

Poverty in Morecambe Bay



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Abbreviations

MB - Morecambe Bay

Morecambe Bay – Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust Area

PTC – Poverty Truth Commission

UK- United Kingdom

Introduction

Addressing the 66th United Nations General Assembly, Former Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon said that “Saving the planet, lifting people out of poverty and advancing economic growth anywhere are one and the same fight for human security everywhere”. In this way, working to overcome poverty falls well within the remit of the Richardson Institute’s positive peace agenda. Poverty actively damages the lives of thousands of people within the wider community which Lancaster University finds itself a part of: the Morecambe Bay NHS Trust Foundation area (Morecambe Bay hereafter). This paper is a part of a wider research project with the wider goal of the Richardson Institute attempting to bridge this knowledge gap of poverty in the area, by working on behalf of the Poverty Truth Commission (PTC hereafter) to contribute to the study of poverty in the local area.

In the project brief, we were asked to look at four aspects around poverty in the Morecambe Bay area:

1. To provide as much definitive information on poverty in Morecambe Bay as possible.
2. To compile a directory of statutory, third sector, faith sector and other relevant agencies working for the alleviation of poverty within Morecambe Bay.
3. To assess the extent to which these agencies fulfil the PTC adage “nothing about us without us is for us.”
4. To discover possible funding sources available for the alleviation of poverty in Morecambe Bay.

The aim of this investigation is thus to provide the PTC with information regarding the level of poverty, current sectors and other relevant agencies tackling poverty, and reveal further potential for the PTC to promote their conviction. This report is relevant because Morecambe Bay has substantial areas of multiple deprivation visible in the high percentage of poverty.

Firstly, we define Morecambe Bay geographically and provide as much definitive information on poverty in Morecambe Bay as possible. Hereafter, a categorisation of poverty applied to Morecambe Bay will illustrate the prevailing situation of poverty. Several case studies of certain areas are also provided. Based on the awareness of existing poverty, we identify different agencies working for the alleviation of poverty in Morecambe Bay. To concretise this, the report compiles a directory of statutory and private sector initiatives, along with third sector organisations which are actively engaged in overcoming poverty. Moreover, the report will evaluate the extent to which these agencies fulfil the PTC adage “nothing about us without us is for us”.

The overall view of poverty in Morecambe Bay shows that some areas exhibit significant poverty whereas others are relatively affluent. Although poverty and related issues are present all around the Bay from Barrow to Fleetwood, due to being separated by a number of administrative boundaries, there is no unified plan for issues affecting many residents in the area. There are several initiatives from the public, private, and charity sectors present throughout Morecambe Bay which attempt to overcome poverty; most focus on relieving the effects of poverty, rather than tackling its root causes. Although the scale of poverty and related issues in Morecambe Bay is very large, so too is the energy and enthusiasm of individuals and groups working with, and helping people to overcome the poverty in which they find themselves.

Background

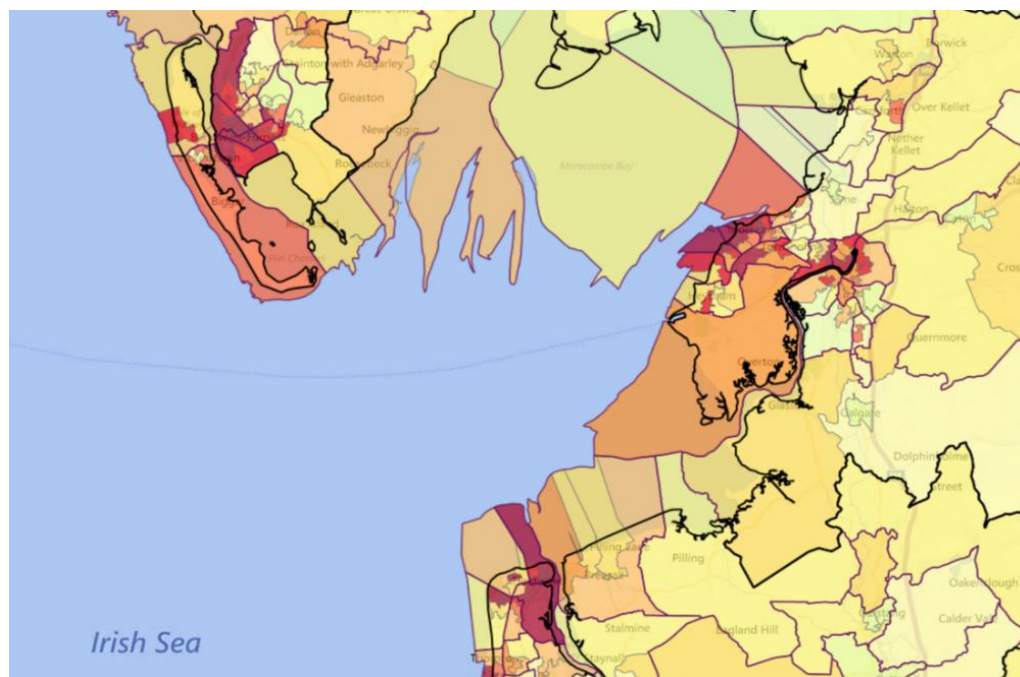


Figure 1: Map from Indices of Deprivation 2015. The darker colours indicate more deprived areas. (source: <http://dclgapps.communities.gov.uk/imd/idmap.html>)

Morecambe Bay is almost 200 square miles (518 sq km), the second largest bay in the UK.¹ Morecambe Bay stretches from the south west coast of Cumbria to Fleetwood in Lancashire, taking in coastal towns such as Grange Over Sands, Morecambe and Heysham.² Most populated cities of Morecambe Bay are Barrow-in-Furness (69,100), Morecambe (33,400) and Fleetwood (26,000).

Barrow-in-Furness has 13 communities that rank within the 10% most deprived of areas in England. Furthermore, six of Barrow-in-Furness's communities are classified as being within the 3% most deprived nationally.³ Fleetwood is the most deprived area in the Wyre with unemployment twice the Lancashire rate, the highest number of Houses of Multiple Occupancy/social housing, the lowest life expectancy and household income, along with the highest benefit dependency and crime rate.⁴ Many local rural communities highlight that younger groups – particularly families – are moving away. This is often due to a lack of affordable housing, or not having suitable employment and training opportunities. These groups are often replaced by more affluent older families, for example moving in from urban areas. The population in urban areas is decreasing, which is a marked contrast to the 20th century when these areas were seen to be prosperous and developed.

Method

This report uses a mixture of quantitative and qualitative methods to work with both primary and secondary resources. The approach was chosen consciously to integrate different perspectives regarding the diverse problem of poverty.

We use quantitative methods including statistical and numerical analysis of data to provide broad patterns of poverty in Morecambe Bay as well as to present problems and situations in a precise manner. Numerical evidence is

¹ Spicker, P., 2007. *Poverty: An International Glossary*. London: ZedBooks.

² Bramley, G., 2016. Structure rather than behaviour: on the causes of poverty. [online] Available at: <http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/politicsandpolicy/what-causes-poverty/> [Accessed 15 March 2017].

³ The Lankelly Chase Foundation, 2015. Hard Edges Mapping severe and multiple disadvantage England. [online] Available at: <http://lankellychase.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Hard-Edges-Mapping-SMD-2015.pdf> [Accessed 15 March 2017].

⁴ Briggs, S., 2015. Holiday in Morecambe and its history. [online] Available at: <http://www.stuartbriggs.co.uk/holiday-in-morecambe-and-its-history/> [Accessed 15 March 2017].

needed to illustrate and support our findings.

Qualitative methods are used to analyse interviews, non-numerical data and to evaluate whether multiple agencies that work to alleviate poverty in the area fulfil the PTC motto "nothing about us without us is for us".

The primary resources were mainly based on interviews with the Chief Executive Officer of the Lancaster District Community & Voluntary Solutions and a development worker of the Church Urban Fund in central and west Lancashire. The researchers tried to integrate personal views and professional knowledge of those who have been working in the alleviation of poverty in Morecambe Bay.

Secondary resources are websites, social media, books, reports, articles, news, and statistics from national agencies. This research provides a wider range of information and a practical insight of agencies, which tackle poverty.

Poverty Indicators

In order to better understand how the population of Morecambe Bay is affected by poverty, in this section we discuss three broad definitions of poverty and five specific types of poverty that shows the level of deprivation of the area: structural poverty, relative poverty, absolute poverty, child-poverty, fuel-poverty, migration-poverty, health-poverty and economic deprivation.

Structural Poverty

Structural poverty refers to poverty caused by social or economic structures.⁵ This inclusive definition accounts for poverty from a systemic perspective, inviting a society-wide inquiry into the nature of poverty. Lankelly Chase Foundation reports that severe and multiple disadvantage adults who are most likely to display dysfunctional behaviours, only account for a small proportion (around 4 percent) of the proportion of the population in overall poverty.⁶

The local economies in Morecambe Bay have traditionally relied heavily on seaside tourism, especially from the early to mid 20th century.⁷ However, a report from The Office for National Statistics (ONS) in 2013 reveals that many English seaside destinations are suffering from high levels of deprivation since people increasingly choose to go abroad for their holidays.⁸ Rising wages and emerging cheap airlines allow for budget holidays to competitive resorts where the weather is more ideal for holidays. Coastal towns in Morecambe Bay have suffered from the loss of tourists. There is an evident link between a decline in tourism and deprivation, including income deprivation and employment deprivation.⁹ According to the ONS report, Barrow-in-Furness is the 9th most deprived larger seaside destination in England (out of 31). While Morecambe is the 6th most deprived mid-sized seaside destinations in England; Fleetwood is the 11th most deprived (out of 26).¹⁰

Relative poverty

An individual suffers from 'relative poverty' if they lack the minimum amount of income needed in order to maintain the average standard of living in society, leading to exclusion from ordinary living patterns, customs and activities.¹¹ While absolute poverty refers to a set standard which is the same in all countries and which does not change over time, the standard for relative poverty depends on which country the individual is living in.¹² In the

⁵ Spicker, P., 2007. *Poverty: An International Glossary*. London: ZedBooks.

⁶ The Lankelly Chase Foundation, 2015. Hard Edges Mapping severe and multiple disadvantage England. [online] Available at: <http://lankellychase.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Hard-Edges-Mapping-SMD-2015.pdf> [Accessed 15 March 2017].

⁷ Briggs, S., 2015. Holiday in Morecambe and its history. [online] Available at: <http://www.stuartbriggs.co.uk/holiday-in-morecambe-and-its-history/> [Accessed 15 March 2017].

⁸ Office for National Statistics, 2013. A Profile of Deprivation in Larger English Seaside Destinations, 2007 and 2010. [online] Available at: http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20160105160709/http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/dcp171766_324196.pdf [Accessed 15 March 2017].

⁹ Office for National Statistics, 2013. A Profile of Deprivation in Larger English Seaside Destinations, 2007 and 2010. [online] Available at: http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20160105160709/http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/dcp171766_324196.pdf [Accessed 15 March 2017].

¹⁰ Office for National Statistics, 2013. A Profile of Deprivation in Larger English Seaside Destinations, 2007 and 2010. [online] Available at: http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20160105160709/http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/dcp171766_324196.pdf [Accessed 15 March 2017].

¹¹ Poverty.org.uk., 2017. *Social exclusion - The Poverty Site*. [online] Available at: <http://www.poverty.org.uk/summary/social%20exclusion.shtml#note3> [Accessed 15 March 2017].

¹² Poverty.org.uk., 2017. *Social exclusion - The Poverty Site*. [online] Available at:

UK, people in relative poverty live in households with income below 60% of the median household income.

The 2013 median household income in the UK 2013 is £28,024.¹³ The median household income in Barrow-in-Furness is £22,685, in South Lakeland is £25,780.¹⁴ Cumbria is a low pay economy where employees tend to be paid lower wages, particular for part-time employment.¹⁵ In 2015, the percentage of jobs in Lancaster not paying the living wage was 26.9%, compared to 23% in the UK.¹⁶ Many areas in towns such Barrow-in-Furness, Morecambe, Fleetwood, Heysham and Lancaster are among most 10% to 40% deprived areas in England, according to the Indices of Deprivation 2015.¹⁷ These statistics indicate the extent of low income and relative poverty in Morecambe Bay.

