

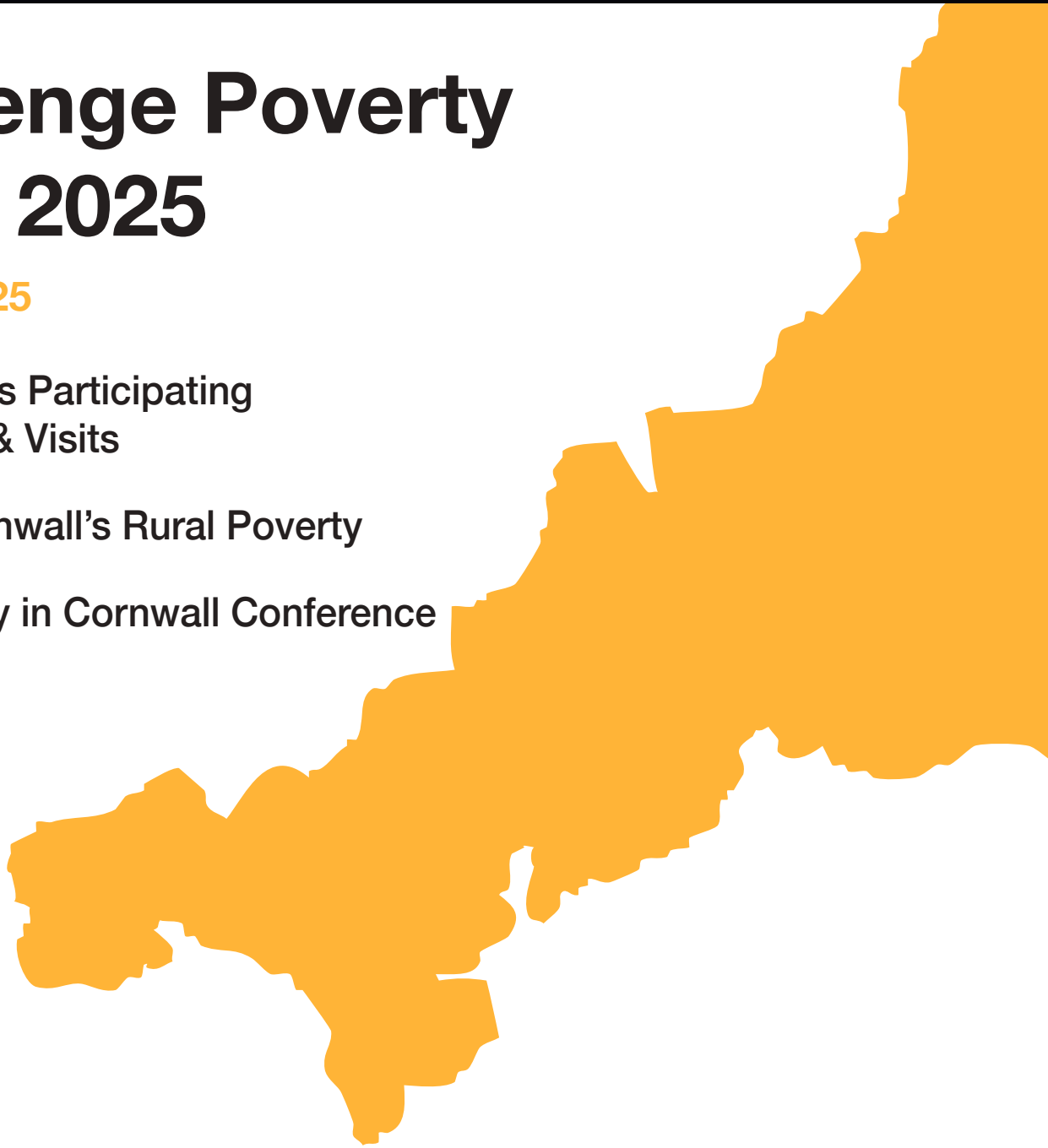
# Challenge Poverty Week 2025

October 2025

Organisations Participating  
in the Week & Visits

Tackling Cornwall's Rural Poverty

Rural Poverty in Cornwall Conference



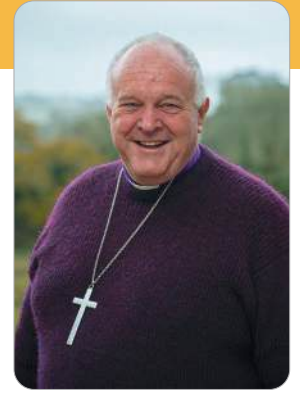
A Cornwall Independent Poverty Forum Project



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## David Williams, Bishop of Truro



In October 2024 I was preparing to be interviewed for the role of Bishop of Truro. Like all good interviewees I prepared well by researching the facts and figures about Cornwall. When I put this alongside my own experiences of visiting Cornwall I was struck by the stark contrast between the stunning beauty of the landscape and amount of poverty. In my reading one phrase stood out as capturing this feeling – **'You Can't Eat The View'**! This turned out to be the strapline of one of the Cornwall Independent Poverty Forum reports. And so I am grateful to have been invited to contribute to this year's Challenge Poverty Week Report.

2025 is quite a year for reports. Cornwall Community Foundation has issued its latest Vital Signs research written in collaboration with the University of Exeter bringing together comprehensive local data, community surveys and voices from across the county to give a snapshot of life in Cornwall today. [cornwallcommunityfoundation.com/vital-signs-2025](https://cornwallcommunityfoundation.com/vital-signs-2025)

My own Diocese of Truro has commissioned Plymouth Marjon University to produce the Pretty Poverty Report which is groundbreaking research into rural deprivation in Cornwall, revealing how traditional measurement tools systematically underestimate disadvantage in rural communities. [trurodiocese.org.uk/2025/09/poverty-report-reveals-failures/](https://trurodiocese.org.uk/2025/09/poverty-report-reveals-failures/)

The 2025 Director of Public Health Annual Report is called Growing Up In Poverty and includes an urgent call to action to tackle child poverty in our communities. New public health report calls on all residents and organisations in Cornwall and Isles of Scilly to help end child poverty. [www.cornwall.gov.uk/health-social-care/public-health/public-healthannual-report/](https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/health-social-care/public-health/public-healthannual-report/)

All these reports contain powerful key statistics but they also all include personal stories of lived experience of the impact of poverty on peoples daily lives. Moving personal accounts of the terrible choice of 'heating' or 'eating' and of the public transport system that is not good or affordable enough to attend vital hospital appointments. I encourage everyone of us to listen genuinely and carefully to these and other voices of lived experience.

**So what can we do?** I was deeply affected by a phrase from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation saying that the **'Stigma of poverty is what holds poverty in place'**. The challenges of economic hardship are bad enough without the attitudes that too often are shown to those feeling socially excluded.

So let us prioritise a sense of community, in both where we live and work, that conveys a message of welcome and inclusion in which every member of our society feels valued. And let us be mindful of the way we speak to and about those who we might at first sight judge to be 'less fortunate than ourselves'. In reaching out we may be surprised to find they have much to teach and share with us.

Finally I would like to pay tribute to those organisations who have contributed to this CPW 2025 Report and who are at the front line of tackling the poverty which then becomes a driver for so many problems in society, ruining and holding back lives. I offer my thanks to all those staff and volunteers who go more than the extra mile to see that help and support is offered to the most vulnerable of our community.

You are making a difference. *+David*

## Andrew Yates - Cornwall Independent Poverty Forum Chair



For over 25 years Cornwall Independent Poverty Forum (CIPF) has been raising the voices of those with lived experience of social disadvantage within our county and supporting those groups who are working hard to address poverty here. This is now the fifth year that we have marked Challenge Poverty Week and CIPF is especially grateful to the many organisations and community groups that supported the week and raised awareness of the tremendous amount of need that sadly still exists across the County as well as showcasing the huge amount of support that is offered by so many to those who have been and remain impacted by the cost of living crisis that continues to hit so many.

In this report you will find 30 articles reflecting on the specific impact of Rural Poverty within our communities and also read about 20 organisations which have found their distinct way of rising to the challenge of breaking through the barriers that prevent people from accessing the services they need and are entitled to.

CIPF meets every month on the first Tuesday at different venues around Cornwall. Everyone is welcome at our meetings and the full programme can be found on our website. [www.cornwallindependentpovertyforum.com](https://www.cornwallindependentpovertyforum.com)

## Community Gateway - Lee Davies

The Community Gateway opens the door to a diverse array of voluntary and community sector support. Charities and community groups across Cornwall have united to assist people in need. A dedicated telephone line is available for everyone, operating from 08:00 to 20:00, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

In response to both rising living costs and pressures within the health and care system in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, this unique collaboration of over 50 voluntary organisations, is partnering with the NHS Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Integrated Care Board to provide ongoing support to people and communities across the Duchy.

### What Does It Provide?

The Gateway serves as a “gateway to independence,” by listening to the person and identifying ‘what matters to them’ it’s trained professional staff are able to establish suitable support packages. Its goal is to create personalised plans that:

- Prevent hospital admissions
- Reduce social isolation
- Enhance health and wellbeing

Additionally, it helps individuals find mental health support, community activities and groups, and seasonal provisions; including hot meals, a network of local community hubs, and warm spaces.

### Who is the service for?

The service is for everyone, People can access the Community Gateway on **01872 266383** or alternatively via email at: [welcome@kernowgateway.org.uk](mailto:welcome@kernowgateway.org.uk)

The Community Gateway has trained professional staff who can find local support that’s right for you. In addition, staff members in the community are available to offer one-to-one and group support options.

## BF Adventure - El Warren

**BF Adventure is a registered charity which has been operating for 35 years near Penryn, in Cornwall. Our mission is to inspire, challenge and empower people, especially young people, to develop their life skills and to bring about positive change - at BF Adventure we are committed to inspiring children and young people to learn differently in the outdoors.**

The need for our work has never been greater. For many children in Cornwall it is a county filled with natural scenery, moorland, coasts and woodlands - quiet and unspoilt, offering opportunities for families to fill their leisure time with fresh air and wholesome activities. Those that work with families that need additional support know that there is a glaring inequality beneath this – 30% of children here live in poverty, and 70% of those are in families with working parents. We know that for many families mental ill-health, disability, and long-term illness, are both causal and exacerbating factors of poverty.

