communities which impacts on accessing hobbies?
3. Create more opportunities to discuss cost of living and feedback on initiatives already in place.

## Challenging Poverty and Challenge Poverty Week

The Cornwall Independent Poverty Forum (CIPF) will continue to help those that find themselves in need and also provide project development support to projects and organisations who aim to provide help to those in need. Also, CIPF provides financial support to individuals who are in most need, through the Crisis Fund. The CIPF raise awareness of poverty issues, and try and influence positive change, through Poverty Meetings, Poverty Hearings and Conferences, as well as with meetings with our M.P.'s and other statutory and partner organisations. Cornwall's cost of living and housing and homelessness crisis are worse than the national average, as is food poverty and levels of low incomes. People living in poverty have little chance to increase their incomes whilst often having to pay out higher costs. Poverty also has serious impacts on physical and mental health as well as issues of social isolation due to poor transport options.

Challenge Poverty Week is part of a National Initiative by Church Action on Poverty and has a focus on Dignity for All and Lived Experiences. For those with lived experiences of poverty and social exclusion are often the best people in a position to develop solutions. Challenge Poverty Week celebrates the excellent work that is being done by a range of voluntary and community sector organisations, in helping those struggling with poverty. Projects and Organisations invite local leaders and M.P.'s to visit their work to gain an insight into the work they do and also into the reasons so many people are suffering from poverty. There is also a commitment to work to uphold people's dignity and speak out for a just and fair solution to the ongoing cost of living crisis.

### Paul Green, Cornwall Independent Poverty Forum



## Working in Partnerships to Implement the Community Manifesto's Proposals

We offer our Congratulations to our MPs who were recently elected to represent the people of Cornwall in our Houses of Parliament.

We are aware that great challenges lie ahead for us all. There is already much amazing work that goes on in our local communities by the many people who are committed to working with those facing poverty. Look out for the celebration of their work as well as highlighting of the raising of the issues that put so many into difficulty- in Challenge Poverty Week held each year in October.

We believe that the proposals contained in this Community Manifesto will offer practical actions that if undertaken would make Cornwall a fairer and more just place in which to live and work. We are willing to make connections with the individuals and organisations who have contributed to this document.

The Cornwall Independent Poverty Forum is also open to work with anyone who would want to see the implementations of any of these proposals taken forward. We have experience of working in partnership. Please do make contact if you would like to take any part of this Manifesto forward.

**Andrew Yates, Chair**  
**Cornwall Independent Poverty Forum**

**Contact Details:**  
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**Cornwall Independent Poverty Forum's main focus of work is around addressing poverty by raising awareness, project development and influencing positive change.**

If you would like more information about us and the work we do, please visit our website:  
[www.cornwallindependentpovertyforum.com](http://www.cornwallindependentpovertyforum.com)

***'Tackling social exclusion in Cornwall'***

***(Charity No 1183177)***