The indicators of relative poverty include no access to a vehicle, not being able to pay for energy bills and fuel for vehicle, joblessness and ill health.¹⁸ Barrow-in-Furness has a very high rate on poverty indicators: 16.8% of households earn less than £10000 per year, 19.8% are workless, and 29.9% don't have access to a vehicle.¹⁹ Many villages in South Lakeland are also suffering from deprivation.²⁰ Experiencing relative poverty, many people in Barrow-in-Furness suffer from poor housing, poor diet and poor quality of life.²¹

Cumbria County Council has attempted to tackle relative poverty by promoting the living wage, supporting people to access well-paid employment as well as bringing together services that support people on low incomes such as crisis support and money advice.²² Charities such as Citizens Advice North Lancashire and Christian Against Poverty offer advice and support for people in relative poverty.

Absolute poverty

In the World Summit on Social Development in Copenhagen in 1995, absolute poverty was defined as “a condition characterised by severe deprivation of basic human needs, including food, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, health, shelter, education and information. It depends not only on income but also on access to services”²³. This is absolute in the sense that it is measured relative to a fixed standard of living, rather than the rest of the population. However, this definition is not used by UK government to define poverty since it is used as a measurable system based on disposable household income (see relative poverty above).

Income can be measured before or after housing cost are deducted. Poverty levels tend to be higher based on income measured after housing costs, because poorer households tend to spend a higher proportion of their income on housing. Over the longer-term, there has been a reduction in poverty rates since the late 1990s for children, pensioners and working-age parents, although the likelihood of being in relative low income has increased for working-age adults without dependent children²⁴.

According to the House of Commons briefing paper on poverty in the UK, the rate of absolute low income after housing costs is projected to stay flat to 2020/21.²⁵ However, the Institute for Fiscal Studies estimates the proportion of children in absolute low income will increase by around 3% points to 30% in 2021/22.²⁶ All of the increase in absolute child poverty is attributed to the impact of tax and benefit reforms.²⁷

<http://www.poverty.org.uk/summary/social%20exclusion.shtml#note3> [Accessed 15 March 2017].

¹³ Parliament.uk., 2008. [online] Researchbriefings.parliament.uk. Available at: <http://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/SNO7096> [Accessed 15 March 2017].

¹⁴ Parliament.uk., 2008. [online] Researchbriefings.parliament.uk. Available at: <http://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/SNO7096> [Accessed 15 March 2017].

¹⁵ Cumbria Observatory, 2016. [online] Available at: <https://www.cumbriaobservatory.org.uk/deprivation-further-information/> [Accessed 15 March 2017].

¹⁶ Lancashire.gov.uk., 2016. [online] Available at: <http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/media/897300/the-living-wage-article.pdf> [Accessed 15 March 2017].

¹⁷ Open Data Blog, 2015. English Indices of Deprivation: map explorer, [online] OpenDataCommunities.org. Available at: <http://dclgapps.communities.gov.uk/imd/idmap.html> [Accessed 15 March 2017].

¹⁸ Cumbria Observatory, 2016. [online] Available at: <https://www.cumbriaobservatory.org.uk/deprivation-further-information/> [Accessed 15 March 2017].

¹⁹ Cumbria Observatory, 2016. [online] Available at: <https://www.cumbriaobservatory.org.uk/deprivation-further-information/> [Accessed 15 March 2017].

²⁰ Cumbria Observatory, 2016. [online] Available at: <https://www.cumbriaobservatory.org.uk/deprivation-further-information/> [Accessed 15 March 2017].

²¹ Cumbria Observatory, 2016. [online] Available at: <https://www.cumbriaobservatory.org.uk/deprivation-further-information/pdf> [Accessed 15 March 2017].

²² Cumbria.gov.uk., 2014. [online] Available at: <https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/eLibrary/Content/Internet/535/4177311347.pdf> [Accessed 15 March 2017].

²³ Gordon, D. 2005 [pdf] Available at: http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/undp/documents/ydiDavidGordon_poverty.pdf

²⁴ McGuinness, F. (2017). *Poverty in the UK: statistics*. House of Commons Briefing paper. House of Commons Library.3

²⁵ McGuinness, F. (2017). *Poverty in the UK: statistics*. House of Commons Briefing paper. House of Commons Library.4

²⁶ McGuinness, F. (2017). *Poverty in the UK: statistics*. House of Commons Briefing paper. House of Commons Library.4

²⁷ McGuinness, F. (2017). *Poverty in the UK: statistics*. House of Commons Briefing paper. House of Commons Library.4

Child poverty

The current measure and definition of child poverty is the Children in Low-Income Families Local Measure which shows the proportion of children living in families in receipt of out-of-work (means-tested) benefits or in receipt of tax credits where their reported income is less than 60 per cent of UK median income.²⁸ The impact of poverty for children is life-long. Experiences of poverty can lead to long term harm on health and educational engagement, affecting their prospects of employment, the quality of social relationships and can lead to low self-esteem and intergenerational lack of aspiration.²⁹

Many areas in Morecambe Bay display a substantial rate of child poverty. Percentage of children in poverty in Barrow-in-Furness is 22%; in Morecambe is 21% and 18% in Lancaster.³⁰ The national average is 20.2%.³¹ The Children's Society's recent survey into children in poverty and free school meals estimated 1,100 children across Furness who were in poverty but not eligible for free school meals.³²

Lancashire County Council recently launched Lancashire Children and Young People's Trust, aiming to improve the lives of children and young people. Action for children in Barrow-in-Furness helps disadvantaged children through fostering, support for parents and intervening in case of neglect or abuse.

Fuel poverty

Fuel poverty is defined as a household that needs to spend more than 10% of income on fuel to reach a standard of warmth. The adequate standard of warmth in the Morecambe Bay area is 21 °C in the living room and 18 °C in other occupied rooms.³³ According to this definition, 11.3% of the households in Morecambe Bay were in poverty in 2014, while the national average is 10.6%.³⁴ This means that as many as one in eight households in Morecambe and Lancaster are struggling to pay their heating cost. Lancaster County Council and the Cumbria Observatory highlight that almost 7,000 people are suffering from fuel poverty, especially those living in the rural areas. This may be caused by the high percentage of households without central heating. The national average is 3% compared to 8% in Barrow-in-Furness.³⁵

Migration-poverty

The Migration Observatory 2017 defines migrants as foreign-born, foreign nationals, or people who have moved to the UK for a year or more. Migration has been included as a potential type of poverty due to the multiples challenges and burdens that migrant households frequently must face. These include language barriers, the severing of support networks to the low-paid and a lack of contract jobs. Morecambe Bay has a lower rate of immigrants than the national average; 92.7% of its population are from the UK.³⁶ Although there are not many immigrants in the area, there is a considerably big Eastern Europe community that should be taken into account when considering poverty in relative terms, as they are often a target and suffer from racism and discrimination.³⁷

Health-poverty

²⁸ Cumbriaobservatory.org.uk, 2017. Childpoverty. [online] Available at: <http://www.cumbriaobservatory.org.uk/antipoverty/childpoverty.asp> [Accessed 15 May 2017].

²⁹ Cumbria.gov.uk, 2017. Content. [online] Available at: <https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/eLibrary/Content/Internet/535/41773113514.pdf> [Accessed 23 May 2017].

³⁰ Barnardos.org.uk, 2017. [online] Available at: https://www.barnardos.org.uk/130212_ecp_local_report_final__2_.pdf [Accessed 23 May 2017].

³¹ Barnardos.org.uk, 2017. [online] Available at: https://www.barnardos.org.uk/130212_ecp_local_report_final__2_.pdf [Accessed 23 May 2017].

³² Cumbria.gov.uk [online] Available at: <https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/eLibrary/Content/Internet/535/41773113514.pdf> [Accessed 23 May 2017].

³³ Energy-uk.org.uk, 2017. Fuel-poverty [online] Available at: <http://www.energy-uk.org.uk/policy/fuel-poverty.html> [Accessed 15 March 2017].

³⁴ Lancashire County Council's Business Intelligence Team, 2016. *Fuel poverty figures for 2014 and winter fuel payment statistics for 2015/16*. [pdf] Available at: <http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/media/899668/fuel-poverty-2014-winter-fuel-payments-2015to2016-article.pdf> [Accessed 15 March 2017].

³⁵ Lancashire County Council's Business Intelligence Team, 2016. *Fuel poverty figures for 2014 and winter fuel payment statistics for 2015/16*. [pdf] Available at: <http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/media/899668/fuel-poverty-2014-winter-fuel-payments-2015to2016-article.pdf> [Accessed 15 March 2017].

³⁶ iLiveHere - Britain's worst places to live, 2017. [online] Available at: <http://www.ilivehere.co.uk/statistics-morecambe-lancashire-26319.html> [Accessed 15 March 2017]

³⁷ Yakub Patel, *Interview on poverty in Morecambe Bay*. Lancaster, 17th February 2017

The World Health Organization defines health as a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.³⁸ Thus, it is sensible to conclude that poverty is both a cause and a consequence of poor health.³⁹ This type of poverty encompasses many subcategories of poor people with additional issues that may aggravate their well-being, such as those who are suffering from homelessness, or drug and alcohol addiction issues. However, this reports looks at these categories as a whole and not through specific sub/categories or individual issues. The percentage of people in the studied area that rated their health as “very good” is lower than the national average. Furthermore, the average rating of health was “very bad”, higher than the national average.⁴⁰

Economic deprivation

Economic deprivation is defined as the lack of sufficient income for people to play roles, participate in the relationships, and take part in the accepted behaviour expected of them by society.⁴¹ This type of poverty could be measured by several indicators such as: economic activity rate, employment and unemployment and Incapacity Benefits Claimants. According to these indicators, Morecambe Bay presents clear indications of deprivation since its economic activity rate and employment rate are lower than the national average: 69.7% compared to 77.3% and 63.9% compared to 71.1% respectively. Surprisingly, the unemployment rate indicator shows that Lancaster is slightly lower (7.6%) than the rest of England (7.8%). This information could be used to explain the high migration of young people to urban areas due to the lack of jobs. Finally, Lancaster is in line with the national average in people claiming incapacity benefits.⁴²

Case Studies

To give a better insight to the specific causes and problems of poverty in Morecambe Bay, this section will compare two of the most deprived areas of Morecambe Bay with two of the wealthiest towns in the studied area. As an effect, economic and social inequalities between different areas of the Bay will become apparent.

Morecambe and Kendall

Morecambe, as other towns in the area, has relied heavily on seaside resort tourism. Seaside tourism was at its peak from the early to mid-20th century. However, nowadays Morecambe suffers from a deep problem of structural poverty since people increasingly choose to go abroad for their holidays. Moreover, there are other factors that have also contributed to the town’s decline in tourism. Morecambe has lost two major holiday maker attractions: The West End Pier through a storm in 1978 and the Central Pier in 1992. This fact contributed to the town’s decline in tourism. Likewise, the local government reorganisation in 1974 pushed many resorts into larger districts that did not give them priority. Morecambe was put under the jurisdiction of Lancaster city council, who paid little attention to developing tourism in the town since it had its own problems from industrial decline and unemployment.⁴³ Tourism-oriented projects in Morecambe Bay received limited funding compared to projects in Lancaster for example.⁴⁴

The decline of income in Morecambe has affected the population and the town itself. Some historical buildings are in ruin, there are many empty houses and the recreational and leisure businesses, such as cinemas, are closing. Also, there are several poverty indicators that suggest that Morecambe is one of the most deprived areas of the UK.

Kendal is the third largest town in Cumbria just behind Carlisle and Barrow-in-Furness. Although a relatively

³⁸ Huber, M., et al., 2017. *How should we define health?*. BMJ, 343(Jul26 2), D4163-d4163.

³⁹ Health Poverty Action, 2017. [online] Available at: <https://www.healthpovertyaction.org/info-and-resources/the-cycle-of-poverty-and-poor-health/key-facts/> [Accessed 15 March 2017].

⁴⁰ iLiveHere - Britain's worst places to live, 2017. [online] Available at: <http://www.ilivehere.co.uk/statistics-morecambe-lancashire-26319.html> [Accessed 15 March 2017].

⁴¹ Cuizon, G., 2017. Economic Deprivation [online] Available at: http://www.bukisa.com/articles/14003_economic-deprivation [Accessed 15 March 2017].

⁴² Neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk, 2017. [online] Available at: <http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/LeadTableView.do?a=7&b=6095491&c&e=4&g=1&i=1001x1003x1004&m=0&r=1&s=1489616694683&enc=1&dsFamilyId=1204&nsjs=true&nsck=false&nssvg=false&nswid=1366> [Accessed 15 March 2017].

⁴³ Heathcote, E., 2017. Boom and bust. *Independent*, [online] Available at: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/business/boom-and-bust-a-tale-of-two-resorts-blackpool-and-morecambe-may-be-neighbours-but-economically-they-1537916.html> [Accessed 15 March 2017].