Cornwall has the second-highest deprivation level among England’s county councils and yet it receives £17 million less than the national average in funding. For children in these families, beaches and woodland walks might as well be on the moon – they just don’t have the money, transport, time or energy to enjoy them.

Poverty impacts children’s aspirations and well-being. The NHS Mental Health Survey shows that over a quarter of children with mental disorders have parents unable to afford extracurricular activities, compared to 1 in 10 without mental health concerns. Article 24 of the UNCRC emphasises every child’s right to health, yet in Cornwall, many are denied this right.

The derivatives of poverty impact on children’s access to education – we work with a range of partners to overcome barriers and ensure that all children have the right to an education that inspires.

## CARE FREE Mari Eggins - Care leavers

Care leavers are amongst Cornwall's most disadvantaged young adults. They will have experienced family difficulty as children, leading them to come in to state care. Adverse childhood experiences can mean that care leavers can experience isolation and may find it harder to make friends and build positive relationships with others. Moves and changes will also add to the impact on education and employability. National statistical evidence that shows that young people in care are 5 times less likely to get 'average' GCSE results and are three times more likely to be unemployed at 19 compared to their mainstream peers.

Rural poverty for care leavers is therefore significantly more likely. It will affect them in ways that other young adults won't experience. If they live in a rural area, they will find transport hard. In cities, there are often care leaver Hubs where young people can get information and guidance and meet others – this is not as easy in Cornwall. Cornwall Council has offered care leavers a bus pass which does help, but only if there is a bus.

Cornwall has always been a place of innovation, and the partnership between the Council, as the Corporate Parent for children in care and care leavers, and Carefree Cornwall, the voice of care experienced young people, means that outcomes for care leavers in Cornwall remain way above the national average, despite the rural challenges that we face as a Duchy. With the right support, care leavers can make an exceptional contribution to Cornwall's economy, both financial and social. It's vital that we don't stop doing everything we can to ensure that care leavers have a good life.

## CASS - Tessa



### Rural poverty through the lens of local courts

CASS+ gives free, confidential, practical advice and emotional support for people going through the courts in Devon and Cornwall.

Our system does not always address the root causes of crime. People get caught in the system. Things escalate. By the time they realise how bad it's become, they're in court, at risk of losing everything. This is where CASS+ steps in, to help with the underlying reasons for people being at court. In Cornwall, it often boils down to the need for food, a home and employment. Rural isolation, loneliness and depression are at an all-time low.

Each day, the team of staff and volunteers witnesses the effects of rural poverty:

A young homeless couple have had their tent (their home) slashed and, out of desperation, stolen food. Now in court for theft, they need access to supplies and accommodation. They are now in touch with housing and local food banks.

A man with a painful tooth abscess needs emergency dental care, phone credit and bus money for the appointment. The Smile dentist has resolved the situation.

An 18-year-old has been removed from the family home after a bust-up. Released from custody with nowhere to live, he is now linked with a pilot housing scheme.

A man attends court for a hearing about his non-payment of fines. He is struggling financially and has little disposable income. His home is three bus rides away from the court and the bus fare has eaten into his meagre family finances. We enabled him to put together a payment plan to manage his finances.

Anyone can end up at court alone, feeling powerless, trapped and terrified. We are free and independent of the system, perfectly-placed inside the courts in Truro and Bodmin, ready to meet people in their hour of need. We sit down and listen. We think about what that person has been through. We build trust and use our experience to find solutions to complicated situations. We guide towards positive change and stay by their side for as long as they want us. This is how we can reduce re-offending, diverting away from crime towards more stable lives.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of this charity which started inside Bodmin Magistrates' Court in 2005. For further information please visit: [www.cassplus.org](http://www.cassplus.org)

## Churches Together in Cornwall Liskeard, Torpoint and Mullion

### Churches Together in Cornwall - CIPF Report 2025

Churches are to be found in most rural areas, including small or remote communities, so they can often be both a first point of contact, and source of ongoing support, for people experiencing the impact of poverty and exclusion. The accounts below exemplify widespread common challenges as exacerbated by rurality, and also provide insights into some solutions:

#### From the Liskeard area:

Food banks and other types of food “clubs” are often over- with waiting lists. House prices and rents are high in relation to local wages with an acute shortage of affordable property. Many are second/holiday homes/rentals so hardest felt in poverty struck places.

Public transport - catching a bus is a lottery of whether it will turn up or not or be on time. Folk can't get to/from work as a result and there's no evening or Sunday service at all. High cost of parking.

Churches provide a community cafe weekly, a tea and fellowship afternoon monthly and a monthly lunch, all of which are well-attended and provide much appreciated community time. Second hand clothes sales are available with offers of cheap milk and other food items to those in need and the elderly.

#### From Torpoint:

A decade or so ago the doctors' surgery moved from the town centre to the edge of Torpoint out near HMS Raleigh, where there are no housing estates in walking distance. Initially a continual round-trip bus operated but now public transport is the only bus service passing the surgery; the current frequency is hourly. The alternative is a taxi currently costing £5 ish one way. Torpoint is a town of 7500 people. Not exactly rural for Cornwall.

#### West Cornwall and reflections from Mullion:

- Poor transport facilities restrict access to work, reaching surgeries or Pharmacies, support and advice services. There are children who have to walk long distances to reach school transport, but see none of their peers when they get off on a Friday night until Monday morning. This is even worse in the school holidays. Access to Foodbanks/Larders is limited, no support groups for young mums or access to sporting clubs or hobby groups.

#### Learning from Mullion:

- Mullion provides diverse support facilities in the village or on the bus route, with connections to other towns and even rail links
- There are many small churches and chapels in West Cornwall only open on Sundays. Most could be adapted to answer some of these needs. If they formed a group, funding applications are possible
- Car sharing on a rota basis can enable people to offer to take neighbours on shopping trips
- Clothes swaps, especially in August with new uniforms needed for the new year, or a book swap. These are not “fund raising” activities. Poor people don't have disposable income!

#### Recognised needs:

- There are many funding grants available but the need is for someone in each area to apply for them and complete forms. These grant opportunities multiply if the aim is Community support, rather than maintenance of Church buildings or religious activity.
- For the County to keep a register of local services that churches and others provide

## Cornwall Community Foundation Sophie Griffiths



### **Rural Poverty in Cornwall: A Community Crisis That Demands Collective Action**

At Cornwall Community Foundation (CCF), we work alongside grassroots groups across the county who see first-hand the devastating impact of rural poverty on individuals and families. While poverty is a national issue, the challenges it creates in rural and coastal Cornwall are unique.

Cornwall's economy, based largely on low-wage, seasonal work, means that many families struggle to make ends meet even while working. Wages are around 80% of the national average, and child poverty after housing costs affects one in three children in Cornwall. That's a deeply concerning figure, and one that we see reflected every day in food bank demand, hardship grant requests, and housing insecurity.

The frontline groups we support report rising levels of mental health problems: Cornwall now has some of the highest suicide rates in the country. Long waits for assessments and a lack of accessible services make it difficult for those in crisis to get help. These problems are made worse by rural isolation, where poor public transport and patchy broadband cut people off from support networks and critical services. In too many communities, people feel forgotten and left behind.

Despite these difficulties, local voluntary groups continue to do incredible work — offering vital support, connection, and hope. From community kitchens to mental health drop-ins, emergency grants to befriending services, these local heroes are delivering lifelines — often with limited resources and tireless commitment. Their deep understanding of local needs allows them to act quickly and compassionately when it is needed most. At CCF, we believe sustained, targeted investment in grassroots initiatives is essential. These organisations understand their communities and are best placed to respond. To tackle rural poverty in Cornwall, we must listen to them and back them. Because if we want to change the story for Cornwall, we need to start at the grassroots and invest where it matters most. Join us in supporting the local heroes working every day to build a fairer, stronger Cornwall.

[www.cornwallcommunityfoundation.com](http://www.cornwallcommunityfoundation.com)

## Cornwall Voluntary Sector Forum (VSF) Ben Bolton

### **Community Wealth Fund Proposal update**

The proposal for a community wealth fund for Cornwall continues to capture interest and we are exploring how that interest can translate into something more concrete in terms of finding the necessary pump-prime funding to get this off the ground. A related consideration is building the necessary partnership structure and resources needed to launch such a scheme. We continue to lobby MPs and Jayne Kirkham MP has been very supportive and helped enable communication with Crown Estates who in turn have expressed interest in seeing the wealth fund give stronger focus on community energy.

Subsequently, we have had meetings with Energy4All, Community Energy Plus and more recently Celtic Power Cornwall. At the meeting with Celtic Power Cornwall, they gave an overview of their 'Social and Environmental Investment Portfolio', a set of initiatives that are investment-ready. This relates to the requirement on the part of large offshore renewable energy companies to fulfil social and environmental criteria laid down by Crown Estates as a condition for leasing areas of the seabed on which they operate. This includes funding community schemes which have a social and environmental purpose. However the funding streams from offshore wind energy companies are not likely to be activated for another two years but Celtic Seapower Investment Portfolio is preparing the ground now.

Cornwall Poverty Forum are reviewing how the wealth fund initiative fits into such a scheme and whether a separate proposal should be submitted as part of the Celtic Seapower Investment Portfolio with a more narrow focus on funding existing poverty reduction initiatives.

### **Rural Poverty in Cornwall and the Role of Cornwall VSF**

Cornwall Voluntary Sector Forum (VSF) is a dedicated charity committed to connecting, supporting, and promoting the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector across Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. Its mission is to empower local charities, voluntary groups, and social enterprises to build a stronger, more sustainable community sector.

Cornwall VSF has worked with rural communities for many years and understand that rural poverty in Cornwall is deep-rooted and persistent. Many of our communities experience a mix of low wages, insecure seasonal employment, high living costs, and a housing market distorted by second homes and holiday lets. Isolation worsens the impact as

# Tackling Cornwall's Rural Poverty

poor transport, limited services, and reduced access to health and wellbeing support make everyday life harder. Unlike many urban areas, poverty in Cornwall often hides behind a postcard image of beauty.

Cornwall VSF plays a key role in supporting communities to address these challenges, as rural poverty is one of the key determinants of wellbeing. Through the Cornwall Food Access Alliance, Cornwall VSF coordinates over 60 grassroots organisations and groups, ensuring emergency food aid is targeted, collaborative, and linked to long-term solutions. Alongside this, Cornwall VSF supports Cornwall Independent Poverty Forum and **Challenge Poverty Week** each year to raise awareness, share lived experience and support important award-winning campaigns like making Cornwall a Real Living Wage Place to tackle low and insecure pay.

