

Poverty Truth Commission (PTC):

An Introductory Conversion.

What most excites you about a PTC in York?

The Values it embodies

- Hope
- Honesty
- Sharing
- Wisdom
- Truth
- The potential to speak the *truth* to power
- Ability to speak the truth about York specifically

Building relationships

- Removing silos
- Involving and connecting with members of the Local Authority
- Talking in one room together
- Encouraging civic leaders out for a *real conversation*
- Becoming 'more human' to one another
- *Collaboration*
- Meeting a range of people involved

Voices

- The voices of those with experience will be at the centre
- The mechanism of the commission will allow for voices to be *truly heard*
- The commission will also recognise the value of the voice with experience

Impact on York and nationally

- Will create a new space to get together
- Can impact a smaller area, and then reach out nationally
- York will become a part of the wider movement
- Will raise awareness of the *hidden depravation* existing in York
- Will make us confront the hidden issues

The process/ system

- A simple system with a shared purpose
- An *opportunity* for real change
- A chance to re-evaluate our values system

Other good things ...

- The results!
- An opportunity to understand the different types of capital
- Bursting the bubble of complacency
- *A chance to question* the fundamentals
- It is independent

What most concerns you about a PTC in York?

No real change

- This feels like *'Deja-vu'*
- Lots of noise with *no result*
- A good process with not much to show
- That we stick to certain habits of the same groups talking

It is Tokenistic

- That the process becomes *'poverty porn'*
- That no power is really given to those who should be equal
- The need to achieve beyond a few tweaks which should be changed anyway

Wellbeing of commissioners isn't considered

- That we *don't hear people* as they describe themselves
- People are easily manipulated
- That we might overload people
- We should recognise that some things might seem small but make a big difference to people's lives

The elephant in the room isn't addressed

- Failure to address the elephant in the room
- That this becomes *political football*
- Where is the 'wealth commission'?
- People should be *paid for their involvement*. Why not?

- Discussion may be reduced to money or to blame
- Why was no one with relevant lived experience asked to be on the steering group?

Longer term needs aren't thought of

- This PTC needs the time to get this right
- What will happen after the *3 years funding* has run out?
- Funders become over influential because of long term nature
- Short term needs are so different to the long term

That we don't get the right people in the room

- This needs support from *skilled people*
- We need to get the facilitation right
- Can we persuade enough *local decision makers* to give this their energy?
- Numerous barriers to getting all sorts of the 'right people' in the room

That we don't manage expectations

- We don't want to *over promise* and under deliver
- How we manage peoples recognising some things we can't change?

That we don't overcome Systemic barriers

- We don't want to process to remain *top down*
- Things happening at central government are potentially making things worse – so can we really change things?

- We may run in to frustration because of attempting to catch up with the national picture
- We need to keep in mind that York is different to Leeds
- We may *fail to address systemic conditioning* or behaviours
- There may be pre-conceived outcomes which shape our direction
- We might slip in to reductive narratives
- The infrastructure we fund just becomes a part of the poverty industry

That voices aren't heard

- How will a *fair representation* of people be achieved?
- Getting local companies involved and thinking about the consequences of this
- Risk that voices are not heard outside of the PTC and it is ignored overall
- Risk that voices are not heard within the PTC, so further marginalisation
- Worry that opportunities aren't made *accessible for disabled people*, or others who could be left out
- Other commissions have not necessarily achieved representation of those with experience, so how can we?

What's your highest dream for the PTC in York?

We hope that:

- we no longer need a PTC!
 - it *reduces poverty*
 - it creates change further afield than just York
 - everyone who's struggling knows where to go
 - it's *trauma informed*
 - it sets a benchmark for how social issues are addressed
 - it is fully in-keeping with sociocracy decision making
 - it challenges public misconceptions and the negative narratives around poverty
 - it becomes a turning point
 - it is *sustainable*
 - it makes people feel inspired and aspirational
 - our system values friendships and connections alongside money
 - it *ends the stigma* around poverty
 - it encourages self-actualisation
 - conversations and actions continue
 - we avoid self-selection of voices
 - there's a local basic income
 - there's *radical change*, not just tweaks
 - it gives people dignity
 - there is universal support across the city for this work
 - it bring about culture change
 - there's access to opportunity
- those who can make a difference hear us
 - we recognise the links to other areas

Feedback from Those with Experience

What do you need to participate?