⁴⁴ Ibid.

small town, it is an important commercial centre for a wide area thanks to its rural location. It is affectionately referred to as "The Gateway to The Lakes". Kendal is famous for the "Kendal mint cake" and for Tobacco and Snuff production. Today it is known largely as a centre of tourism due its castle. Furthermore, its economy also relies on the IT and design sector.

Life expectancy

The life expectancy in Morecambe compared to the life expectancy of the highest area of the country shows a stark reality. The life expectancy of men in Morecambe is 74 years old compared to a life expectancy of 93 years old in other areas. Likewise, women live an average of 81 years old in Morecambe. This is 14 years less than those who live in the richest areas of the UK.⁴⁵ In Kendal, the life expectancy of men is 80 years; 6 years more than in Morecambe. The women's life expectancy in Kendal is 83 years; 2 years more than Morecambe.⁴⁶

Child Poverty, working age and pensioner poverty

Child poverty is another factor that shows the level of poverty. 30% of the children in Morecambe are in poverty. This data correlates with both the large number of people in working age (24%) which are in poverty and the number of pensioner (30%) which are also in poverty.⁴⁷ These same indicators reveal that Kendal has to face another reality. 7% of the Children are in poverty. The percentage of people at working age in poverty is 8% and pensioner in poverty 12%.⁴⁸

Education and social housing

Other indicators suggest that Morecambe is an underprivileged town, with a high percentage of people with no qualifications (30%) and a significant number of people in social housing (10%).⁴⁹ Kendal also shows higher levels of educated people since the percentage of citizens with no qualification is 24%. However, the percentage of social housing is higher than in Morecambe (11%).⁵⁰

Crime

Morecambe presents an important level of crime compared to Kendal. While in March of 2017 Kendal had 7 crime incidents⁵¹ in total among 28,586 population, Morecambe that same month had 37 incidents⁵² among a population of 34,768. This means that Kendal has a crime every 4,083 people whilst Morecambe has a crime every 939 people.

Environment

Morecambe exhibits a poor quality physical environment. Many of the buildings are falling apart. Many shops are shuttered and it lacks recreational places. Nevertheless, Kendal is a well taken care of town with many cultural and recreational activities and places such as museums, galleries, cinemas, theatres and Europe's biggest festival of mountain cultures.⁵³

Barrow-in-Furness and Grange-over-Sands

Barrow-in-Furness (Barrow) is a town and borough in Cumbria. In the 19th century, Barrow was the biggest

⁴⁵ Church Urban Fund, 2017. [online] Available at: <https://www.cuf.org.uk/> [Accessed 15 March 2017].

⁴⁶ Ibid

⁴⁷ Ibid

⁴⁸ Ibid

⁴⁹ Ibid

⁵⁰ Ibid

⁵¹ Thelancasterandmorecambecitizen.co.uk, 2017. Crime in Morecambe. [online] Available at: <http://www.thelancasterandmorecambecitizen.co.uk/li/crime.in.Morecambe/> [Accessed 24 May 2017].

⁵² Thelancasterandmorecambecitizen.co.uk, 2017. Crime in Kendal [online] Available at: <http://www.thelancasterandmorecambecitizen.co.uk/li/crime.in.Kendal/> [Accessed 24 May 2017].

⁵³ Dyckhoff, T. 2017. Let's move to... Kendal, Cumbria. *TheGuardian*. [online] Available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/money/2009/jul/18/lets-move-kendal-cumbria> [Accessed 24 May 2017].

iron and steel centre in the world and a major ship-building force, providing military ships and submarines.⁵⁴ However, the town has been in a decline since the mid 20th century due to the exhaustion of all hematite deposits and the decrease in military spending. The workforce shrank from 14,500 in 1990 to 5,800 in February 1995, with overall unemployment in the town rising over that period from 4.6% to 10%.⁵⁵ In the present day, manufacturing remains the largest employment in area, with 33% of male employment in Barrow being in manufacturing and engineering (the majority with BAE systems).⁵⁶ Barrow is the only district in Cumbria among the 50 most deprived districts in the Country.⁵⁷ Cumbria contains eight areas² ranked among the 3% most deprived in England and of these, six are in Barrow.⁵⁸

Grange-over-sands (Grange) is a town in South Lakeland District. It is part of the County Palatine of Lancashire and is part of the Duchy of Lancaster.⁵⁹ From a small fishing village, the town developed in the Victorian era into a popular seaside resort with the arrival of the Furness Railway in 1887. The 20th century saw further expansion of the town and its facilities including spa hotels, gardens, and an extension of the promenade. The town now has a strong independent retail sector and demand for shop units now outstrips supply.⁶⁰ Among 37 of England's smaller seaside towns, Grange is one of the areas with the least economic problems.⁶¹ It is among the 40% least deprived areas across the country.⁶²

Employment Deprivation

According to The Indices of Deprivation 2015, Barrow is the 189th most deprived area in the country (out of 32844 areas).⁶³ 19.8% of the local population is unemployed, compared with 14.4% nationwide.⁶⁴ Barrow has 20% fewer Higher and Intermediate managerial, administrative or professional households than the national average.⁶⁵ Grange is the 17,812th most deprived area. The rate of unemployment in Grange-Over-Sands was 0.4% in 2007, both lower than the average for Cumbria and lower than the national average, suggesting that finding a job in this area may be easier than most places. The rate of claiming any form of welfare payment (which includes in work benefits) is more than 10% lower in Grange-Over-Sands than the national average, suggesting higher salaries than the average in the area.⁶⁶

Income Deprivation

In Barrow, the Median Household Income is £22,835, compared to £29,000 nationwide (2012).⁶⁷ 16.8% of

⁵⁴ Visit Cumbria (2017). *Barrow-in-Furness*. [online] Visit Cumbria. Available at: <https://www.visitcumbria.com/sl/barrow-in-furness/> [Accessed 2 Jun. 2017].

⁵⁵ Office for National Statistics, 2013. A Profile of Deprivation in Larger English Seaside Destinations, 2007 and 2010. [online] Available at: http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20160105160709/http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/dcp171766_324196.pdf [Accessed 15 March 2017].

⁵⁶ The Economist (2013). *The last of the metal-bashers*. [online] Economist.com. Available at: <http://www.economist.com/news/britain/21574513-odd-corners-country-british-industry-clings-last-metal-bashers> [Accessed 2 Jun. 2017].

⁵⁷ visitcumbria.com. [online] Available at: <http://www.visitcumbria.com/sl/barrow-in-furness/> [Accessed 23 May 2017].

⁵⁸ visitcumbria.com., 2017. Barrow-in-Furness. [online] Available at: <http://www.visitcumbria.com/sl/barrow-in-furness/> [Accessed 23 May 2017].

⁵⁹ ilivehere.co.uk., 2010. Statistics Barrow-in-Furness. [online] Available at: <http://www.ilivehere.co.uk/statistics-barrow-in-furness-cumbria-2585.html> [Accessed 23 May 2017].

⁶⁰ Apho.org.uk., 2017. *Public Health England - GOV.UK*. [online] Available at: <http://www.apho.org.uk/resource/view.aspx?RID=142128> [Accessed 23 May 2017].

⁶¹ Cumbria.gov.uk., 2017. Community Learning and Skills : Cumbria County Council. [online] Available at: <https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/learningandskills/> [Accessed 23 May 2017].

⁶² Btp-cumbria.co.uk., 2017. Barrow Training Partnership | BTP Cumbria | Construction Industry Training And Assessment. [online] Available at: <http://www.btp-cumbria.co.uk/> [Accessed 23 May 2017].

⁶³ Indices of Deprivation explorer. [online] Available at: <http://dclgapps.communities.gov.uk/imd/idmap.html> [Accessed 23 May 2017].

⁶⁴ Cumbria.gov.uk, 2017. [pdf] Available at: <https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/elibrary/Content/Internet/538/755/1929/42116163528.pdf> [Accessed 23 May 2017].

⁶⁵ ilivehere.co.uk., 2010. Statistics Barrow-in-Furness [online] Available at: <http://www.ilivehere.co.uk/statistics-barrow-in-furness-cumbria-2585.html> [Accessed 23 May 2017].

⁶⁶ Findahood, 2017. The top ten crime hotspots for North West England[online] Available at: <https://www.findahood.com/articles/crime/the-top-ten-crime-hotspots-for-north-west-england/107> [Accessed 23 May 2017].

⁶⁷ Office for National Statistics, 2013. A Profile of Deprivation in Larger English Seaside Destinations, 2007 and 2010. [online] Available at: http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20160105160709/http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/dcp171766_324196.pdf [Accessed 15 March 2017].

the local population earns less than £10,000 per year.⁶⁸ The rate of claiming any welfare payment (which includes in work benefits) is more than 25% higher in Barrow-in-Furness than the national average.⁶⁹ In Grange, 5.7% of all people live in income deprivation (England average = 13.5%). 18.8% of households earn below 60% of the median income (England Average = 21.5%).

Education, Skills, and Training

Barrow-in-Furness has a high level of residents with either no qualifications or qualifications equal to 1 or more GCSE at grade D or below, compared to the national average.⁷⁰ There are frequent community learning and skills events in Cumbria by Cumbria County Council, ranging from Glass Fusion Workshop, Functional Skills Maths to Business Administration.⁷¹ There are also courses and programmes such as Construction Industry Training by Barrow Training Partnership from 2004 in Cumbria.⁷²

Grange has a lower than national average level of residents with either no qualifications or qualifications equal to 1 or more GCSE at grade D or below. It also has a high level of residents with a higher education qualification than the national average, suggesting that the residents of Grange are better educated than the average England citizen.⁷³

Health and Disability

The NHS identified Barrow as having significantly worse figures than the England average in terms of health deprivation, over 65s 'not in good health and life expectancy.'⁷⁴ In Year 6, 21.5% (136) of children are classified as obese.⁷⁵ The rate of alcohol related harm hospital stays was 908, worse than the average for England.⁷⁶ The rate of self-harm hospital stays was 372.9, worse than the average for England.⁷⁷ The rate of smoking related deaths was 346, worse than the average for England.⁷⁸ Estimated levels of adult smoking are worse than the England average.⁷⁹ Yet, rates of sexually transmitted infections, people killed and seriously injured on roads and TB are lower than average.⁸⁰ The percentage of residents in Grange rating their health as 'very good' in the 2011 Census is less than the national average (46.75% compared to 47.17%). The percentage of people with 'very bad' health is also lower (0.96% compared to 1.25%).⁸¹

⁶⁸ ilivehere.co.uk., 2010. Barrow-in-Furness [online] Available at: <http://www.ilivehere.co.uk/statistics-barrow-in-furness-cumbria-2585.html> [Accessed 23 May 2017].

⁶⁹ ilivehere.co.uk., 2010. Barrow-in-Furness [online] Available at: <http://www.ilivehere.co.uk/statistics-barrow-in-furness-cumbria-2585.html> [Accessed 23 May 2017].

⁷⁰ ilivehere.co.uk., 2010. Barrow-in-Furness [online] Available at: <http://www.ilivehere.co.uk/statistics-barrow-in-furness-cumbria-2585.html> [Accessed 23 May 2017].

⁷¹ Cumbria.gov.uk., 2017. Community Learning and Skills : Cumbria County Council. [online] Available at: <https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/learningandskills/> [Accessed 23 May 2017].

⁷² Btp-cumbria.co.uk., 2017. Barrow Training Partnership | BTP Cumbria | Construction Industry Training And Assessment. [online] Available at: <http://www.btp-cumbria.co.uk/> [Accessed 23 May 2017].

⁷³ Findahood, 2017. The top ten crime hotspots for North West England [online] Available at: <https://www.findahood.com/articles/crime/the-top-ten-crime-hotspots-for-north-west-england/107> [Accessed 23 May 2017].

⁷⁴ Office for National Statistics, 2013. A Profile of Deprivation in Larger English Seaside Destinations, 2007 and 2010. [online] Available at: http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20160105160709/http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/dcp171766_324196.pdf [Accessed 15 March 2017].

⁷⁵ Apho.org.uk., 2017. Public Health England - GOV.UK. [online] Available at: <http://www.apho.org.uk/resource/view.aspx?RID=142128> [Accessed 23 May 2017].

⁷⁶ Apho.org.uk., 2017. Public Health England - GOV.UK. [online] Available at: <http://www.apho.org.uk/resource/view.aspx?RID=142128> [Accessed 23 May 2017].