Cornwall VSF also channels investment into communities. Its partnership with the NHS Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Integrated Care Board has delivered a £645,000 Health Improvement Fund via Cornwall Community Foundation (CCF), supporting 68 voluntary organisations to strengthen health, wellbeing, and social connection in areas of greatest need. Complementing this, the People in Mind programme funds community-based mental health and suicide prevention initiatives, particularly in underserved rural areas, helping people build resilience and stability.

Practical access to support is another priority. Cornwall VSF works closely with a range of VCSE partners including Volunteer Cornwall, Age UK, and CHAOS Group to support and promote the delivery of the Community Gateway helpline and a network of local hubs, ensuring residents can easily navigate services, reduce isolation, and find the help they need. Cornwall VSF has also supported the rollout of a government-funded programme WorkWell that aims to support people facing health-related barriers to employment. Personalised coaching from VCSE sector partners and a digital app offering mental health support has helped hundreds of Cornish residents to stay in or return to work.

Together, these efforts show how the voluntary and community sector can address rural poverty not just through crisis response, but by tackling its root causes, building stronger, fairer, and more resilient Cornish communities.

## How CRCC is Supporting Communities

## Cornwall Rural Community Charity - Gemma Finnegan

Addressing the challenges faced by rural communities is at the heart of the work we do at Cornwall Rural Community Charity (CRCC). Rural poverty in Cornwall often sits hidden in plain sight — reflected in the barriers people face in accessing housing, transport, services, and sustainable livelihoods. These issues can make it harder for people to live independently, remain connected to their communities, and build brighter futures.

Our Rural and Coastal team works dynamically to respond to these issues, supporting individuals and communities to create meaningful change in their lives and local areas. Much of our focus is on tackling systemic barriers that persist across rural Cornwall.

Housing remains one of the most pressing needs. Through the current Rural Housing Enabling Programme, we are working in partnership with local parish councils and Cornwall Council's Affordable Housing team to identify, promote, and progress sites for genuinely affordable homes in rural areas where local people are being priced out. Without the security of safe and affordable housing, opportunities to thrive remain out of reach.

Reliable transport is another priority closely tied with the impacts of rural poverty. Many residents in rural hamlets are cut off from jobs, healthcare, and education by a lack of affordable, dependable transport links. By gathering insights directly from communities, we are helping to highlight these challenges and advocate for solutions that reflect local realities.

We also continue to support small boat fishermen and their communities, who face unique economic pressures but remain central to Cornwall's cultural and social fabric.

At our recent series of community roadshows, we brought together people from every corner of Cornwall with decision makers, service providers, and advocacy organisations. These gatherings allowed voices from rural communities to be heard and helped drive forward collaborative solutions.

At CRCC, our commitment is clear: to stand alongside rural communities, ensuring that every individual in Cornwall has the chance to thrive, no matter where they live.

## Fair Funding - Jayne Kirkham MP

For as long as I have been a local politician and way back beyond, Cornwall has been campaigning for fairer funding for our services. In areas like local government, NHS and schools funding, we have always got a raw deal compared to other areas. The Conservative Government announced a 'fair funding review' back in 2016 that was never completed or implemented. They abandoned it in 2020.

This Labour Government has completed a Fair Funding Review

For the first time ever, money for council services will be allocated according to need, and the difficulties of providing services in rural and coastal areas have finally been acknowledged.

Councils will also have more certainty as funding will be fixed for 3 year periods, rather than announced and awarded ad hoc.

Under the Conservatives, coastal and rural areas like ours were often overlooked and faced higher costs to deliver essential services across long distances and smaller populations.

For the first time, this Government will factor in seasonal demand from visitors, recognising that rural, coastal or other areas which attract tourists may have additional cost pressures in serving that demand. And introduce a remoteness adjustment to help rural areas, so that the costs of delivering services in sparsely populated rural places are recognised.

Alongside this, the Labour Government has also announced action to make things fairer for taxpayers by ending outdated rules for tax collection and spreading payments over 12 monthly bills as standard.

As the Health and Social Care Secretary, Wes Streeting, released the new 10 Year Plan for the NHS, he's also made some announcements about rebalancing NHS funding. £2.2 billion that had been set aside to plug financial holes will now be spent on staff, medicines, new technology and equipment in poor and rural communities. This is the precursor to a review of the 'Carr-Hill formula', which decides the national distribution of NHS funding for GPs' surgeries. The Nuffield Trust have said this formula is "inequitable" and "deeply flawed" and fails to take account of deprivation and should be replaced with a needs-based formula.

Wes Streeting says a review of the formula is desperately needed to rebalance funding towards "millions of people in parts of England that have historically been left behind, such as in rural communities, coastal towns and working-class communities".

## Farm Cornwall - Edward Richardson



You may not be aware that poverty exists on Cornwall's farms, the perceived image is of large landowners with huge tractors and large granite farmhouses. That image does in reality, hides poverty, and deprivation

It is on those farms we see farmers struggling to pay bills, creditor debt (people they owe money) most likely to be in the 10,000's or even in the 100,000's of pounds.

Tenant farmers have little security of tenure, and what they did have has been eroded by legislation. The average tenancy in the UK is 3 years, as these short tenancies come to an end the farming family will have nowhere to live

Although it is hard to believe those families will be on Universal Credit (UC), running up debts to pay for the farm, and neglecting their own welfare. The UC system fails to cope with the farmers seasonal income and expenditure. When expenditure is at it highest around lambing time then UC will pay, then as lambs are sold, the farmer is seen to earn too much, and it is stopped. I have been told UC see their farm as a hobby in an interview, and they should go and get a job. I have seen farmers who have been compensated for animal succumbing to TB, that payment would preclude a UC payment.

The state of some of the houses we see is Dickensian, damp and cold, children with asthma, multigenerational, or of elderly farmers living alone watching tv unable to do much work with their livestock because of infirmity, whilst their animals outside get by with the help of others, living for the most part an isolated existence.

Cornwall, Devon, and Cumbria, receive the greatest help by rural charities than any other County in the UK

## **Glen Carne** Matthew Gavan, Chief Executive Officer

Rural poverty in Cornwall is widespread, persistent, but often hidden. For residents of our supported housing service, it brings a unique set of challenges that can make escaping hardship especially difficult.

In much of Cornwall, jobs are seasonal, low-paid, and insecure—often linked to tourism and agriculture. Opportunities for training and career progression can be limited, particularly with the withdrawal of EU funding, and public transport can be limited and irregular. Many residents cannot afford a car, which means essential services, job interviews, or even the nearest supermarket, may be several bus changes or hours away. As a charity, we are grateful for our Dept. of Transport minibus, which helps us to address some of these issues for those in our service.

Access to specialist support is also more challenging than in urban areas. Mental health services, specialist healthcare and other services are often based in larger towns or cities, with long waiting lists and significant travel costs. For someone trying to access support, this delay and distance can cause additional anxiety. We have successfully piloted a project to provide on-site resident counselling to address some of these needs.

Living costs in rural Cornwall are higher than many expect. Residents in older, poorly insulated housing face significant heating bills. Affordable food is harder to find without the means to travel to larger supermarkets, and digital access is still limited in areas—slower broadband and poor mobile coverage make online job applications, training, and health appointments difficult to attend. Laptops supplied by Cornwall Council's Digital Inclusion Community program has helped us address these digital challenges with our residents.

Social isolation is perhaps the most damaging effect of rural poverty here. Many villages and outlying areas lack community facilities, and residents may be far from family or support networks. For those already rebuilding their lives after homelessness, trauma, or relationship breakdown, this isolation can undermine confidence and mental health without support.

Our supported housing service works to address these barriers by offering more than a safe place to live. We provide practical housing support, skills training, and opportunities for social connection, helping residents navigate the unique pressures of rural life in addition to their other support and housing needs. Poverty in Cornwall may be less visible than in cities, but its impact is very real—and addressing it requires local, tailored, and sustained action through the statutory and the excellent wide-ranging voluntary organisations in Cornwall.

## **Growing Links** - Ben Bolton

As part of Challenge Poverty Week, I visited Growing Links in Penzance, a community-led organisation that has spent over a decade nurturing something vital, connection and relationships.

Growing Links has been part of the fabric of the community for 13 years. What began as a small, grassroots initiative has evolved into a trusted and respected organisation, one that supports hundreds of local people each year through food, friendship and purpose.

For the last 12 months Growing Links have been housed within the Safe and Well Hub in Penzance, a move that appears to have been a great move for all involved. The café is a warm and welcoming space where the community can just be without any pressure, but equally, there are a wealth of drop in and co-located services available to the community should these be needed. From my short visit, the ethos appears to be one of placing the needs of the person at the heart of all activity and treating them as a valued person, something that sounds so simple yet often not achieved.

At Growing Links people can come in for a hot meal at the canteen, receive advice, or simply be part of a community that sees and values them. Based upon my conversation with Lynne Dyer the Managing Director of Growing Links, the strength lies in its relationships, not only between staff and service users, but among service users themselves. This is a place where people come to be supported and often end up supporting others in turn.

Beyond the Hub, Growing Links also manages a five-acre growing site, maintained by volunteers and service users. This green space is as much about wellbeing as it is about produce. For many, it offers a rare opportunity to reconnect with nature, contribute to something meaningful, and experience a sense of belonging that might have been lost elsewhere.

Volunteers are the heartbeat of the organisation, without them, none of this would be possible. Their commitment and compassion underpin every aspect of Growing Links' work, and their involvement helps to create an atmosphere that feels far more like a community than a service.

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The organisation's partnership with Community Health and Wellbeing Workers (CHWWs) has also become an essential bridge, opening support to people who might otherwise have been missed. This kind of collaboration, where professionals, volunteers, and community members share the same space, shows what joined-up working can truly achieve.

Yet, like many community organisations, Growing Links faces increasing challenges. Demand for its services continues to rise, the complexity of people's needs is growing, and funding is harder to secure than ever. Extended opening hours, while invaluable to the community, stretch already limited resources. Despite these pressures, the commitment of the team remains unwavering, grounded in empathy, trust and the simple but powerful belief that relationships change lives.