- **Being paid**
- Child care or ability to bring kids along
- A space where people to feel accepted and safe
- **Nurturing**
- Make it attractive for people to enjoy
- Accessible venues for meetings
- Peer involvement for interviews alongside the facilitator
- Leaflet invite, not email
- Prospect of food
- **Flexibility**
- Sense of humour and to be thick skinned

How would you like to get involved? What would you need to be able to get involved? What role would you like to play?

- Not sure yet
- Needs to know more
- **Help to destigmatise poverty**, to make the PTC feel inclusive
- Trips to other PTC's
- Being prepared and briefed on both sides
- Work through community networks and connectors
- Having a voice **heard**
- Gifts payment
- VOL expenses
- **Time** – usually limited if people are working
- Good ground rules to enable voice (passing the ball)

Who might the community commissioners and civic commissioners be?

- **Anyone connected** to York
- Business and civic headers

Feedback from Community Groups

What do you need in order to participate?

- To **create energy** around this - Need to show how it's different - not a tick-box approach.
- Information about expectations – for those stepping forwards and for the organisations
- **Accessibility** - in a different ways and for different people - including interpreters
- Privilege check-ins
- To feel supports and not exploited
- Good mental health support
- To be paid for our time and expenses
- A **sense of purpose**
- A clear invitation
- **Accessible terminology**
- Time and space
- A wealth truth commission

What role would community groups like to play? How would they like to be involved?

- Important to share as widely as possible
- Role – Creative, explorative, connective and nourishing
- **Challenging stereotypes**
- Identifying, preparing and supporting community commissioners
- Contributing experience of helping those in povert

What do community groups need to be able to help recruit and connect Community Commissioners?

- **Clear communications** and good comms team (press officer)
- Designers, specialists, framing and invitations (comms interpretation)
- Trusting relationships on the ground
- Good governance
- **Training** (systems, non-violent communication, trauma informed)
- Trust from stakeholders
- To offer long term support

How do we ensure a good mix of community commissioners from different backgrounds?

- Support to make sure anyone really can take part
- **Visiting** and engaging the local community (not expecting people to come to us)
- Making communications personal - telephone calls, face-to-face meetings
- Not going to usual suspects - broadening out
- Make it **fully inclusive** - so not just online
- Targeted approaches to diversity
- Be actively inclusive, **call out discrimination** when we see it
- **Accessible** – support, open spaces, digital transport, financial, inclusive spaces, childcare, care

Feedback from Stakeholders

Do you need anything to participate in PTC?

- Make it the *councils business*
- Help to identify the right people to participate
- A '*call to arms*', a 'big sell' to galvanize interest
- Longevity and commitment to process
- For this to permeate into the DNA of York
- For us to provide support and space to civic commissioners
- Time to participate and time for the process to unfold
- There would need to be a *council decision* to ensure ongoing commitment to the process as council leadership changes

How would you like to be kept involved/informed/engaged with the development with PTC?

- Continue to be involved in a meaningful way
- Continued *communications* and information sharing
- *Consistent stakeholders* to champion action
- Get listening, get culture right
- Launch the event publicly
- Plenty of press coverage
- Internal communications
- *Participate through events* rather than being kept informed by emails
- Periodic events
- Events out in the community with *real people*

Who will civic Commissioners be?

- *Council leaders*
- Officers
- DWP (local person)
- NHS
- First York
- Faith leaders
- CVS
- Those from education
- The *community commissioners need to determine this*
- Businesses
- Faith groups
- Emergency Services
- Probation services
- Aviva
- Nestle
- Portacabin
- Rail
- Hiscox
- *Hospitality sector*