⁷⁷ OpenDataCommunities, 2015. English Indices of Deprivation: map explorer. [online] Available at: <http://dclgapps.communities.gov.uk/imd/idmap.html> [Accessed 15 Mar. 2017].

⁷⁸ Apho.org.uk., 2017. Public Health England - GOV.UK. [online] Available at: <http://www.apho.org.uk/resource/view.aspx?RID=142128> [Accessed 23 May 2017].

⁷⁹ Apho.org.uk., 2017. Public Health England - GOV.UK. [online] Available at: <http://www.apho.org.uk/resource/view.aspx?RID=142128> [Accessed 23 May 2017].

⁸⁰ Apho.org.uk., 2017. Public Health England - GOV.UK. [online] Available at: <http://www.apho.org.uk/resource/view.aspx?RID=142128> [Accessed 23 May 2017].

⁸¹ Apho.org.uk., 2017. Public Health England - GOV.UK. [online] Available at: <http://www.apho.org.uk/resource/view.aspx?RID=142128> [Accessed 23 May 2017].

Crime

Barrow rates 8th in the top ten areas for crime in North West England (2014).⁸² Barrow's busiest shopping street, Dalton Road, comes out as the third most likely street for crime to happen in the county.⁸³

Living Environment

Barrow has areas with a poor quality physical environment and where housing is in low demand, especially in the town centre.⁸⁴ Grange has a strong environment with a distinct sense of space. However, there are weaknesses with regard to traffic, parking, pedestrian comfort and connections with the promenade.⁸⁵

Child Poverty

Child poverty is a problem in Barrow, with 23.66% of children living in poverty after housing costs.⁸⁶ Head teachers in Barrow reported a generation of children with poor diets, lacking warm coats and fitted shoes, living in cold homes and not having adequate PE/swimming kits⁸⁷. In Grange, 12.8% of children live in poverty after housing costs.⁸⁸

What these case studies show us is that there are significant areas of inequality across Morecambe Bay. Some areas are well-off with good local economies and low levels of poverty and associated problems. However, other areas are in dire need of assistance to improve the local economy and the wellbeing of the people in those areas.

Statutory Authorities

The areas in Morecambe Bay are governed by a three tier authority: the County level, the City level and the Town level. The area is also covered by four local authority districts: Wyre; Lancaster; South Lakeland and Barrow-in-Furness.⁸⁹ Moreover, Morecambe Bay has its own NHS trust that crosses over several administrative borders.

The mentioned councils and local authorities have some responsibility in tackling the poverty situation in Morecambe Bay, with the NHS having an impact upon poverty through dealing with, and improving the lives of many people in poverty. This section will explore the different initiatives available by statutory authority such as Fire Service, police and NHS, as well as in the Lancashire County Council and the Cumbria County Council, which cover areas of Morecambe Bay.

Fire Service

Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service⁹⁰ (LFRS) work to mitigate the effect of fuel poverty, which is when fuel costs are above the national median, as this can have adverse health effects, winter deaths, and rise in fire risk from people using alternative unsafe methods of heating. LFRS runs annual winter safety campaigns in order to help those most affected by fuel poverty, and the most vulnerable are offered a free Home Fire Safety Check.

⁸² Findahood, 2017. The top ten crime hotspots for the North West England [online] Available at: <https://www.findahood.com/articles/crime/the-top-ten-crime-hotspots-for-north-west-england/107> [Accessed 23 May 2017].

⁸³ Nwemail.co.uk., 2017. Revealed eight Barrow streets ranked in Cumbrias top 30 crime hot spots. *North-West EveningMail*, [online] Available at: <http://www.nwemail.co.uk/news/barrow/Revealed-Eight-Barrow-streets-ranked-in-Cumbrias-top-30-crime-hot-spots-43ecfc46-9487-4642-b1f0-cc350937e9bc-ds> [Accessed 23 May 2017].

⁸⁴ Cumbria.gov.uk., 2017. [online] Available at: <https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/elibrary/Content/Internet/536/41794164147.pdf> [Accessed 23 May 2017].

⁸⁵ Nwemail.co.uk., 2017. Revealed eight Barrow streets ranked in Cumbrias top 30 crime hot spots. *North-West EveningMail*, [online] Available at: <http://www.nwemail.co.uk/news/barrow/Revealed-Eight-Barrow-streets-ranked-in-Cumbrias-top-30-crime-hot-spots-43ecfc46-9487-4642-b1f0-cc350937e9bc-ds> [Accessed 23 May 2017].

⁸⁶ Office for National Statistics, (2013). A Profile of Deprivation in Larger English Seaside Destinations, 2007 and 2010. [pdf] Available at: http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20160105160709/http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/dcp171766_324196.pdf [Accessed 15 March 2017].

⁸⁷ Cumbria.gov.uk., 2017. [pdf] Available at: <https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/elibrary/Content/Internet/536/41794164147.pdf> [Accessed 23 May 2017].

⁸⁸ Apho.org.uk., 2017. Public Health England - GOV.UK. [online] Available at: <http://www.apho.org.uk/resource/view.aspx?RID=142128> [Accessed 23 May 2017].

⁸⁹ Child and Poverty Action Group (2009). *ONS Map UK local authorities 2009*. [online] Available at: <http://www.cpag.org.uk/sites/default/files/ONS%20Map%20UK%20local%20authorities%202009.pdf> [Accessed 2 Jun. 2017].

⁹⁰ Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service. 2016. Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service Strategic Assessment of Risk 2016. [pdf] Available at: <https://lancsfireandrescue.org.uk> [Accessed 3 June 2017].

The Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service⁹¹ will tackle issues related to poverty through:

- Working with partners to tackle root causes of inequality through the Community Safety Partnerships, which is a statutory body made of Councilors and independent people that work together to make the area safer.
- Reduce the economic and social impact of fires in non-residential premises.

As there is lack of detailed information on their role in tackling poverty, there cannot be an assessment on whether they follow the PTC's adage.

Police

Cumbria Constabulary is involved in tackling poverty by providing help for the Cumbria Children and Young People's Plan⁹² by ensuring wellbeing of first time entrants in the criminal system, ensuring the wellbeing of children in custody and providing local authority accommodation for children.

The local police force play a key role in mediating and regulating crime associated with some of the more extreme forms of poverty faced in the area. Overall Cumbria faces relatively less crime in comparison to Lancashire and indeed the rest of the United Kingdom, though the area is diverse in its dispersion of rural and urban areas.⁹³

Cumbria Constabulary interacts with communities dealing with poverty through initiatives such as:

- Non-emergency mental health support.
- "Do the Right Thing" anti-sexual violence campaign.
- Antisocial behaviour and substance abuse prevention.
- Alcohol diversion schemes provided in conjunction with TTC 2000 Ltd aimed at mitigating the causes of alcoholism and addiction.
- Cumbria Community Messaging consortium of neighbourhood and community watch schemes aimed at bringing areas together to prevent crime.

Cumbria Constabulary actively supervise the Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust and are bound to put information about their activities and crimes in the area online and so are a valuable, though less explored authority to understand the link between poverty, community and crime.⁹⁴

Information on the police's involvement in tackling poverty is limited, therefore it is unclear whether they adhere by the PTC's adage.

NHS

The NHS looks to reduce health inequality, which can often lead to increased poverty, so the NHS is part of economic and social policy. They offer:

- Free mental health services.
- Primary care for everyone.
- Aid in the implementation of the Cumbria Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Moreover, the NHS runs Better Care Together for the Morecambe Bay Health Community⁹⁵, which include:

- Improved consistency and quality of care, both in and out of hospital.

⁹¹ Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service. Integrated Risk Management Plan 2016-2020. [pdf] Available at <https://cumbria.gov.uk> [Accessed 3 June 2017].

⁹² Cumbria Children's Trust. Cumbria Children and Young People's Plan 2016-19. [pdf] Available at: <https://cumbria.gov.uk> [Accessed 3 June 2017].

⁹³ Police.uk. Cumbria Constabulary. [online] Available at: <https://www.police.uk/cumbria> [Accessed 16 March 2017].

⁹⁴ Cumbria Constabulary. Services. [online] Available at: <https://www.cumbria.police.uk/Services> [Accessed 16 March 2017].

⁹⁵ NHS. 2016. New care models: Vanguard - developing a blueprint for the future of NHS and care services. [pdf] Available at: <https://www.england.nhs.uk> [Accessed 3 June 2017].

- People to be cared for as close to home as they can be, with hospitals concentrating on those patients who need specialist treatment or emergency care.
- A health system with exciting and innovative teams working together.

There is not much detailed information on how they tackle poverty, therefore it is unclear whether they satisfy the PTC's adage.

Lancashire County Council

One initiative launched by Lancashire County Council to combat poverty is the Lancashire Children and Young People's Trust. This is a key partnership that has the aim to improve the lives of children and young people, and therefore tackles child poverty. The Trust has set out a 3-year strategy, the Children and Young People's Plan 2014-17, which has children and young people in the driving seat, as they provide feedback about what they would like to see in the future of Lancashire; in this sense, it fulfils the PTC adage in part. The Trust helps in the commission of services to help and support young people in the county.

The things that the County will do are:

- Develop and deliver integrated services so that children and young people receive effective and timely early help and protection.
- Work alongside families so that they can build their resilience and cope better.
- Ensure that the right children and young people become looked after and manage the increase in demand whilst delivering safe child protection.
- Develop and embed early support approach so that families can access coherent support through multiagency hubs.
- Ensure that travelling on roads is as safe as possible for children and young people.
- Ensure that children and young people can develop the skills, experiences and aspirations to be successful in the future workforce.
- Support parents so that they can better help their children to fulfil their potential.
- Ensure that young people leaving care receive the support they need.
- Implement the SEND reforms so that children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities receive effective care and support.
- Ensure that support is available for vulnerable children and young people so that they can perform well in education. Understand child poverty in Lancashire and target resources and support to those in most need.
- Use the Healthy Child Programme as a basis for their activity.
- Ensure that mother have a healthy pregnancy.
- Reduce infant mortality.
- Reduce the number of emergency admissions due to asthma, diabetes and epilepsy.
- Ensure that children and young people can access a range of quality sports activities.
- Ensure that the way they provide support to children and young people is driven by what they tell them.
- Ensure that children and young people are listened to, practice is focused on their needs and experiences and influenced by their wishes and their feelings or, where they cannot represent their view themselves, that these are advocated for upon their behalf.

Moreover, Lancashire Council supports other community projects, such as the West End Million Partnership

charity. Similarly, Lancaster City Council, ' leads on the physical regeneration initiatives in the West End⁹⁶

Overall, it appears that the Lancashire County Council fulfils the PTC adage to some extent, as it consults the people it is meant to help in order to know what services to provide. However, they do not seem to be in any decision-making role within the Council, and this is the reason it falls short of the adage.

Cumbria County Council

Cumbria County Council has also taken steps to reduce the poverty in the region. As a commitment to this, it formulated a Cumbria County Council Anti-Poverty Strategy 2014-17.⁹⁷ Their strategy is to run activities and services that will enable the local people to use local assets and resources to their advantage. Its priorities are to maximise household income, build community resilience and to tackle child poverty in the area. The type of poverty they tackle, therefore are child poverty and economic deprivation.

It will achieve its aims through the implementation of certain methods:

- Maximising household income – this will involve supporting people to access well paid employment, promoting the living wage and introducing a living wage within the Council. The Council will also bring together services that support people on low incomes, including crisis support, money advice and advocacy under the Director of Public Health.
- Building community resilience – this will involve offering basic budgeting skills, supporting social enterprises in areas with high levels of poverty, establishing toy libraries and supporting people to grow their own food or save money by reducing food waste. The Council will also support people to develop personal resilience so that they can mitigate the effects that poverty might have on their lives.
- Tackling child poverty – this will involve the continued narrowing of the educational attainment gap between children in poverty and the county average, free school meals to 5-7 year olds, and the new free early years nursery offer to 2 year olds.

Another way that the Council is tackling poverty is through health; it commissioned the Cumbria Health and Well-being Strategy 2016-19⁹⁸. The main challenges it seeks to address are the health and wellbeing gap, the care and quality gap and the funding and efficiency gap. This strategy, therefore, deals with health poverty. Health inequality is very evident in Cumbria, as life expectancy in the county is lower than the England average⁹⁹, with life expectancy being 9.5 years lower for men and 7.3 years lower for women in the most deprived areas of Cumbria than in the least deprived areas. This disproportion can be linked to poverty, as individuals in the most deprived area generally do not have the right conditions for a good life and often suffer from low income and higher levels of smoking and drinking. Some of the strategies that will be employed to achieve this include an economic plan for economic growth, improving the environment to include green spaces and active play areas, and mobilising communities.