I left Growing Links with a real sense of admiration. The importance of healthy nutritious food still plays a vital part in attracting the community, but what the community receives is far more than this. What struck me most wasn't just the range of support on offer through collaboration, but the depth of connection between people. You can feel the trust that's been built over the years, it's what makes this place work. There's a genuine sense of belonging here, and that's something you can't manufacture.

In a world where loneliness and hardship can easily go unseen, Growing Links stands as a reminder that meaningful change grows from connection, from taking time to know people, to listen, and to walk alongside them.

## Harbour Housing: Changing Perceptions - Ben Bolton

### Challenge Poverty Week: Changing Perceptions at Harbour Housing

When I arrived at Cosgarne Hall in St Austell, home to Harbour Housing, I'll admit I felt ever so slightly uneasy. A group of men stood outside the front door as I approached, and I caught myself judging, feeling wary, even unsafe. I'm not proud of that reaction, but I think it's an honest one. It's something many people would feel but possible not admit, we often make these snap judgements without even realising it.

The truth, of course, was very different. Those same men greeted me warmly, held the door open and helped me find my way. They were friendly, polite and could not do enough to help. That moment stayed with me. a quiet but powerful reminder of how easy it is to make assumptions and how much richer life becomes when we pause and truly see people as human beings, not as labels or stereotypes.

Inside Cosgarne Hall, I saw something remarkable, a genuine community. A place built not on judgement, but on trust, care, and consistency. Harbour Housing doesn't apply a "one size fits all" approach. Instead, the wonderful staff focus on what matters to each person, not what is the matter with them. That distinction changes everything, it makes the resident feel valued.

Each individual resident is allowed to remain an individual. There's no expectation of overnight change, no ticking clock of "progress." People are supported to grow at their own pace, towards their own solutions. For some, that might mean finding stable work or housing; for others, it might simply mean rediscovering a sense of safety or belonging. Not everyone will become fully independent but that is fine. The pace and path are personal and, for me, that is the key point.

The team at Harbour Housing understand that many of the people they work with carry deep scars, the lasting effects of childhood trauma, the weight of mental health challenges, or years of being let down by systems that were meant to help. Healing from that doesn't happen quickly. It takes time, patience, and the kind of reliability that builds trust.

And that's exactly what the staff offer, reliability. They keep turning up. Day after day, they're there, steady, dependable and most of all human. That constancy is what allows residents to start believing again, to take small steps toward rebuilding their confidence and sense of agency.

Because at its heart, Harbour Housing is about belonging. It's about giving people the chance to feel part of a civilised society, to contribute, to connect, to have hope. When people are given that chance, change follows naturally.

Too often, people stay away from organisations like Harbour Housing because they're scared, or they don't understand what goes on inside. But what I saw was community. I saw people helping each other, I saw former residents working for the organisation. I saw hope made real, one relationship, one conversation, one small act of kindness at a time.

That's what Challenge Poverty Week is all about, changing the story we tell about poverty and the people who experience it. It's about recognising that poverty is not a personal failure, but a shared challenge that demands compassion, understanding, and action. Harbour Housing shows what can happen when we start from trust, see people as individuals, and believe in their capacity to grow. If we want to end poverty, this is where we start, by seeing each other differently and by building communities where everyone belongs.

## Cllr. Loic Rich

As a local councillor and food bank voucher issuer, I will often get requests for help with the cost of living from residents, and usually they will be families with young children, and be in some kind of part time employment and receiving some or no benefits. I don't see everything, or hear about everyone, facing a general impoverishment, or perhaps a poverty crisis, so it's good that there are organisations out there that will gather data and evidence, and provide an accurate picture the impact of poverty on our communities. One of the biggest challenges of rural poverty is transport. There is no getting around the fact that in Cornwall, many people will need their own private transport for day to day life, but running a car can be very expensive - and even just getting a driving license can be a challenge for someone in a low paid job. If you need a job to get the money to get a car, but can't get a job because you don't have a car, and you don't have well off parents to help, then your choices could well be limited. The challenges of rural poverty can be very different to those in urban environments, where simply getting around can easily be taken for granted.

## Newquay Foodbank - Zoe Nixon

Visualising rural poverty we often think of wide open green areas with not much in the way of housing or services. What is often misunderstood is that Cornwall as a whole is rural and our towns and city are affected by extreme rural poverty. Newquay Foodbank describes poverty as "....from prebirth people affected by poverty have fewer choices, chances and opportunities over a life course, touching every aspect of their lives, including but not limited to education, housing, health, income, access to support services.....".

Newquay is within the top 10 areas of multiple deprivation and children living in those wards are more likely to be affected by adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). The impact of ACEs over a life course is multi-faceted and profound and as an adult you are much more likely to be affected by poor emotional and physical health, combined with less choice, for example in employment or living accommodation and less opportunity to do much about it. In short the impact of ACEs means our service is filled with adults battered by society and it's expectation of them as adults, when, in fact the problems started long before. Trying to undo some of those issues is complicated and difficult, however demonstrating hope and working collaboratively is a good start.

Newquay Foodbank's approach to alleviating some of the symptoms of poverty and ACEs is to work with people accessing our services and allow them the space, time and compassion to enable them to work out the best way we can help, without judgement. We have found that food is the leveller for everyone, we must all eat, food is social and has been used for centuries as a means to gather people in a shared experience. One project Newquay Foodbank currently run in conjunction with local temporary housing providers is a 'cook & hook' session focused on connection with others, shared experiences and gentle access to support services. The simple act of cooking delicious food together has reduced anxiety and stress and enabled people to feel seen and heard. As a result, trust and relationships are built and support for a whole range of issues such as help with health appointments, digital access, emotional support, energy help, fostering for beloved pets, access to Citizen's Advice and connection to statutory and non - statutory service teams,

Newquay Food bank use our voice alongside others such as Trussell and Cornwall Poverty Forum to call for action. For example to end the need for foodbanks and guarantee the essentials through our benefits system. There must be no let-up in ensuring the voices of those facing fewer chances, choices and opportunities is raised, heard and make it obvious that the way society views and supports those with least advantage, must change.

## Ocean Housing Amy Coad

### Case Study: Tackling Poverty in Rural Cornwall

In rural Cornwall, poverty is shaped by unique challenges: low wages, seasonal employment, and limited public transport. For many, owning a car isn't a luxury—it's a lifeline.

Ocean Housing offers a Hardship Fund designed to support customers experiencing financial difficulty. The fund helps individuals manage essential living costs, enabling them to budget for priority bills. This includes, indirectly, support toward rent payments to help customers sustain their tenancies and avoid arrears.

A customer applied to the Fund for help with MOT costs. Living in a remote area, they relied on their vehicle to reach work locations which were not served by public transport. When their car failed its MOT, they faced losing their job, risking rent arrears and financial instability.

## Ocean Housing Amy Coad

The Fund approved the application, recognising that without a working vehicle, the tenant would be unable to maintain employment. The support covered essential MOT repairs, allowing them to continue working and avoid falling into crisis.

This small intervention had a big impact:

- **Employment sustained:** The tenant kept their job and income.
- **Crisis prevented:** Risk of arrears and benefit dependency was avoided.
- **Wellbeing supported:** Independence and mental health were protected.

This case highlights how poverty in rural areas often goes unseen, with transport being a major barrier to opportunity. For those in isolated communities, practical support like MOT funding can be the difference between stability and hardship.

Challenge Poverty Week reminds us: Poverty is not inevitable. With targeted, compassionate action, we can break down barriers and build fairer communities.

## Pentreath Ltd

Pentreath Ltd is a Mental Health Charity supporting people with improving health and emotional wellbeing.

Rural poverty is often less visible, yet its effects are no less profound. In rural areas, limited access to services, affordable housing, reliable transport, and sustainable employment can create persistent barriers to opportunity. Isolation—both geographic and social—can make it harder for individuals to access education, training, mental health support, and meaningful work.

In Cornwall and other rural regions, these challenges are often compounded by seasonal employment patterns, lower average wages, and the rising cost of living. For many, the lack of local services means long travel times and higher costs simply to meet basic needs. Digital connectivity issues can further limit access to modern opportunities and remote support.

At Pentreath Ltd, we recognise that rural poverty is not just about a lack of income—it is about the constraints it places on choice, wellbeing, and community participation. We are committed to working alongside individuals to overcome these barriers, supporting them to build skills, confidence, and resilience, and ensuring they can access the help they need, when and where they need it.



## Pretty Poverty - Professor Tanya Ovenden-Hope

### Revealing Hidden Disadvantage in Rural Cornwall: Insights from The Pretty Poverty Report

When tourists visit Cornwall, they see stunning coastlines, charming villages, and an idyllic rural lifestyle. What they don't see is the stark reality facing thousands of residents struggling with low wages, unaffordable housing, and limited access to essential services – the 'Pretty Poverty'. This hidden rural deprivation was the focus of our groundbreaking research, The Pretty Poverty Report, which reveals how current government measures of disadvantage systematically fail rural communities.

### The Research Journey

I led my research team at Plymouth Marjon University for an eighteen month project called 'Cornwall Rurality Matters', commissioned by the Diocese of Truro. The project enabled a comprehensive investigation into the measurement of deprivation (the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)) and its representativeness of rural deprivation in Cornwall. Six communities were selected for exploration based on IMD 2019 classification (20-30% most deprived) and proximity a school classified as 'educationally isolated'. The areas explored were St Blazey West, Bodmin St Mary's Ward East, St Day, St Buryan and Sennen, St Dennis South, and Looe North East and St Martin.

We undertook in-depth interviews with young families to retirees, employed and unemployed, homeowners and renters living in the communities. **The findings revealed that the IMD dramatically underestimates rural hardship.** While a valuable resource for identifying urban poverty, the IMD operates like a statistical averaging machine when applied to rural areas. Imagine trying to understand a village's needs by averaging the experiences of a wealthy retiree in a £300,000 cottage with a struggling family in social housing; the result obscures rather than illuminates genuine disadvantage.

