

22nd April 2024



Dear Colleague

Challenge Poverty Week 2023

Please find attached a copy of the 2023 Challenge Poverty Week (CPW) Report. CPW was organised by a partnership of Cornwall Voluntary Sector Forum (CVSF), Cornwall Independent Poverty Forum (CIPF) and the Cornwall Real Living Wage Group.

Report available at [Challenge-Poverty-Week-Report-October-2023-B-min.pdf](https://cornwallindependentpovertyforum.com/Challenge-Poverty-Week-Report-October-2023-B-min.pdf)
(cornwallindependentpovertyforum.com)

The report includes a record of the significant CPW Conference held at St Michael's Newquay with summaries of contributors such as the VIVA group with their poems drawn from their lived experience and Simon Fann of Truro Foodbank calling for a campaign to make Cornwall a Real Living Wage Place. You can also read about many of the community groups who work so hard to reduce the impact that the cost of living crisis is having on so many people.

We hope the Report will act as a platform to inspire further action to challenge poverty and its causes .

Cornwall VSF are delighted to have supported Challenge Poverty Week and the Real Living Wage event in October 2023. The launch of this report provides a useful reminder of the need to keep this issue front and centre in people's minds. The voluntary, community and social enterprise sector has a role to play in making Cornwall the first RLW place, for the benefit of our people, our staff and volunteers and our Cornish economy."

Real Living Wage Place 2023 research estimates there were 60,000 workers in Cornwall earning less than £12 per hour, including 20% of male part time workers and 40% of female part time workers. Yet so many private, public and third sector organisations see real benefits accrue to the company, not just the staff, from making the commitments recommended by the Living Wage Foundation. **So why would anyone not want to see Cornwall become a Living Wage Place where employers are urged to pay the real living wage?**

CIPF have launched the Community Manifesto in the lead up to the General Election
[A Community Manifesto for Cornwall 2024 – Cornwall Independent Poverty Forum](#)

We are asking people across Cornwall to submit ideas which they think will help make Cornwall a fairer and more just place to live. We will especially value contributions from people with lived experience of poverty or social exclusion. **If you have a specific proposal please email it to info@cornwallindependentpovertyforum.com**

Please do circulate the report and this message widely to your networks.

Thank you

Emma Rowse CEO Cornwall Voluntary Sector Forum
Simon Fann Manager Truro Foodbank
Andrew Yates Chair Cornwall Independent Poverty Forum