One of the desired outcomes is that children have the best start in life. Cumbria County Council aim to achieve this by:

- Tackling childhood obesity, this is related to poverty because families from poorer backgrounds do not always have enough money to prepare healthy meals and might only be able to afford meals with poor nutrition – this will involve gathering data on trends of childhood obesity and inform the local services that cater to children about the findings, implementing the Active Cumbria Early Years Programme by providing sport and

⁹⁶ West End Million Community, 2017. [pdf] Available at: <http://westendmillion.co.uk/wem-comm-prof-v2.4.pdf>, [Accessed 15 March 2017]

⁹⁷ Cumbria County Council, 2017. Anti-Poverty Strategy 2014-17. [online] Available at: <https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/eLibrary/Content/Internet/535/4177311347.pdf> [Accessed 5 March 2017].

⁹⁸ Cumbria County Council, 2017. Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2016-19. [online] Available at: <http://www.cumbriaccg.nhs.uk/news/2015/october/HealthandWellbeingStrategy-Oct2015/healthwellbeingstrategy.pdf> [Accessed 05 March 2017].

⁹⁹ Public Health England, 2015. Cumbria County Health Profile 2015. [online] <http://www.apho.org.uk/resource/item.aspx?RID=171649> [Accessed 05 March 2017].

physical activities to the communities, having, and the Continuation of Smile4Life in Children's Centres to promote good oral health.

- Improving the mental wellbeing of children and young people, this is related to poverty because children from poorer backgrounds tend to suffer more from mental health issues and feel less optimistic about their future¹⁰⁰ – the County will work to understand the mental health needs of children and young people and make sure they are able to access help, make sure that children and young people as well as their parents are contributing to the design and delivery of these services and that the workforce is trained adequately¹⁰¹, it will work to improve access to specialist services and enhance fast-track access to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) for Looked After Children, it will also develop a multi-agency maternal mental health pathway.

Another desired outcome of the Strategy is for adults to lead healthy and fulfilling lives. This will enable them to contribute more to the workforce and it will be achieved through:

- Reducing unhealthy levels of alcohol consumption – to achieve this, the Council will deliver the Cumbria Alcohol Strategy by making sure that families can find support for alcohol issues and providing drug and alcohol awareness to young people¹⁰², develop alcohol harm reduction plans, develop an alcohol related harm pathway through The Health and Social Wellbeing System, develop communications plan in conjunction with National campaigns to reduce alcohol related harm, and increase the quantity of unsafe drinkers accessing the Unity Substance Misuse Service in Cumbria.
- Reducing the prevalence of smoking – measures to achieve this will be through developing smoking cessation activity through the 6 Local Health and Wellbeing Forums, promoting and delivering community pharmacy based smoking cessation services throughout Cumbria as part of the Health and Social Wellbeing System, developing structured communications plans to maximise National Campaigns aimed at reducing smoking prevalence
- Tackling obesity – this will be achieved by delivering weight management programmes, developing actions targeted at reducing obesity through the 6 Local Health and Wellbeing Forums, developing structured communications plans to maximise National Campaigns aimed at reducing obesity, promoting Physical Activity Care Pathway for adults to include previously operated Exercise on Referral Scheme, encouraging employees of targeted businesses to become more physically active and healthy through the Active Workplace awards.
- Improving the mental health and wellbeing of adults - support people with low level mental health problems through the Health and Social Wellbeing System, improve access to mental health assessment and support for people experiencing a mental health issue.

¹⁰⁰Ayer, D. (2016). *Poor Mental Health*. 1st ed. The Children's Society. Available at: https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/sites/default/files/poor_mental_health_report.pdf [Accessed 05 June 2017]

¹⁰¹ Cumbria County Council, Cumbria Transformation Plan Final V.03. [pdf] Available at: <http://councilportal.cumbria.gov.uk/documents/s45673/Appendix%201%20HWBB%201.12.15%20CAHMS%20Transformation%20Plan.pdf> [Accessed 15 March 2017].

¹⁰² Cumbria County Council, Cumbria Alcohol Strategy. [pdf] Available at: <http://councilportal.cumbria.gov.uk/documents/s25322/Draft%20Cumbria%20Alcohol%20Strategy%20FINAL.pdf> [Accessed 15 March 2017].

The third outcome is to enable older people to live independent and healthy lives. A reason why this might be important could be that it could lead to older people not being dependent on their relatives, which could free them up for more working hours. This will be achieved through:

- Reducing the number of falls – the County will identify gaps in support offered to care homes, develop a plan for the delivery of a comprehensive care home scheme to reduce and manage falls, Active Cumbria Older Adults Programme is a ‘pilot’ project to increase levels of participation in Physical Activity for Older Adults (65+ years) in order to improve the life quality and independence of participants through increasing confidence, self-esteem and mobility.
- Tackling social isolation – in order to achieve this the Health and Social Wellbeing System will work with wider third sector to identify at-risk individuals and ensure appropriate social support.

A further outcome of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy is that 'the people of Cumbria receive the quality of care they are entitled to', as better health care is positively related to better economic outcomes. This will be achieved by:

- Ensuring that people who are at high risk of needing social care receive the care they need in time – the County will deliver the Family Nurse Partnership, reduce avoidable hospital admissions and facilitate early hospital discharge, establish Integrated Care Communities, transform the ‘landscape of care’ as outlined in Cumbria County Council's Commissioning Strategy for Care and Support (2015/2020), develop Extra Care and Supported Living Housing.
- Ensure that the focus of services for people with learning disabilities, physical disabilities and mental health services is on recovery and independence – this will be achieved by the delivery of the learning disability transformation programme as a Transforming Care Partnership (TCP), the implementation of findings and recommendations from Joint Health and Social Care Self-Assessment Framework and Autism SAF 2014 to continue to improve services for people who have a learning disability and/or autism, the commencement of development of a Cumbria Learning Disability strategy.
- Delivering patient rights as set out in the NHS Constitution – the County will implement the Better Care Fund Plan (BCF) to aid the establishment of an integrated health and social care system that is more efficient; reduces avoidable hospital admissions and facilitates early hospital discharge.
- Developing services for the most frail and vulnerable that enable them to lead independent lives for longer – this will be achieved by the development of a frailty service and end to end pathway in North Cumbria, the implementation of the Better Care Fund Plan (BCF) to aid the establishment of an integrated health and social care system that is more efficient; reduces avoidable hospital admissions and facilitates early hospital discharge, the establishment of Integrated Care Communities, the transformation of ‘landscape of care’ as outlined in Commissioning Strategy for Care and Support (2015/2020), and the development of Extra Care and Supported Living Housing in Cumbria.

The final outcome is that the system will be put on a sustainable footing. This is to be achieved by:

- Ensuring that the capacity of the formal and informal workforce within the health and wellbeing system is sufficient to meet needs – this will involve implementing the HeadStart Capacity Building and making Emotional Resilience everybody's business, enforcing the workforce development element of Cumbria Transformation Plan, implementing the Better Care Together and the Success Regime.

- Reducing the deficits and pressures within the health and care system – this will involve implementing the Better Care Together and the Success Regime, implementing the Adult Commissioning Strategy and developing a 0-19 Integrated Healthy Child Programme for commencement April 2017.

Moreover, the council launched the Barrow Area Plan 2014-17¹⁰³, which aims to promote economic growth, tackle poverty and improve health by creating jobs, and improving educational attainment. The type of poverty they wish to tackle is therefore economic deprivation, child poverty and health poverty. This Area Plan follows the previous one that ran from 2012 to 2014, which proved successful, as the planned projects were achieved.

In order to achieve its outcomes, it will:

- Develop Barrow Waterfront as one of the key employment sites in Cumbria.
- Complete the roll out of Superfast Broadband across Barrow & District through the Connecting Cumbria Project.
- Improve educational attainment.
- Continue to modernise the library service.
- Work with communities to shape services locally.
- Work with Health to integrate assessment and hospital discharge pathways.
- Help people to get out and stay out of debt.
- Lobby for service and infrastructure improvements to the West Coast, Transpennine Express, and Northern rail lines

The main findings are that the Cumbria County Council is doing a lot in tackling poverty in the area by providing community services, tackling health inequality and improving the economy. However, it does not seem that any of these initiatives abide by the PTC adage as the poor people do not actually engage in the decision making of these processes.

Charities

Developing an effective dialogue with people living in poverty and collecting data can be seen as the starting point to resolving the longer-term issues of poverty. Once this is achieved, educating people, volunteers and other parties can provide a greater continuity in resolving the issue of poverty in the Morecambe Bay area.

There are a significant number of local charities which are either solely designed to assist those in poverty, or part of their remit involves helping those in poverty. The following list of charities in the Morecambe Bay area first lists non-religious organisations, before listing groups which are explicitly faith-based.

Recycling Lives Fare Share Centre - for Lancashire and Cumbria

The Recycling Lives Food Distribution Centre is a partnership with Fare Share charity, which is a National food charity, tackling poverty and food waste. The Lancashire and Cumbria division is delivered and operated by the Recycling Lives Food Distribution Centre. The Recycling Lives Food Distribution Centre redistributes surplus food from businesses to local charities and community groups (over 60 groups annually), providing meals for vulnerable people. They provide fresh, in-date food to groups such as children's breakfast clubs, homeless shelters and day centres. 5,100 people were fed each week across Lancashire and Cumbria, with 531,283 meals served with Redistributed Food in 2016.¹⁰⁴ They currently serve many Community Food Members across Lancashire and Cumbria from Southport to Morecambe, and are looking to expand to cover the whole area, up to the Scottish border.¹⁰⁵

The Recycling Lives charity provides accommodation, work experience, training and support for homeless

¹⁰³ Cumbria County Council, Barrow Area Plan 2014-17 [pdf] Available at: <http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/elibrary/Content/Internet/536/41794164147.pdf> [Accessed 05 March 2017].

¹⁰⁴ Recycling Lives. 2017, [online] Available at: <http://www.recyclinglives.com/> [Accessed: 15 March 2017].

¹⁰⁵ Recycling Lives. 2017, [online] Available at: <http://www.recyclinglives.com/our-activities/food-redistribution/> [Accessed 8 March 2017].

people in the local area. In addition, they operate academies within Her Majesty's prisons across the UK, helping reduce reoffending by creating employment for ex-offenders. To become a member of the Centre people need to fill in an online application, call or e-mail them. The Charity does help people in poverty but does not involve them in the decision-making-process, therefore the PTC adage is not fulfilled.

It could be argued that tackling food waste is not only beneficial to clients seeking nutritious food but to other services as well: food banks run by charities and council services who may struggle with the already high demand for food in the Morecambe Bay area. If less food is wasted, a greater catchment of people can be helped in the Morecambe Bay area. Wasting less food not only has economic advantages but social advantages; tackling food waste can be seen as a more ethical way of disposing of food rather than wasting it.

Based on the information about charities providing people food, it can be suggested that the amount and quality of food is limited. Food that is close to due date may not be as nutritious, especially vegetables and fruit. Despite the fact that organisations, charities, communities, private sectors are actively working on tackling poverty and helping people, the amount of help is not enough. Increase of help – increase of demands.

West End Million

The West End of Morecambe was awarded £1 million in 2012 from Big Local to invest in achieving major improvements for all residents who live there.¹⁰⁶ Administered by Local Trust and financed by the Big Lottery Fund, Big Local provides an exciting opportunity for residents in 150 areas around England to access funds to make a positive, lasting difference to their communities. It aims to bring together all the local talent, ambitions, skills and energy from individuals, groups and organisations who want to make their area an even better place to live.¹⁰⁷ The Partnership is a group of people who together are responsible for guiding the overall direction of the West End Million. Elected each September at the West End Million AGM, membership of the partnership is open to anyone who lives, works or volunteers in the West End. Local people who have the final say in where all funds are invested drive the programme. The PTC adage is fulfilled as all people living in the area are welcome to contribute their ideas and actions for the development of the area.

Over 450 people responded to the West End Million community consultation. There was a wide range of ideas suggested on how to use the West End Million. A variety of suggestions on how to regenerate and improve the living environment of the West End were the most popular followed by the provision of more amenities, especially for children and young people.¹⁰⁸

2016 will see members of the Partnership researching and developing existing ideas for action to come up with a comprehensive plan of action to cover the four key areas already identified in the Community Profile: Housing, Young People, Business and Festivals.