# Tackling Cornwall's Rural Poverty

## Six Pillars of Rural Deprivation

Our analysis uncovered six interconnected themes that define rural poverty in Cornwall:

1. **Transport Dependency** emerged as the most critical factor. Unlike urban areas where car ownership might indicate affluence, in rural Cornwall it's essential. Without private transport, residents face systematic exclusion from employment, healthcare, adult education and social opportunities. One participant told us, "I couldn't do my life without having a car", a statement that encapsulates rural reality in Cornwall.
2. **Housing Displacement** extends beyond affordability to fundamental availability. With over 20,000 homes out of residential use due to second homes and holiday lets, local residents compete intensely for remaining properties. We heard heartbreaking stories of young people needing family members to pass away before they could afford to live independently.
3. **Employment Precarity** affects even highly qualified professionals who face underemployment due to geographic constraints and Cornwall's tourism-dependent economy.
4. **Healthcare Withdrawal** sees residents traveling increasing distances for basic care as services centralise.
5. **Educational Isolation** constrains opportunities and aspirations for young people, with distances to training and higher education programmes making them unobtainable.
6. Paradoxically, **Community Resilience** represents both a strength and a challenge. Rural communities demonstrate remarkable mutual support, with neighbours checking on each other, sharing resources, and collective problem-solving. However, this social capital can mask underlying needs from policy recognition.

## Recommendations for Change

We urgently need rural-specific deprivation indices using smaller geographic units and increased weighting for transport barriers. Policy makers must recognise rural transport as essential infrastructure requiring sustained investment, not discretionary provision.

Housing strategy must address both affordability and availability, managing second home impacts while supporting local needs. Healthcare and education require innovative delivery models combining digital access with place-based provision.

## Looking Forward

This research contributes crucial evidence that rural communities require alternative approaches to measurement and intervention. As Perran Moon MP notes in his foreword, there's no single reform that can reset Cornwall's pressures, but ensuring funding distribution reflects remote coastal realities is essential.

The Pretty Poverty Report ultimately reveals that addressing rural deprivation requires fundamental shifts from urban-centric assumptions to rural-specific realities grounded in lived experience. Only then can we move beyond the "pretty" surface to tackle the genuine challenges facing our rural communities.

*Download the full report: Ovenden-Hope, T., Brown, V., and Acharidou, E. (2025) The Pretty Poverty Report: Cornwall Rurality Matters. Plymouth Marjon University, Plymouth, UK. <https://www.marjon.ac.uk/educational-isolation/>*

## Sparrows Report - Ben Hudd

The Sparrows Project, while welcoming the opportunity to discuss anti slavery activities in the South West with NGO's and statutory authorities, recognise that much effective work is currently undertaken. The rationale behind the meeting, which was hosted by Transformation Cornwall, was to explore the opportunity for cohesive working and campaigning and to assess whether it would be appropriate to extend the project's role into Cornwall and Devon.

The Sparrows Project ([sparrowsproject.org.uk](http://sparrowsproject.org.uk)) was formed as a direct response to the observed need to raise awareness of modern day slavery (MDS) in Somerset and to provide accommodation and support for female survivors in the immediate period after their release from enslavement and pending their decisions on their future. Until recently the venture (managed by the charity Restore Hope South West) has operated in Somerset alone. The opportunity to expand the geographical scope of its activities is principally informed by the fact that throughout the South West there is no facility for offering such support to either male or female victims.

The meeting was attended by representatives from Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority, Hope for Justice, Caritas (Plymouth), Diocese of Truro, and representatives from a number of local charities. And several other groups have subsequently affirmed their interest in contributing.

The conclusions reached were:-

- That there is substantial evidence that MDS is rife in Cornwall and South West;
- That the level of public awareness and ability to identify examples of MDS is low
- That a working group should be established to examine the location and modes of awareness raising
- That all efforts should be made to engage with other charities.
- Next meeting to be on line - date to be agreed

## Time2Move

The rurality of Cornwall affects the residents of the county in a variety of ways, including impacting negatively on their mental health, wellbeing and physical activity levels. These negative effects are felt most deeply by the more vulnerable members of society, like the low-income households and families who access The Time2Move Holiday Programme.



# SUMMER 2025 HIGHLIGHTS



**PARENT** "I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW AMAZING THIS IS... THE PRESSURE OF THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS AND THE GUILT OF NOT BEING ABLE TO DO MUCH WITH THE KIDS IS SO HARD."

**6,680 CHILDREN ENGAGED**

**7.9 VISITS PER CHILD**

**3,932 CHILDREN IN RECEIPT OF FSM\* ENGAGED**  
(25% OF TOTAL NUMBER OF FSM CHILDREN)

**PROVIDER** "IT'S BRILLIANT SEEING KIDS BE KIDS."



**£ INVESTED**  
**£1,068,993**

**31,063 MEALS PROVIDED**

**PARENT** "THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR WONDERFUL ACTIVITIES, MY SON IS REALLY PLEASED."



**124 DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES**

**WITH 84 PROVIDERS**

**YOUNG PERSON** "I LOVE THAT WE ALWAYS TRY SOMETHING NEW HERE."



**PARENT** "MY BOYS HAVE DONE LOADS OF GREAT ACTIVITIES OVER THE HOLIDAYS THROUGH TIME2MOVE."



Funded by



Department for Education



\*FREE SCHOOL MEALS

The rural poverty in Cornwall is compounded by the limited transport system and the seasonal work, affecting residents' ability to travel to and maintain employment and a regular income. These barriers equally impact on the communities' opportunities to incorporate movement into everyday life, which therefore can lead to poorer mental and physical health, confidence and reduced sense of belonging.

The Time2Move Holiday Programme (Cornwall LA HAF) works with a variety of partners to enable family activity in our rural county. The county has unique challenges of being both coastal and rural.

To encourage and support families to experience social connection and be able to spend more time being active together within their communities, we have trialled partnering with local venues spread across the county. Similarly, we encourage local providers to work within their local communities so that we can bring physical activity to those communities and localities that are more rural.

## Transformation Cornwall Clinton Cameron Sealy Jnr

### Transformation Cornwall – Rural Poverty Response for CPW 2025

At Transformation Cornwall, we work to strengthen faith-based social action across Cornwall by supporting groups addressing poverty, exclusion, and disadvantage. In 2025, as we shine a light on rural poverty for Challenge Poverty Week, we recognise the unique challenges that rurality brings to the lives of those we serve.

Rural poverty is often hidden. It lacks the visibility of urban deprivation but has just as devastating an impact. Across Cornwall's scattered communities, individuals and families face long travel times to essential services, limited public transport, and increasing isolation. Access to affordable food, housing, childcare, and employment opportunities is significantly restricted, while digital exclusion further compounds social inequality and marginalisation.

We support grassroots organisations embedded in their local areas — churches running foodbanks, drop-ins, warm spaces, and debt advice — many of which are lifelines for isolated residents. These groups are witnessing rising demand and increasing complexity in the needs presented by rural households. Volunteers often serve people they have known for years, offering not just support but deep trust and connection.

Despite the challenges, we see remarkable resilience. Faith and community groups continue to innovate and adapt, whether it's mobile outreach services or shared rural hubs. But long-term solutions require listening to local voices, supporting sustainable funding, and ensuring rural issues are not forgotten in wider poverty discussions.

We warmly welcome opportunities to host local councillors or MPs during Challenge Poverty Month. Seeing the work in action is the best way to understand the commitment of volunteers and the urgent need for rural-focused solutions.

Transformation Cornwall is proud to stand alongside the Cornwall Independent Poverty Forum and all those striving for justice and dignity across our rural communities.

## Traveller Space - Ben Bolton

### Visiting TravellerSpace During Challenge Poverty Week

As part of Challenge Poverty Week, I visited Traveller Space in St Day, an organisation that plays a crucial role in supporting Gypsy, Traveller, and van-dwelling communities across Cornwall. What I saw was far more than a service provider, it was trust, belonging and advocacy brought to life.

#### Built Upon Trust

TravellerSpace supports people living both on and off sites, including an increasing number of van dwellers, whose numbers in Cornwall are growing rapidly. Around 80% of Gypsy and Traveller people now live in bricks-and-mortar housing, but the remaining 20% often face serious challenges: overcrowded or poorly maintained sites, difficulty obtaining planning permission for private sites, and ongoing prejudice or hate crime — issues TravellerSpace confronts daily.

TravellerSpace is committed to working with Gypsy and Traveller communities wherever the need exists. While much of their activity happens through outreach, the Teyluva Centre in St Day remains at the heart of their work — a warm, welcoming drop-in hub that feels genuinely safe for people who have often felt excluded or ignored elsewhere. These communities face significant barriers when accessing statutory services, but TravellerSpace bridges that gap, offering a familiar, non-judgmental environment where real engagement can happen.

#### What They Do

TravellerSpace offers an impressive range of services, weekly drop-ins, early years play sessions, youth and women's groups, literacy support, advocacy and form-filling help, and specialist projects such as Traveller-led mental health and midwifery groups.

From my conversation and observations, it's clear that TravellerSpace doesn't just deliver services, they co-design them with the community. That's why people come, not to be "done to", but to be part of something that respects who they are. It's also why health visitors and other professionals hold regular sessions there, relationships and service delivery are built on trust that has taken more than twenty years to develop.

#### The Bigger Picture

My visit made it clear that Traveller Space is not only helping individuals, but also, in many ways, holding a system together. Without organisations like this, many people would fall completely through the cracks. Traveller Space acts as advocate, ally and critical friend, challenging inequality and prejudice while ensuring people can access the support and opportunities everyone deserves.

It was a timely reminder, during Challenge Poverty Week, of the importance of community-rooted action in tackling inequality. In a county where poverty, housing insecurity and prejudice are often hidden, Traveller Space stands as a powerful reminder that community-led solutions work best when they start with trust.

## Truro Foodbank Rural Poverty implications for Food Security by Simon Fann

Sometimes being named 'Truro Foodbank' creates a false assumption, namely people might think we only cover the city of Truro. In fact we cover TR1 to TR6 postcodes, a large north to south coast area including Portreath, Porthtowan, Perranporth, St Agnes, Gerrans and St Mawes. There is a great diversity of size of settlements, wealth and transport link implications within that area. When at Liskeard Foodbank John Ede often reminded me that another way of phrasing "hard to reach" places is "easy to forget". I have never forgotten that. There are pockets of deprivation across our whole area, including St Mawes and Truro.

One way for me to explain how rural poverty is relevant to a foodbank is by referring to the four basic concepts of Food Insecurity:

- 1. Physical AVAILABILITY of food.** This is the "supply side" of food security affected by food production and stock levels (eg what we grow locally; what we rely on supermarkets to bring in)
- 2. Economic COST of and physical ACCESS to food.** "An adequate supply of food at the national or international level does not in itself guarantee household level food security\*"  
This is where the twin factors of low income and rural isolation come in. If a person cannot afford the rising price of food, or cannot get to it, then they are not food secure. Travel costs money, whether you have access to a car or not. Public transport in Cornwall may not take someone where they need to get to at a time they need to get there. So if you cannot access decent food due to your location and/or transport cost or lack of provision then rural poverty is very relevant to what you can eat.
- 3. Food UTILISATION.** This refers to the nutrients we all need and the food choices we make – both in terms of diet and how we prepare it. If a person has limited choice of food (again due to cost or location) and/or limited means of cooking food, then there will be a health impact. We see this potential with customers in emergency accommodation where only a kettle is allowed as a source of heating food.
- 4. STABILITY of the other three dimensions over time.** "Even if your food intake is adequate today, you are still considered to be food insecure if you have inadequate access to food on a periodic basis\*" Relevant factors include growing seasons, seasonal work income etc.

It is therefore crucial that anyone considering, or implementing, a policy for Cornwall that is relevant to food takes into account rural implications. There are very real impacts for rural households struggling with poverty whose needs must not be overlooked. Food security is not something that can be taken for granted.

\*© FAO 2008 Published by the EC - FAO Food Security Programme website: [www.foodsec.org](http://www.foodsec.org) e-mail: [information-for-action@fao.org](mailto:information-for-action@fao.org)

## Young Disabled Carers Marie Hutchinson-Ralph

Frequently we are met with how can a disabled person care for another disabled person and the answer is, we often have no choice! For eg, while my husband and my son ( a registered Young carer) may help with my physical needs such as getting to the shower, or dressing or assistance with my wheelchair on bad days etc, I assist them with their mental health difficulties or organising things such as GP appointments, making sure they keep on top of specialised food orders etc. While my son is also Autistic and needs daily support with his education, social skills, anxiety and sleep issues (particularly at bedtime) and executive functioning, he physically assists me in the home such as getting laundry out of the dryer etc.

While we "muddle on through" there is very little support as we each have our own needs yet only the most extreme (ie my eldest son labelled with challenging behaviour) usually meet threshold for actually daily support. This means more pressure is often placed on the young carer or vice versa (I become educator / solicitor / social support / organiser of medical appointments etc) but there is no support for short breaks for either of us. Often, because of his own needs, my son can't attend young carers events , again marginalising those intersectional communities in charitable sectors!

Disabled carers (particularly young neurodivergent carers) are actually quite common, but very often only one member is supported and the rest are expected to muddle through without any support. This places a huge burden on 1/2 people in the household. Leading to burnout and a higher cost to the wider health and social care economy. So why is this not discussed and supported in a more holistic way? Why are family needs and impacts not looked at rather than just the most visible and extreme needs? I feel if this was addressed holistically there would be less charity sector and social care and MH service input from crisis management.

## Introduction

On October 24th over 60 people gathered at St Erme Community Centre for a conference on this year's Challenge Poverty Week theme of Rural Poverty. Key-note speakers included Paul Phillips of Truro Diocese, Gemma Finnegan of Cornwall Rural Community Charity, Paul Fox from Money Advice and Jon Berg from Citizen's Advice.

There were workshops on Rural Living, Good Insecurity, the Living Wage Place campaign, Child Poverty and a meet the MP with Jayne Kirkham.

A big thanks to Clinton Sealey of Transformation Cornwall for his help in setting up the conference, to Cornwall Community Foundation for funding the event and to Bev from Coco Bean for the superb lunch !

A short film about the day can be watched here <https://youtu.be/fw3tJ3tMNPE>

## Public Health Report Lucy Walsh

### Director of Public Health Report 2025/25 – Growing up in poverty

Each year, Directors of Public Health (DPH) produce an annual report that tells the story about the health of their population. This year, we focus on one of the most urgent issues in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly (CIOS): child poverty. Over 27,000 children and young people (0-19 years) in CIOS are living in relative poverty. Poverty affects every part of a child's life, including their health, social and emotional wellbeing, education and their future aspirations.

### Highlighting the rural perspective on child poverty

Whilst poverty is a national issue, explored in reports such as the Children's Commissioner's 'Growing Up in a Low Income Family', the experiences of children in rural communities are often overshadowed by the national narrative. With this year's DPH report, we aimed to highlight the unique challenges faced by babies, children, and young people in CIOS, and we are committed to ensuring their voices contribute meaningfully to the national conversation on child poverty.

### The voices of babies, children and young people

Traditionally, DPH reports are quite formal. This year we chose to do something different - while data and statistics remain vital, and these are available to explore within the report, the report seeks to understand the lived experiences behind them.

Grounded in Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) – the right to be heard and taken seriously - we handed the report over to our babies, children, young people, and families. With support from 24 local VCSE groups, funded through micro-grants, they shared their experiences through art, storytelling, and other creative methods.

In total, 868 babies, children and young people, and 195 parents, from Isles of Scilly to Bude, courageously and honestly shared their experiences of poverty. Every contribution was carefully analysed and has directly shaped the findings and recommendations within the report.

### What we heard



Seven key themes emerged, reflecting the breadth and complexity of poverty's impact across the life course, from infancy to young adulthood. These themes are also shaped by the rural context in which many of our children are growing up. Children described the distinct rural issues of social isolation, digital exclusion, limited and costly public transport, low-paid employment opportunities, and the belief that owning a home in CIOS felt "impossible."



"(I earn) £10 an hour, 4 months a year...  
**6, if I'm lucky.**

Average house price: £284,000

Transport is **costly and unreliable.**

These are just the things that affect me, but with no job security, **how am I meant to hope for the future?**

**THINK!**

**Where will the youth of Cornwall, a beautiful and unique place, be in 15 years?**

Some will be **gone** and some **stuck**. And **Cornwall won't be the same."**

# Rural Poverty Conference

We brought these key themes together into an open letter that reflects the voices of children across CIOs. They describe what it's like to grow up in poverty, how it affects their lives, and the changes they want to see. Click here to hear this letter read aloud by our young people.

## Next steps

Poverty's impact on health is not inevitable, but no single agency can solve it alone. The report outlines recommendations, including the creation of a local Child Poverty Taskforce to develop and drive a Child Poverty Action Plan.

We hope this report inspires reflection, compassion, and action, so that CIOs can be a place where every child thrives.

*Read the full report: Director of Public Health annual report - Cornwall Council*



## Money Lender Paul Fox - Regional Partnership Manager South West Money & Pensions Service

“One of the challenges facing families and individuals in Cornwall who are experiencing a difficult financial situation is knowing where to turn for help. The cost of everyday essentials has been rising for the last few years, from supermarket basics to monthly bills, your money is likely not stretching as far as it used to. If you're behind on your bills or going into debt to pay them, the best thing you can do is take action now. There are places to turn to if you have money troubles or if you need help with bills urgently. You might be able to claim extra benefits to help you increase your income, such as the Household Support Fund and Universal Credit. Whether you're worried about everyday money, the bills you have to pay, rising rents, higher energy costs or tackling debt, MoneyHelper from the Government's Money and Pensions Service exists to support anyone across Cornwall who is struggling financially. We are a free, independent, and impartial service providing guidance when you need it, whatever your circumstances. We do not wish to see any Cornish family suffer in silence, and our resources and tools have already helped many Cornish households who are facing tough financial situations. Please contact us at [www.moneyhelper.org.uk](http://www.moneyhelper.org.uk) or call us for free and in confidence on 0800 138 7777.”



## Citizen's Advice Jon Berg CEO

Citizen's Advice offer free, confidential and independent advice on a wide range of issues including employment, benefits, housing, debt, consumer rights, discrimination and relationship breakdowns to everyone regardless of age, income, ethnicity, gender or religion. The Drop-In service is suspended so we can reduce our backlog of phone calls and recruit new volunteers. You can still get advice from us online, Citizens Advice over the phone 0808 812 7156 or by a pre-arranged appointment at one of our offices.



## SIMON FANN – Then Truro Foodbank Manager...Now Social Justice Advocate

### CHALLENGE POVERTY WEEK DIARY

Here is Simon's diary for Challenge Poverty Week 2025

**DAY ONE:** This week is Challenge Poverty Week. The intention is for organisations across the country to shine a light on issues relevant to their area. In Cornwall there are many factors that contribute to poverty...rural isolation, poor transport links, increasingly dispersed services, costs of living.. In previous years my posts in Challenge Poverty Week included photos of MPs and Councillors etc with the CPW banner. This year I'm not doing that. I'm taking a different path.



Here is photo of someone who is not famous and does not have a grand role. But he is the future and that's what makes this picture relevant. This is Aryan Shah, a business student who has worked on the Living Wage Place campaign for the last two years. Aryan superbly articulates the voice of the young for the campaign. He spoke at our launch event in February at Bedruthan hotel, underakes research for the campaign and speaks with businesses in Cornwall about the impact of minimum and insecure pay on young people in Cornwall. How businesses treat and reward young people is crucial, both for the person and the business. The government still has two tier age ranges for minimum statutory pay. Currently for 18-21s that is £10 per hour. Cornwall Living Wage Place Group (including Aryan and I) support the Living Wage Foundation real living wage that starts at age 18 and does not have an age banding. An accredited real living wage employer in Cornwall will be paying £12.61 to Aryan's age group. That has

to be a contribution to keeping young people out of poverty. Thank you for being a great supporter of the real living wage Aryan.

**DAY TWO:** with Claire Arymar, one of the Resettlement Team working with homeless people in Cornwall. I asked Claire how do you come across poverty in your role? What needs to happen to address it? Her answers reflect her experience and certainly offer a challenge:



“Some people struggle financially depending on their situation (low income, family size, unexpected change)...but poverty for the people I work with is not just about not having enough money, it is about identifying what exactly it is that means your income cannot last enough to be sufficient. Agencies need to ask hard questions like “Why haven't you solved your issue? What is blocking that happening?” Genuine poverty is only solved by sorting out the mindset as well as the issue – getting food from a foodbank is not enough. An individual has to choose how they prioritise spending. For some people they prioritise non-essential spending, but for many the reason for their situation is just too big. And that reason, in my experience, is ALWAYS related to TRAUMA.