Home Start

Home-Start is one of the leading family support charities in the UK, helping 30,000 families and 60,000 children each year through a network of 16,000 volunteers. Home-Start volunteers help families with young children deal with the challenges they face. They support parents as they learn to cope, improve their confidence and build better lives for their children. Families struggling with post-natal depression, isolation, physical health problems, bereavement and many other issues receive the support of a volunteer who will spend around two hours a week in a family's home supporting them in the ways they need.¹⁰⁹

Home Start Morecambe & Lancaster work in Morecambe, Lancaster and Carnforth and the areas in between (has 4 members of staff and 50 volunteers). They usually support 60 families at any one time that is estimated as 240 people in the Morecambe and Lancaster area who are receiving support from trained volunteers who have parental experience themselves. Their support includes offering encouragement to parents, playing with children when parents are ill, sourcing and offering correct advice if the family need it, attending appointments with families, helping the family to overcome isolation issues, disabilities or mental health problems.¹¹⁰

It can be suggested that Home Start fulfil the PTC adage based on their values: they offer families choice, work in partnership with each other, with families and with other agencies, work in a spirit of openness, encouragement and enjoyment, they are flexible and responsive to the needs of families.

¹⁰⁶ West End Million Partnership, 2016. 2016-2017 Action Plan. [pdf] Available at: http://localtrust.org.uk/assets/downloads/plans/West_End_Million_Action_Plan_2016-17.pdf [Accessed 15 March 2017].

¹⁰⁷ West End Million Partnership, 2017. [online] Available at: <http://westendmillion.co.uk/> [Accessed 15 March 2017].

¹⁰⁸ West End Million Partnership, 2017. [online] Available at: <http://westendmillion.co.uk/> [Accessed 15 March 2017].

¹⁰⁹ Home Start, 2017. [online] Available at: <https://www.home-start.org.uk/> [Accessed 14 March 2017].

¹¹⁰ Home Start, 2017. [online] Available at: <http://m11904.wixsite.com/home-startmorecambe> [Accessed 14 March. 2017].

Morecambe Bay Partnership

Morecambe Bay Partnership is a small charity governed by a board trustees that “makes big things happen”.¹¹¹ They are working to bring benefits to the communities, heritage and environment around the Bay. MB Partnership is dedicated to ensuring the Bay's heritage is recorded, conserved, understood and celebrated. The Partnership has secured over £3.5M of external investment. They aim to help secure £10M in the next 10 years to make more great things happen. Their projects include the Bay Cycle Way and bringing 2020 Vision exhibition to the Bay.¹¹²

MB Partnership is working with the Environment Agency, Local Authorities and United Utilities, to protect Morecambe Bay's five designated Bathing Waters. There are range of varied projects aimed to preserve, protect and celebrate the natural and cultural heritage of Morecambe Bay and care for this unique environment. People interested in working together with the Partnership, are welcome to volunteer and be included on the projects of MB Partnership. The Partnership is aimed to improve the area of Morecambe Bay through protecting the natural and cultural heritage and making different projects in the area. Positive changes made in the area can improve the condition of the environment and it can be beneficial for people living in poverty, which in turn can address the health poverty. The Partnership is open for all people interested in working with the group, hence people living in poverty can be involved in decision making.

The Exchange Creative Community

The Exchange Creative Community is a community-driven creative hub in the West End of Morecambe that uses art and creativity to grow community wellbeing, aspiration and enterprise. As part of an offer they have a gallery/gift shop showcasing locally made art work and gifts as well as a self-service brew bar and community space with a growing art/craft library. They unveiled Fundraising Exhibition and Auction in 2016 overwhelmed with local artists donating art work, the auction has raised a grand total of £1233. The money raised will help the Community to develop their upcoming community art studio.

It can be suggested as a development of wellbeing community through the making art work. The Community is involved in local events and all people are welcomed to join the community activities. It can be additional support for people living in poverty, who are interested in creative art or local activities. It helps people not stay aside and be involved in the community itself and its activities.

Citizens Advice North Lancashire

The Citizens Advice North Lancashire belongs to The Citizens Advice Bureau network, which offers information and advice on a wide range of topics, including: debt, benefits, housing, legal, discrimination, employment, immigration, consumer and other problems.

The Citizens Advice North Lancashire's catchment area is Morecambe, Lancaster, Heysham and the surrounding area. In 2015 service was provided for 5,934 people including 16,310 issues.¹¹³ The access to the service is free, impartial, independent and confidential. To utilize the service, people have to follow a certain procedure:

- filling in a form and conduct a short initial assessment to identify the enquiry,
- getting assistance in finding and understanding the information relevant to the enquiry,
- arrangement with an adviser or caseworker for the same day,
- making an appointment,
- directing the client to a specialist organisation.

The institution provides an extensive portal with various information, which foster self-help opportunities.¹¹⁴ Its

¹¹¹ Morecambe Bay Partnership, 2017. [online] Available at: <http://www.morecambebay.org.uk/about-us> [Accessed 15 March 2017].

¹¹² Ibid.

¹¹³ Citizens Advice, 2017. North Lancashire. [online] Available at: <http://www.northlancashirecab.org.uk/> [Accessed 06 March 2017].

¹¹⁴ Citizens Advice, 2016. The difference we make - Our Annual Report 2015/16. [pdf] Available at: <http://www.northlancashirecab.org.uk/Docs/Citizens%20Advice%20North%20Lancashire%20Annual%20Report%202015-16.pdf> [Accessed 06 March 2017].

seems that the organisation follows a top-down approach without involving the poor in the decision-making-progress. Therefore, it does not fulfil the PTC adage.

Action for children

Action for children helps disadvantaged children into their twenties through fostering, adaption, support for the parents and by intervening early to stop neglect and abuse. Therefore, they offer services like children's and family centres, intensive family support, short breaks, employability, and evidence-based programmes. Ultimately, the organisation tries to influence policy and advocate for change.¹¹⁵

Action for children is represented in Barrow-in-Furness through different agencies and can be accessed through email, phone and by post.¹¹⁶ Actions for children shape their help primary due to the analysis of data and evaluations tools.¹¹⁷

The question if they concur with the PTC motto is questionable. Even though the policies focus on success and therefore the well-being of the poor, it is not clear if that incorporates the idea of participating and empathy.

Stanley Community Centre

The Stanley Community Centre is a place for public usage. It enables people to do different activities due to the facilities provided. Therefore, the Centre has centrally heated, ventilated rooms and canteen facilities. Other organisations using the centre are for example: Save the Children, Further Education classes, Women's Groups, National Blood Transfusion Service, Derwentside Housing Committee, Homecare, N.W.D.C. Bowls League, Northern Rent Tribunal, North Durham Area Community Education Committee.¹¹⁸

One essential part of the Stanley Community Centre is the Stanley's Youth & Community Centre which is also labelled as CEEP (Connect, Engage, Empower, Participate). It is a youth and community development voluntary organisation that aims to make a positive difference in communities by providing an opportunity for personal and collective growth. That means CEEP provides an opportunity for emotional, social, physical, spiritual and mental development. They are doing this through community meals, job searching, volunteering, supporting students on placement, education and training in a relaxed environment and supporting local organisations and events. CEEP is in close collaboration to the Lancaster Boys and Girls Club, which is trying to develop young people from the age of 8 to 18 years through providing support and raising aspirations.¹¹⁹

It is possible to get in contact with the Stanley Community Centre through telephone and email.¹²⁰

The PTC adage seems not be fulfilled due to the pure focus on providing space and the predetermined process in youth development.

Lancaster And Morecambe Sight Saver Appeal

Lancaster And Morecambe Sight Saver Appeal is an open charity (last available information from 2015) with the goal to advance the health or saving of lives. They engage in raising funds and providing equipment for the ophthalmic department of the university hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS trust.

It is designed as an umbrella or resource body. The Activity is questionable due to an unaltered financial history since July 2015.

The Sight Save Appeal is contactable through email and telephone.¹²¹

The adage of PTC is not fulfilled through the highly technical purpose of the charity.

¹¹⁵ actionforchildren, 2017. What we do. [online] Available at: <https://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/what-we-do> [Accessed 06 March.2017].

¹¹⁶ actionforchildren, 2017. Contact us. [online] Available at: <https://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/contact-us/> [Accessed 06 March 2017].

¹¹⁷ actionforchildren, 2017. Our impact. [online] Available at <https://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/what-we-do/our-impact/> [Accessed: 06 March.2017].

¹¹⁸ SCC, 2017. Welcome. [online] Available at: <http://www.stanleycc.derwentside.org.uk/> [Accessed 16 March.2017].

¹¹⁹ CEEP, 2017. Projects. [online] Available at: <http://www.ceep.org.uk/projects.html> [Accessed 16 March 2017].

¹²⁰ SCC, 2017. Welcome. [online] Available at: <http://www.stanleycc.derwentside.org.uk/> [Accessed 16 March 2017].

¹²¹ UK government, 2017. Registered charities in England and Wales. [online] Available at: <http://beta.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-details/?regid=701762&subid=0> [Accessed 15 March 2017].

Faith groups

Morecambe Churches Forum

Morecambe Churches Forum meets every 3 months for sharing, praying, plugging events and to connect with other Christians from a large variety of Churches in Morecambe. They are ecumenical and have done a listing of the social action projects in Morecambe. The current list of Churches attending the Morecambe Churches Forum includes: Stanley Road Baptist Church, Salvation Army, Morecambe Homeless Action, West End Impact, Grace Ministries, Morecambe Bay Food Bank, Church of the Nazarene, Christ Church Broadway, Church of Ascension, Churches Together in Lancashire, Home Church, Morecambe and Heysham Free Methodist, Morecambe Community Church, Morecambe Parish Church, Quakers, Sefton Road URC, St. Barnabas, St. Christopher's, St. Helen's Overton, St. Peters, Torrisholme Methodist, and Wesley Methodist Church.

There are forums holding in different areas of Morecambe Bay. They aim to discuss actual problems, share information and solutions in terms of poverty in Morecambe Bay. Forums allow a big audience to gather and know more about people living in poverty, which leads to possible help for people in need and possible solutions to tackle poverty.

Morecambe Bay Food Bank

Morecambe Bay Food Bank (MB food bank) provides food to those in need, as a short-term solution. Networking is important here as MB food bank is not sufficient as a stand-alone organisation in solving the issues that present themselves in the Morecambe Bay area.

MB Food Bank is a project founded by local churches and community groups, working together towards stopping hunger in local area, facilitated by The Lancashire District of the Methodist Church in Great Britain and supported by The Trussell Trust, working to combat poverty and hunger across the UK.¹²² It also provides a range of new services like money advice and Fuel Banks, helping people to break the cycle of poverty.

MB Food Bank provides three days' nutritionally balanced emergency food and support to local people who are referred to them in crisis. It gave out over 50,000 meals to people in the local area in 2016. People need vouchers to receive food packages, which are provided through local agencies such as Citizens Advice, housing support officers, children's centres, health visitors, social services and some local charities. Vouchers can be exchanged for a minimum of three days of emergency food at a nearest food bank centre. MB Food Bank is actively running social media (Facebook page) to announce the list of needed food that can be dropped in boxes in supermarkets by local people, also statistics about the amount of donated food by schools, churches, businesses and individuals, supermarkets and organisations. In February 2017, they gave out 2.5 tonnes of food, and received 1.5 tonnes in donations. The food collected at their donations from the following locations in 2016: Asda Lancaster, Sainsbury's Lancaster, Sainsbury's Morecambe, Tesco Carnforth, Morecambe and Lancaster College, Torrisholme Primary School, Cornerstone's Cafe in Dalton Square generated enough food for 54,254 meals.

Despite the social help that MB Foodbank does and its active work with people in poverty, it is difficult to identify the involvement of people in poverty in decision-making-process, therefore the PTC adage is not fulfilled.

The Olive Branch

The Olive Branch is a Christian charity serving and helping the socially disadvantaged in Lancaster. Their mission is to support those suffering distress caused by addiction, broken family relationships, poverty and homelessness, and to enable individuals and families to resolve and alleviate their difficulties. The Olive Branch also acts as a mediator, connecting people in need with organisations.¹²³

The Olive Branch Food Bank provides free emergency food to families and individuals in difficulty. In 2016, they have had 2264 (an increase of 21% from 2015) total enquiries of which 1525 have been from people who have received emergency food aid.¹²⁴ In addition, 446 people have had problems with debt, 513 with addictions and 856 people have needed to use computer/phone facility in the Olive Branch office. People of No Fixed Abode have made 713 visits and 1178 people have enjoyed calling in for fellowship. These figures show that this is a very important aspect of work and very important to many visitors. Based on the statistics the average number of visitors per day is over three, these figures suggest that fellowship is an integral part of the work of the Olive Branch. Listening to visitors, communicating and spending time with them can significantly increase well-being and mental state of those who are

¹²² Morecambe Bay Foodbank, 2017. [online] Available at: <https://morecambebay.foodbank.org.uk/> [Accessed 6 March 2017].

¹²³ Olivebranch, 2017. [online] Available at: <http://www.the-olivebranch.org.uk/> [Accessed 08 March 2017].

¹²⁴ Olivebranch, 2016. AGM Report 2016 [online] Available at: www.the-olivebranch.org.uk/wp.../2016-AGM-report.doc [Accessed 06 March 2017]

impoverished. Furthermore, opening a dialogue with visitors can help to deduce the problems faced by those who are socially and economically disadvantaged.

The Olive Branch has had 1286 incoming referrals (269 from Citizens Advice, 294 from Lancaster and District Homeless Action Service, 137 from Probation Services and 193 from other organisations). The charity has been challenged to keep sufficient food stocks to supply demand but have successfully increased food donations through newsletters and support network.

The Olive Branch is a charity that provides help to people with short term and long-term needs. People in need receive help socially and economically with the help of individuals who make donations, churches, services and organisations. Volunteers are also actively included in the activities of the charity by helping with hospitality, befriending and listening to visitors, administration, packing food parcels, and cleaning. The Charity provides social help for people in poverty, however the charity does not involve people in need in decision-making-process, the PTC adage is not fulfilled.

Street Pastors

The Street Pastors initiative incorporates city projects in more than 300 towns in the United Kingdom, educating over 12,000 prayer and street pastors. Including all pastors, the management teams and trustees the Street Pastors network connects over 20,000 volunteers. Based on the Street Pastors' adage of 'listening, caring and helping', it has the aim to provide reassurance, safety and support. As governing body, the Ascension Trust connects the projects with local coordinators and other collaborating agencies like local churches, community groups, the relevant council, or the police.¹²⁵ There are three different types of pastors:

- Street pastors usually patrol in teams from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. on a Friday and Saturday night.
- Response pastors are street pastors with additional training, supporting people who encounter a current crisis or emergency. They can be reached any day or night.
- School pastors are volunteers focusing on the service of young people, particularly to students who do not want to consult with their teachers or parents. Furthermore, they try to enhance the safety, emotional issues and the social well-being of students.

The Street Pastors are already active in Lancaster.¹²⁶ The ecumenical police chaplain plans to establish Street Pastors in Barrow.¹²⁷

Contact is possible via post, email, phone or a form of their website.¹²⁸

Taking into consideration that the support given by the Street Pastors is completely individual to every person in need and that there are no standardized procedures, the adage of PTC seems to be fulfilled.

Christians Against Poverty

Christian Against Poverty (CAP) is a debt centre network which has expanded its services to tackle the causes of debt and poverty. The network is built on four different core services. Besides the primary CAP Debt Help, CAP Job Clubs facilitate the step-in employment, CAP Life Skills helps to provide people with knowledge of how to live with low income, and CAP Release Groups emphasise the fight against addictions.¹²⁹

One of the CAP Release Groups is positioned in Lancaster and is run in partnership with the Lancaster Baptist Church. Therefore, this institution fights against poverty caused through addiction. To overcome dependency caused by addiction, the group supports through: communities (talk and share similar experiences), courses (e.g. 8-week course to identify and tackle root issues causing the dependency), coaching (informal one to one support from a CAP Release Group Coach), celebrations (appreciation of success), and confidentiality (mutual trust and the willingness to share information is emphasised).

A Christians Against Poverty debt centre is initiated by the Spring Mount Christian Partnership and is positioned in Barrow. As national debt counselling charity, it is possible to provide free help through financial advice.

¹²⁵ Street Pastors, 2017. About us [online]. Available at: <http://www.streetpastors.org/about-us-1/> [Assessed 24 May 2017].

¹²⁶ Street Pastors, 2017. Our network [online]. Available at: <http://www.streetpastors.org/our-network/united-kingdom/north-west/> [Assessed 24 May 2017].

¹²⁷ Boothroyd, H. 2017. 'Information about faith groups in Barrow engaging in action on poverty.' [e-mail] To: Joshua Hughes. 12 May.

¹²⁸ Street Pastors, 2017. Connect [online]. Available at: <http://www.streetpastors.org/connect/> [Assessed 24. May 2017].

¹²⁹ CAPUK, 2017. We are Christians Against Poverty [online]. Available at: <https://capuk.org/> [Accessed 20 May 2017].

The organization also aims for a general financial education, for instance through the establishment of 'Money Courses'.¹³⁰

A typical procedure provided by a CAP debt centre can be seen in the following:

- Home visits by CAP debt coaches
- The debt counsellors examine a realistic budget in which essential bills get prioritized. Furthermore, affordable payments will be negotiated with each creditor.
- A CAP Plan will require a weekly or monthly payment. The plan is for the foundation to pay further bills, which will be distributed from CAP on the behalf of the person in need.
- The debt centre also helps people in severe debt through guidance with insolvency options. Even a support in court is possible.¹³¹

It is possible to get in touch by email, telephone or in person at the church itself. As an official charity, the service provided is free.¹³²

The CAP Release Group's way of working is based on the immanent interaction with poor people. For instance, the debt centres illustrate the need of individualised help and how CAP integrate the people in need into a mutual collaboration. That is why the PTC adage is fulfilled on an individual level. Nevertheless, based on this information it is not possible to identify the involvement of the poor in the strategic decision-making-process itself. Subsequently the PTC adage is not fulfilled on a strategic level.

Salvation Army

The Salvation Army is a worldwide Christian church and a registered charity with approximately 50,000 members, 4,000 employees, and 1,500 full time ministers. The Salvation Army categorises their support into the three fields of: homelessness, modern slavery, and people in poverty.¹³³ With a focus on poverty the services are refined in: emergency assistance; budgeting & debt advice; saving money (cafes and community projects); local support for jobseekers etc.¹³⁴ The services are offered unconditionally to people of all faiths. Getting in touch with the organisation is possible via email, telephone or personal contact. The following Salvation army premises are located in the Morecambe Bay:

- Charity shops: Fleetwood
- Churches: Morecambe, Lancaster, Carnforth, Barrow-in-Furness.¹³⁵

The motto of PTC is fulfilled, since the salvation army aspires to put the person and his needs at the centre of their support, which is for example exemplified in the 'need assessment' for homeless people.¹³⁶

The Church Urban Fund

The Church Urban Fund is an organisation established by the Church of England. They claim to bring positive change in neighbourhood and to promote the wellbeing of the people. Within a network of local relational partnerships, they run National Programmes like 'Near Neighbours', 'Places of Welcome', and 'Just Finance Network'

¹³⁰ Spring Mount, 2017. About [online]. Available at: <http://springmountcf.co.uk/cap/> [Assessed 24 May 2017].

¹³¹ CAP, 2017. About [online]. Available at: <https://capuk.org/i-want-help/our-services/cap-debt-help/how-cap-can-help> [Assessed 24 May 2017].

¹³² CAPUK, 2017. I want help [online]. Available at: <https://capuk.org/i-want-help> [Assessed 20 Feb. 2017]. CAPUK, 2017. Support for when you want to stop [online]. Available at: <https://capuk.org/i-want-help/our-services/cap-release-groups/questions> [Assessed 20 Feb. 2017].

¹³³ salvationarmy, 2017. In the UK and Republic of Ireland [online]. Available at: <https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/uk-and-republic-ireland> [Accessed 06 March 2017].

¹³⁴ salvationarmy, 2017. People in poverty a hand up not a hand out. [online] Available at: <https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/poverty> [Accessed 06 March 2017].

¹³⁵ salvationarmy, 2017. Find your nearest salvation army [online] Available at: <https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/map-page> [Accessed 06 March 2017].

¹³⁶ salvationarmy, 2017a. Homelessness breaking the cycle of homelessness [online]. Available at: <https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/homelessness> [Accessed 06 March 2017].

in order to address the areas of greatest need inside the communities and to promote justice.¹³⁷

In the context of poverty within the Morecambe Bay, they are engaged in the initiative 'Together Lancashire'. Together Lancashire is a group of Methodists, Anglicans and other denominations. They support churches and faith based groups in addressing the effects of poverty for instance through credit unions and financial inclusion. Furthermore, they help the parties involved to form local networks to reach common goals. Areas of work are for example: homelessness, employment (developing and fostering job clubs and employment projects), money issues and fair finance (debt advice, budgeting courses and credit unions) food poverty (cooking classes with focus on a cost-effective way), or arranging conferences (e.g. there is one refugee conference planned in July) to stimulate action.

Together Lancashire engages in rural poverty, child poverty (including work with families and in local schools), places of welcome and support (e.g. the initiative "northern prayerhouse" to pray for those caught in the web of poverty), parish nursing and refugees and asylum seekers (collaboration with the City of Sanctuary Movement; emergency accommodation in the case of refused permission).

It is possible to get in contact with Together Lancashire by post, email or telephone. ¹³⁸

Even though there is a strong focus on local needs through the specific initiatives and analysis of local peculiarities, a direct participation of local people in decision making cannot be identified, what exclude the PTC moto.

West End Impact

West End Impact is a charity run in partnership with Morecambe Community Church and other Christians in response to the regeneration of Morecambe. With the adage "Helping People, Bringing Hope and Changing Lives", they envision to provide a facility for Christian community work in the West End of Morecambe and its surrounding areas. Their work with people who are homeless, jobless and hopeless is divided in several projects considering the multi-purpose conception. Help is necessary with things like, rehabilitation, housing, benefits, counselling, volunteer opportunities, social inclusion etc. To address these issues West End Impact runs 4 main projects, including a drop-in for those with many needs.

The "Impact Sessions" run twice a week for people struggling with housing, drug- and/or alcohol abuse, crime, loneliness and financial difficulties. West End Impact provides food, drinks, as well as listening, practical help, advice and advocacy. Besides that, it is possible to participate in "Living Life to the Full", a 10 week Cognitive-behaviour therapy based, NHS accredited peer-led course helping people to overcome or deal with depression, anxiety and low mood. It is meant as the first step in the 5-step mental health step care plan General Practitioner's follow and they can refer to this course. The "Dog & the Elephant" is an advice and peer-led support Café for Mental Health. Within the Café they offer art lessons, support, advise and community. Ultimately, the community Café operates with the 'Suspended Coffee' idea (this is the advance purchase of a coffee for someone who needs it, no matter why). The initiative "Innovate Art" is a seven years long established peer led community art group. The impact youth is for children in the age of 11-13, where young people can spend their time while socializing or doing sport.

Contacting West End Impact is possible through email, telephone, post or contact forms on the website.

The PTC is not fulfilled, due to a lack of evidence that poor people are integrated in the decision-making process of West End Impact.¹³⁹

Initiatives by the St Mark's Church

The St Mark's Church, has employed a Community Pastor, who has initiated a number of projects to address poverty including a Clothes Bank and a free café. The clothes bank for instance is continually growing since its establishment in January 2016 and provided more than 2,000 people with different clothes.¹⁴⁰ The pastor, as well as other representatives of the church can be reached via Email.¹⁴¹ The clothes bank is also active in social media sites such as Facebook.¹⁴²

Based on information publicly available, it is not possible to clearly discern the involvement of people facing poverty in the decision-making process itself. Subsequently the PTC adage is not fulfilled.

¹³⁷ cuf, 2017. How we help. [online] Available at: <https://www.cuf.org.uk/about-us> [Accessed 06 March 2017].

¹³⁸ cuf, 2017. Together Lancashire. [online] Available at: <https://www.cuf.org.uk/together-lancashire> [Accessed 0 March 2017].

¹³⁹ West End Impact, 2017. Helping People-Bringing Hope-Changing Live. [online] Available at: <http://www.westendimpact.org.uk/> [Accessed 15 March 2017].

¹⁴⁰ North-West Evening Mail, 2017. About [online]. Available at: <http://springmountcf.co.uk/cap/> [Assessed 24 May 2017].

¹⁴¹ St. Mark's Church, 2017. Points of Contacts [online]. Available at: <http://www.stmarksbarrow.org.uk/contact.htm> [Assessed 24 May 2017].

¹⁴² Clothes Bank Community, 2017. About [online]. Available at: <https://www.facebook.com/ClothesBankCommunity/> [Assessed 24 May 2017].