Every person I work with is fixing their feelings from trauma stemming from childhood, abuse or addiction. The problem isn't poverty it's TRAUMA. We do not have the services in this country to fix trauma. In the West we prioritise success in terms of possessions or being the best version of ourselves. If you are weighed down by trauma it's impossible to succeed like this. In the 40 years I've been doing this job I have never known one person choose to be an addict or choose to have a horrible backstory. But that is what they carry. Success in these circumstances is having the mindset to overcome that backstory.

The system does not help this. Housing law is brutal. It's all about terms like priority need and intentionally homeless, not about trauma. So you have some squashed people coming up against hard authority, hence some just don't fit in the right box.

For some people creating any sense of entitlement is not helpful to them escaping poverty. People should feel they are giving something of themselves to receive assistance, to realise they can make a valued contribution to getting out of their situation.

To sort poverty we must enable people to move forward, not enable them to stay where they are. This should apply to all policy makers and decision takers. If homeless people paid £1 or £2 towards their food at a foodbank they would be more invested rather than just receiving something for nothing. We should all be striving to move people forward

# Challenge Poverty Week Diary

and not keep them where they are. If agencies just train people to become expectant how will they cope when the agency isn't there anymore?? Poverty is a system issue and a mindset issue”.

**DAY THREE:** Today I have been thinking about the absolute importance of COMMUNITY. I am truly fortunate to live in a village community where individuals and organisations really have a heart for those around them. But not everyone has that kind of support. There are some very isolated people, geographically and/or personally. It is too big for local communities to fix housing or mental health services but having the will to provide food or donations has really helped Truro Foodbank to assist those in food crisis.

Many thanks to everyone who gave food or money at the Grampound Harvest event; to everyone who hosted or gave money through the Grampound Gardens event, to the WI for their regular food donations, to Grampound Carnival for having the Foodbank as your charity this year. Even if we can't directly challenge poverty ourselves at least by coming together as a community we can commit to helping others at their time of need.

**DAY FOUR:** Who else is challenging poverty on a grass roots level? A big thank you for all the work done by small faith related groups such as Acts 435 and Another Way. Here are the wonderful Jean and Joff.



Jean is a lead for Acts 435 in Cornwall. if you have not heard of them that's because they don't seek publicity, they work quietly in the background. If someone comes into Foodbank and is struggling with a huge unexpected bill, eg big car repair or vets bill, we can refer to Acts 435. An assessor will confirm the situation with the person and then generate requests for assistance towards that bill in established genuine cases. This has been a massive relief to many people who were struggling anyway before being hit with another huge cost.

**Another Way** is a caring community that looks after people in a different way, through compassion and empathy.

There are many groups like this that help people in financial or spiritual poverty. The main focus of national campaigns run by nationwide organizations like Trussell should be to reduce the numbers of people needing this grass roots help by campaigning for policy change in a way that we can't at grass roots level



**DAY FIVE:** How do we challenge poverty of Hope? Total respect for Richard Gray and A Band of Brothers (abob) The mentors in ABOB come alongside young men who have had a brush with the criminal legal system but might not have any recourse to a father figure or someone to be there to offer constructive advice. it's essential to show there is hope, there is another possible future, that the path is not set into a spiralling life of criminality.

By mentoring these young men, celebrating a 'homecoming' and offering hope they are offering a very real life challenge to poverty. Our services now cannot/do not focus enough on prevention. And the absence of fatherly guidance combined with criminal exposure is probably one of the traumas Claire was talking about earlier this week. Organisations like ABOB are the best bet we have at prevention. The amount of money society saves from the work of ABOB must be shown as an example and reason not to keep on cutting services to the core, to the point we cannot deal with what is in front of us, let alone think about preventing future implications.

**DAY SIX:** Truro Foodbank has a Citizens Advice worker, currently funded by Trussell. This is an organisation, and an individual, that definitely and defiantly challenges poverty Tara is an awesome asset to our service - in her first year with us she found £150k of benefits and entitlements Foodbank customers should have got. From April to June finding another £31k of benefits and resolving £62k of debt. I asked her two questions:

## 1. How do you help people struggling with poverty?

“My role as a Citizens Advice Adviser is to help people navigate issues such as housing, benefits and debts - these can often be complex or legal systems and people need help knowing where to start, how they interact, how to prioritise issues or how to deal with complications/problems.

I'm based at Truro Foodbank so deal with clients at the point of emergency need and not being able to afford food - this is often due to trauma, insecure housing, health issues or loss of employment/income.



Many people are just a few pay days from poverty. At the point where someone goes from having earnings paying bills to being reliant on SSP or UC it's difficult for people manage this change of income with their current outgoings (tied in contracts, household bills, high rent costs they could previously afford etc) and the pressures of this along with whatever else they have going on in their life can be overwhelming.

I help with things like income maximisation, budgeting, managing debts and using my contacts or knowledge about how the systems operate to empower people in what can feel like a helpless situation.

## 2. Why do you have to do it/why is your role needed?

"Have you tried to fill in a government form recently???"

... enough said! Remember the above figures are just for Truro Foodbank, try escalating them across Cornwall and ask how many people are struggling with poverty who should not be. One final figure in

the South West 37-42% of Foodbank customers who have their finances sorted by the likes of Tara do not need to come back to the Foodbank. That is truly challenging poverty.

**FINAL ENTRY FOR CPW 2025:** Challenge Poverty Week 2025 round up. Posts over the last seven days focussed on actual people making a real impact on poverty. Poverty of income, poverty of hope, poverty of spirit, poverty of accommodation, poverty of chance. It's all poverty, so what was the common theme??

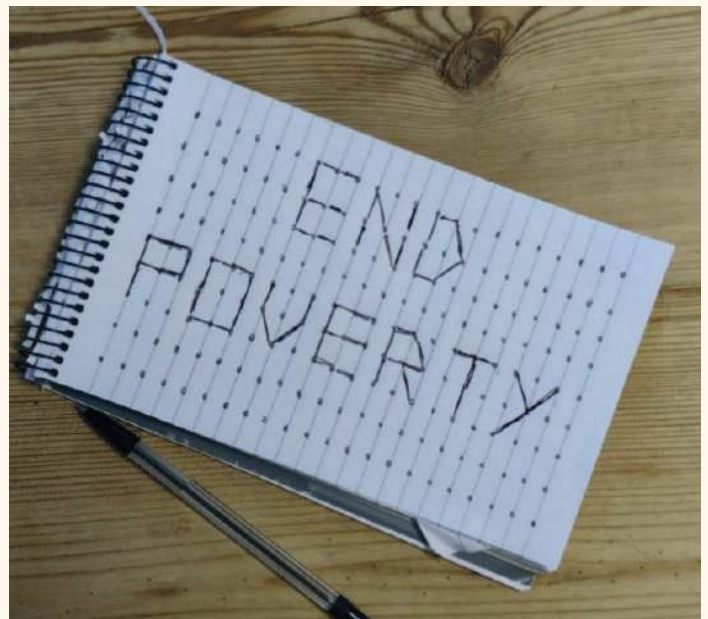
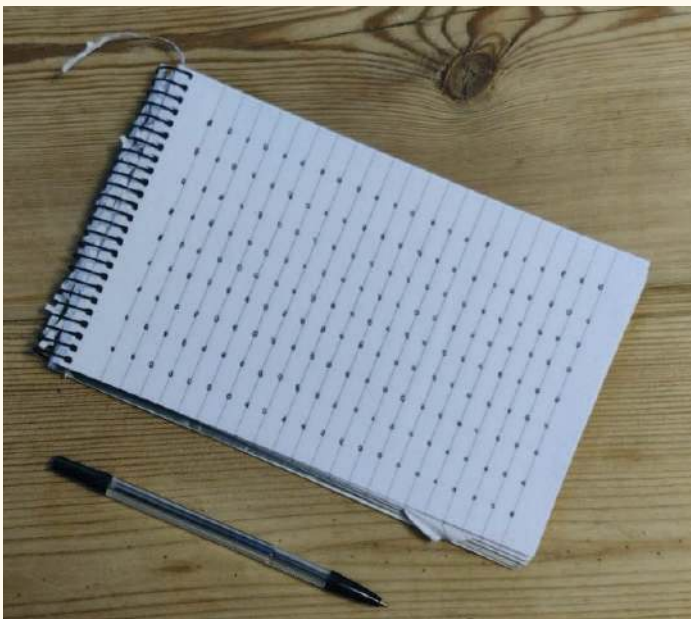
My visual representation of the common theme is a page full of dots. Jean from Acts 435 is a dot, Joff from Another Way is a dot, Richard from A Band of Brothers, Tara from Citizens Advice, Claire from the Resettlement Team, Aryan, the community harvest festival....all dots. The best way to challenge poverty is to be a dot that wants to be joined and for someone to join the dots for the people that can't.

There are many other dots I could mention. Academic dots like Harry Pitts (Uni of Exeter), Joannie and Malcolm (IoCS); economic growth dots like Stacey and Clare and the Good Growth Team at the Council; business dots such as Patrick Langmaid (Mother Iveys), Emma Fashokun (Cornish Gems), Matt Greaves (SWAISolutions), Julie-Anne Sunderland (Wildanet), Nathan Mallows (Coastline); VSF dots such as Ben Bolton, Kate Perkin and Ellen Rudge.

Here's the thing about dots. There is no hierarchy and no duplication. Emma Rowse is CEO of VSF, Allister Young is CEO of Coastline, Clinton Sealy is Operations Director at Transformation Cornwall, I chair the Cornwall Living Wage Place Group, Jon Berg is CEO at Citizens Advice. But every dot is level on a piece of paper. What we share is a desire to be joined. If we act individually we risk duplicating scarce resource. To do something about poverty dots have to want to be joined and be willing to work unreservedly with the dots they connect to.

If we can construct an operational plan to deal with poverty in Cornwall would YOU be a dot that wants to join in? If so what would your dot bring?— I'm genuinely asking. Answers to

simonf@truro.foodbank.org.uk



Thank you to all our volunteers for your time and help

# Organisations Participating In The Week and Visits

Highlighting the issues of poverty and making positive changes

2025 The Cornwall Independent Poverty Forum in partnership with Church Action on Poverty, organised and promoted Challenge Poverty Week Cornwall 2025. We asked organisations and projects working to address poverty to invite local leaders to come and visit them to highlight the excellent work they do but also to give insights into the reasons why so many people within our communities are in poverty. The leaders were Councillors, Church leaders, M.P.'s and decision makers from statutory and voluntary organisations. This awareness raising is vital so that we can all work together to solve the problem of poverty. Through our support from Church Action on Poverty we are able to give Cornwall a voice at the centre of the national debate. Twenty projects and organisations participated in this year's Challenge Poverty Week Cornwall. Thanks to all who took part in making a positive change and challenging poverty.

## Organisations and Projects participating in the Week and Visits

### BUDE POVERTY FORUM



CIPF held its October meeting in Bude. We were guests of St Michaels Church. A useful networking meeting brought people together from the area with ideas and a commitment to improving communication sharing among the various groups working to tackle poverty in the town.

### BODMIN WAY



Andrew Williams DL visited the St Petroc's Parish Centre which is one of the bases of the Bodmin Way. This Social Enterprise run by local churches supports people

in poverty in a number of ways such as welcome spaces, a community larder and an innovative Parish Nursing project

### CORNWALL LIVED EXPERIENCE PARTNERSHIP

Met in Challenge Poverty Week and continue to prioritise the need for the voices of lived experience to be at the



centre of framing policy and decisions. On this occasion there was a presentation and discussion of issues around carers.

### FALMOUTH SALVATION ARMY



Jayne Kirkham MP visited the Salvation Army Falmouth multi-agency drop in to speak with all of those attending.

We run community drop ins to support the need in Falmouth twice a week. We provide lunch & breakfast to those who struggle to feed themselves or families warm healthy food. Whether its access, lack of funds or just not enough money to go around.

## TAMAS HAYDU CEO CORNWALL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Cornwall Community Foundation's Vital Signs Report brings together detailed research, community voices and case studies to reveal the full picture of life in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly today. The report provides in-depth analysis and actionable insights to help build stronger, more resilient communities across the county.



## CHRISTMAS GIVING CATALOGUE

Rebecca Evans of Diocese of Truro highlighting the 2025 Christmas Catalogue that was initiated by Cornwall Poverty Forum and now overseen by the Truro Diocese.



Once again 20 projects from right across Cornwall who are tackling social inequalities and deprivation in a variety of ways were featured alongside all the Foodbanks in Cornwall. As raising much needed funds for the different charities, the catalogue plays a key role in showcasing the commitment of volunteers within the organisations and also highlights the needs and challenges that local people continue to face as a result of the continuing cost of living crisis.

## TRURO HOMELESS ACTION GROUP (THAG)

Rob Nolan, Chair of Cornwall County Council and local councillor, visited Truro Homeless Action Group's breakfast club for the homeless and vulnerable to help highlight the issue of food poverty in Cornwall. Rob saw the work of the volunteers, including Gyl Grundy featured in the photo, who produce cooked breakfasts at St John's church hall in Truro 365 days of the year for those in need.



## BF ADVENTURES



At BF Adventure we are committed to inspiring children and young people to learn differently in the outdoors.

The derivatives of poverty impact on children's access to education and we work with a range of partners to overcome barriers and ensure that all children have access to an education that inspires.

## CORNWALL VOLUNTARY SECTOR FORUM ALLIANCES



Members of Cornwall VSF and the Homeless and Housing Food Access Alliances met in Challenge Poverty Week to explore how these organisations can collaborate more effectively around the poverty agenda, identify opportunities to strengthen collective impact, and ensure efforts are complementary.

## HARBOUR HOUSING

Ben Bolton visited Harbour Housing during CPW 2025



Harbour Housing shows what can happen when we start from trust, see people as individuals and believe in their capacity to grow. If we want to end poverty, we need to start by seeing each other differently and by building communities where everyone belongs.

## TRANSFORMATION CORNWALL



Transformation Cornwall - Clinton Sealy with Andrew Yates introducing the programme for the CPW Conference. At Transformation Cornwall, we work to strengthen faith based social action by supporting groups addressing poverty, exclusion and disadvantage. In 2025 we are supporting rural poverty for Challenge Poverty Week, and we recognise the unique challenges that many people face. Transformation Cornwall are working in partnership with the Cornwall Independent Poverty Forum and all those striving for justice and dignity across our rural communities.

## PAUL PHILLIPS, THE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY OFFICER AT THE CPW 2025 CONFERENCE.



Paul in partnership with Plymouth Marjon University looked at the insights from the Pretty Poverty Report.

He presented during the Conference the Six Pillars of Rural Poverty, connecting six themes that define rural poverty in Cornwall. These are: Transport Dependency, Housing Displacement, Employment Precarity, Healthcare Withdrawal,

Education Isolation and Community Resilience

The Pretty Poverty Report reveals that addressing rural deprivation requires fundamental shifts from urban-centric assumption to rural - specific realities grounded in lived experience. Only then can we tackle the genuine challenges facing our rural communities.

Paul also works in partnership with the Cornwall Independent Poverty Forum.

## GROWING LINKS

As part of Challenge Poverty Week, Ben Bolton, visited Growing Links in Penzance, a community-led



organisation that has spent over a decade nurturing something vital, connection and relationships. What began as a small, grassroots initiative has evolved into a trusted and respected organisation, one that supports hundreds of local people each year through food, friendship and purpose. At Growing Links people can come in for a hot meal at the canteen, and receive support and advice. The strength lies in its relationships, not only between staff and service users, but this is a place where people come to be supported and often end up supporting others in turn. I left Growing Links with a real sense of admiration. The importance of healthy nutritious food still plays a vital part in supporting the community. What struck me most wasn't just the range of support on offer through collaboration, but the depth of connection between people.

Ben Bolton

## TRAVELLER SPACE



Ben Bolton visited Traveller Space, as part of Challenge Poverty Week. Traveller Space plays a crucial role in supporting Gypsy, Traveller and van dwelling communities across Cornwall. What I saw was far more than a service provider, it was trust, belonging and advocacy brought to life. Traveller Space aim to break down barriers to prevent access to health education and welfare services, as well as other opportunities in the wider community. We also offer advice during crises such as evictions. Traveller Space stands as a powerful reminder that community-led solutions work best when the start with trust. Photo from main article of traditional home.

## Community Wealth Fund - Gavin Barker

### Community Wealth Fund Proposal update

The proposal for a community wealth fund for Cornwall continues to capture interest and we are exploring how that interest can translate into something more concrete in terms of finding the necessary pump-prime funding to get this off the ground. A related consideration is building the necessary partnership structure and resources needed to launch such a scheme. We continue to lobby MPs and Jayne Kirkham MP has been very supportive and helped enable communication with Crown Estates who in turn have expressed interest in seeing the wealth fund give stronger focus on community energy.

Subsequently, we have had meetings with Energy4All, Community Energy Plus and more recently Celtic Power Cornwall. At the meeting with Celtic Power Cornwall, they gave an overview of their 'Social and Environmental Investment Portfolio', a set of initiatives that are investment-ready. This relates to the requirement on the part of large offshore renewable energy companies to fulfil social and environmental criteria laid down by Crown Estates as a condition for leasing areas of the seabed on which they operate. This includes funding community schemes which have a social and environmental purpose. However the funding streams from offshore wind energy companies are not likely to be activated for another two years but Celtic Seapower Investment Portfolio is preparing the ground now.

Cornwall Poverty Forum are reviewing how the wealth fund initiative fits into such a scheme and whether a separate proposal should be submitted as part of the Celtic Seapower Investment Portfolio with a more narrow focus on funding existing poverty reduction initiatives.

## 2022 Cornwall Living Wage Place Campaign - an update Simon Fann!

In 2022 Truro Foodbank noticed a rise in in work poverty amongst customers coming in for emergency food help. A three month assessment of referrals found that 30% of the households coming to Truro Foodbank had at least one person in employment, in Newquay foodbank at that time it was 40% - the national average of employed households needing to use a Trussell foodbank was 20%. Clearly there were issues with pay and conditions in Cornwall.

That's why we looked into what could be done to help people in these circumstances and decided to work with the Living Wage Foundation (LWF). Each year they assess what is the only independently calculated real living wage (rlw) based on real costs such as housing, food and energy. The impact of low pay in Cornwall and the drive to do something about it really started with the Challenge Poverty Week event in 2023 organised by the CIPF.

The LWF promotes Living Wage Places – areas where employers are strongly urged to pay the rlw. There were 16 when we started work on this in Cornwall – there are now 19. The others are cities (like Bristol, Newcastle, Cardiff, Edinburgh). The 2023 Challenge Poverty Week event in Newquay generated significant momentum and definitely raised awareness. This is what has been achieved in the two years since:

- Cornwall became the first county area in the UK to be accredited as a Living Wage Place. The launch event was at Bedruthan Hotel on 14th February this year.
- The number of real living wage employers in Cornwall accredited with the LWF has risen from 113 from 310.
- The number of employees guaranteed to receive at least the real living wage in Cornwall is now over 15,000.
- The Cornwall Living Wage Place Campaign received national recognition at the LWF Annual Champion awards, being awarded Campaign of the Year 2025.

The Cornwall Living Wage Place Group will continue to encourage employers to pay the rlw because this has proven to be beneficial to employees and employers alike. Accredited businesses report that, because they retain staff they pay fairly, they spend less on recruitment and training, keeping experienced staff provides better customer service, better service generates repeat custom and increases profitability. It's a win-win for company and staff....and will help keep many people out of the clutches of poverty. Email: [simonf@truro.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:simonf@truro.foodbank.org.uk)

## 2024 Housing And Homelessness - Wouter Klinkenberg

In 2024 the focus was on issues of Housing and Homelessness. Cornwall Community Foundation launched an Appeal to establish a Housing Action Fund. This Appeal was very successful and recently almost £140,000 was awarded to Cornish Projects from this fund

18 applications were received in total, of which 2 were first-time applicants. The success rate for the fund was 89%. Grants awarded covered services across Cornwall. Amongst grant awardees were:

- YMCA Cornwall who received £5,000 towards their campaign to build four new self-contained flats at their HQ in Penzance
- WaveHouse Church (Turnaround House) in Newquay who received £5,000 towards renovating and furnishing an empty property to create housing for 4 homeless/at risk residents.
- Truro Homeless Action Group who received £4,500 to help cover increases in rent, utilities and food prices.
- St Petrocs who were awarded unrestricted multi-year funding of £10,000 for 3 years.
- Three Seas Cornwall who were awarded a repayable grant award of £45,000 to support development work on a community housing project to convert a disused Isles of Scilly primary school into 7 affordable homes.

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: *'Tackling social inclusion in Cornwall'*

Charity No 1183177