Barrow Foodbank

Barrow Foodbank was started and is run in partnership by local churches working ecumenically. Serving 6 communities in Barrow, it is part of The Trussell Trust's nationwide network of foodbanks and collaborates with various agencies like the Citizens Advice or the children's centres. Barrow Foodbank also claims to offer practical help through non-judgmental support and advice. Additional distribution centres are located in Ulverston and Millom.¹⁴³ To utilize the service, people have to follow a certain procedure:

- Get in touch with a local relevant agency (via telephone, email, or personal contact)
- Visit of the referral agency with an information exchange and a supply of a foodbank voucher. Providing basic details will help to identify the cause of the problems at hand and facilitate practical guidance.
- Bring the foodbank voucher to a foodbank centre and exchange it for a minimum of three days of emergency food.

Contact is possible via Email or the phone.¹⁴⁴

On the basis of publicly available information, it is not possible to identify the involvement of the poor in the decision-making process itself. Subsequently the PTC adage is not fulfilled.

Morecambe Bay Christian Fellowship

Morecambe Bay Christian Fellowship is a registered charity (last available information from 2015), which claims to provide services including the recreation, education and the prevention or relief from poverty regarding the general public. The catchment area is around Morecambe and Lancaster.¹⁴⁵ It is listed as one of the Partners in Harvest (network of churches, a college with International Schools of Ministry, missions, programmes and events all over the world).¹⁴⁶

Nevertheless, the activity is questionable due to a lack of current information. Therefore, it is also not possible to evaluate the fulfilment of the PTC motto.

¹⁴³ The Barrow Foodbank, 2017. About [online]. Available at: <https://barrow.foodbank.org.uk/about/> [Assessed 24 May 2017].

¹⁴⁴ The Barrow Foodbank, 2017. How to get help [online]. Available at: <https://barrow.foodbank.org.uk/about/> [Assessed 24 May 2017].

¹⁴⁵ UK government, 2017. Registered charities in England and Wales. [online] Available at: <http://beta.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-details/?regid=1154420&subid=0> [Accessed 15 Feb. 2017].

¹⁴⁶ Partners In Harvest, 2017. Partners In Harvest. [online] Available at: <https://www.partnersinharvest.org/churches/morecambe-bay-christian-fellowship/> [Accessed 15 Feb 2017].



Figure 2: Map of charities in the Morecambe Bay area



Figure 3: Map of local charities, with focus on Lancaster

Private sector

There are several private sector actors, which help charities by donating food which is close to due date. The locations of food donation points are found mostly in supermarkets (food boxes in shops: Asda, Tesco, Sainsbury's)

Over 90% of the food distributed by foodbanks in The Trussell Trust is donated by the public, people living in the area.¹⁴⁷

Booker Wholesale Company is the UK's largest cash and carry operator, offering branded and private-label goods, which are sold to over 503,000 customers including independent convenience stores, grocers, leisure outlets,

¹⁴⁷ MB Foodbank. 2017. Give help. [online] Available at: <https://morecambebay.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/> [Accessed 08 Feb. 2017].

pubs and restaurants.¹⁴⁸ Booker Wholesale on Northgate in Morecambe gave food that was nearly out of date so the food could be distributed to families in need.

Sainsbury's has been working with FareShare for 18 years, donating safe and nutritious surplus food which is either past its display until date or has damaged packaging.¹⁴⁹

Morecambe Foodbank collected food in the Carnforth Tesco Store, with shoppers donating 1823 kg of food which is the equivalent of 5208 meals for people in need in the Morecambe area in December 2016.¹⁵⁰

Inspira

Inspira is a not-for-profit-company and is specialised in giving people the tools to unlock their potential and find their purpose. Hence, their main focus is in career and personal development.

They are doing this through different services, courses and programmes like improving the CV, developing self-confidence, giving interview tips or advice in changing their career. These offers are based on free or low-fee services. Within Morecambe Bay services can be used in Lancaster and Barrow-in-Furness.

Inspira is accessible through the phone or filling in a contact form.¹⁵¹

The PTC adage is not fulfilled through the predetermined services and the fixed structured processes.

Funding Sources

Francis C Scott Charitable Trust (FCST)

The Francis C Scott Charitable Trust awards over £1 million in grants every year to charitable organisations who are aimed for enable young people from the most deprived areas of Cumbria and North Lancashire to achieve their full potential in life.

They are particularly interested in effective approaches to addressing the needs of children, young people and young adults (up to 24 years old) in the following areas:

- victims/survivors of abuse and exploitation
- homelessness and its underlying causes
- those suffering from mental health problems
- those leaving care
- those leaving the criminal justice system
- problems of isolation experienced in rural areas
- enterprising solutions to job creation
- targeted, issues-based youth work
- those living in poverty

To apply for funding organisations should meet the following requirements:

- should be a registered charity / pursuing charitable objectives
- project should be based in Cumbria / North Lancashire
- project should meet the needs of disadvantaged children / young people
- should be able to send to the Trustee a copy of the most recent audited / signed accounts.

¹⁴⁸ Booker Company [online] Available at: <http://www.bookergroup.com/about-booker/business-overview.aspx> [Accessed on 08 Feb. 2017].

¹⁴⁹ Sainsbury's [online] Available at: <https://livewellforless.sainsburys.co.uk/fareshare-million-meal-appeal/> [Accessed 08 Feb. 2017].

¹⁵⁰ MB Foodbank. 2017. Give help. [online] Available at: <https://morecambebay.foodbank.org.uk/2016/12/19/the-tesco-neighbourhood-food-collection-response-was-amazing/> [Accessed 08 Feb. 2017].

¹⁵¹ Inspira, 2017. About Inspira. [online] Available at: <https://www.inspira.org.uk/about-inspira> [Accessed 15 March 2017].

Applications for grants of less than £4,000 will be considered at Small Grants meetings every 3-4 weeks, over £4,000 are decided at one of three Trustee meetings held each year.¹⁵²

Business in the Community

Business in the Community is one of The Prince's Charities, a group of not-for-profit organisations of which The Prince of Wales is President.¹⁵³ Members of the Community work to tackle a wide range of issues (particularly environment, employees, education, employment, enterprise) that are essential to creating a fairer society and a more sustainable future. They work locally, nationally and internationally through a network of partners world-wide and focused on promoting responsible business practice. They also support businesses to make a positive difference in rural communities to help sustain the UK countryside. Through their network of local offices around the UK, and through the programmes they deliver at a community level, the Community works with Local Authorities, Councillors and Members of Parliament to bring about the greatest impact at a local level.

Big Lottery Fund

The Big Lottery Fund is a public body which offer a number of grants to projects and the lives of people it considers most in need. The Big Lottery Fund's funding streams that directly address communities and small projects may be of greatest interest to the PTC.

£160million pounds is available in total from the "Reaching Communities" fund, which consistently offers between £10,000-£500,000 to voluntary and community groups across England.¹⁵⁴

West End Million

In 2012 Morecambe's West End was awarded £1million from the Big Lottery Fund's 'Big Local' project to be spent over 10 years. West End Million has devised a steering committee and have determined that projects involving Housing, Young People, Businesses and Festivals to be the main priorities. As of March 2017, the application process is coming to a close but West End Million are still currently accepting proposals¹⁵⁵

Lloyds Bank Foundation England and Wales

The Lloyds Bank Foundation for England and Wales is one of the UK's leading independent grant making trusts. The Foundation invests in charities supporting people to break out of disadvantage at critical points in their lives, and promotes practical approaches to lasting change. Currently the Foundation is funding 73 Charities with total amount of £4,052,918 in North West of England (it includes some charities in Lancaster and Barrow-in-Furness). Programmes are designed to support charities that help people experiencing multiple disadvantage make positive and lasting changes to their lives at critical points.¹⁵⁶

There are programmes available to apply:

- Invest – long-term funding of core or delivery costs for charities working to deliver clear outcomes for disadvantaged people. Grants from £10k to £25k per annum for 2 to 6 years.
- Enable – grants for specific organisational development to strengthen the effectiveness of the charity. Grants up to £15k for 1 to 2 years.
- Enhance – if the charity is successful in being awarded an Invest or Enable grant, Enhance programme will work with applicants to identify whether they would benefit from additional support under the Enhance Programme.

¹⁵² F C Scott Charitable Trust. 2017. [online] Available at: <<http://www.fcsct.org.uk/what-we-fund/>> [Accessed 01 June 2017].

¹⁵³ The Responsible Business Awards. 2017. Business in the Community, [online] Available at: <<http://awards.bitc.org.uk/home-page/2017-responsible-business-awards-shortlisted-companies-announced>> [Accessed 01 June 2017].

¹⁵⁴ Reaching Communities England. 2017. Big Lottery Fund, [online] Available at: <<https://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/global-content/programmes/england/reaching-communities-england>> [Accessed 01 June 2017].

¹⁵⁵ West End Million. 2016. Community Grants-get your application in!, [online] Available at: <<http://westendmillion.co.uk/community-grants-get-your-applications-in/>> [Accessed 01 June 2017].

¹⁵⁶ Lloyds Bank Foundation, 2017. [online] Available at: <https://www.lloydsbankfoundation.org.uk/> [Accessed: 01 June 2017].

To apply for funding charities should meet the following requirements:

- must be a Charity or Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) registered with the Charity Commission
- charity must have an income between £25,000 and £1 million
- charity must work with disadvantaged people aged 17 and over
- charity must be supporting people facing multiple disadvantage through one or more of the Foundation's specified transition points.

Esmée Fairbairn Foundation¹⁵⁷

It is one of the largest independent grant-making foundations in England it provides grants for organisations which aim to improve the quality of life for people and communities in the UK. It funds for issues related to:

- Arts by supporting evolving talents and art that is socially impactful
- Social change by supporting marginalised individuals, stimulating community change and work on injustices
- Environment by working to conserve nature, and countering effects of environmental damage
- Children and young people by addressing issue behind low attainment levels, supporting the rights of children and improving support for the disadvantaged
- Food by working on improving the food sector and supporting original approaches to food.

The foundation also has a funding stream dedicated to young people leaving care and is in partnership with the Female Genital Mutilation Initiative, Soil Association, UnLtd Lead the Change, as well as other funding partners. There are no deadlines for applications.

Andrews Charitable Trust¹⁵⁸

Andrews Charitable Trust is a Christian charity that funds organisations working on social issues. The charity has 3 funding programmes:

- Early Stage Ventures: these are organisations that are looking to make real changes to the lives of poor and vulnerable people through innovation. It offers unrestricted funding and good representation of trustees on the board. It can establish long term financing provided there is real impact.
- Christian Innovation Grants: this grant is both for Christian individuals and organisations in order to promote the Christian faith and help disadvantaged people in the community. It will offer 20 grants of £2000 each to churches with the best community projects. The Summer deadline is on 3rd July 2017, and Autumn deadline is on 27th November 2017.
- [establish]: this funding is for local organisations with track record in housing initiatives for the disadvantaged.

Cinnamon Network¹⁵⁹

Cinnamon Network helps local churches by providing small start-up grants for community projects. They offer £2000 micro grants, which have to be match funded, for any local church to start Cinnamon Recognised Project and Course, which includes a Cinnamon Micro Grant for Cumbria. Churches can apply three months before they start the Project or three months after they have started it.

¹⁵⁷ Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, 2017. Guidance for grant applicants. [pdf] Available at <https://esmeefairbairn.org.uk> [Accessed 1 June 2017].

¹⁵⁸ Andrews Charitable Trust. 2017. [online] Available at <http://andrewscharitabletrust.org.uk/> [Accessed 1 June 2017].

¹⁵⁹ Cinnamon Network. 2017. [online] Available at <http://www.cinnamonnetwork.co.uk/> [Accessed 1 June 2017].

Conclusion

In this report, we have examined the nature of poverty, its causes in Morecambe Bay and poverty alleviation efforts operating across the area. The scope of our research has been extensive. For the purposes of clarification, we have had to divide up the Morecambe Bay area into individual localities, highlighting the need for more detailed studies of particular sectors operating within the area.

We have seen that there is considerably more investment in densely populated urban areas than rural areas. There is considerable more investment in the cities, which leave some of the rural areas in structural poverty. Despite the decline of the tourism industry in these coastal towns, there has not been an increase in funding from government to boost the economy.

This research has proved that, while there does seem to be quite a substantial amount of charity organisations, there is a lack of projects prompted by central government. This could, however, just be as a result of the lack of information that is publicly available. It will be useful, for the future, to have a way to easily access the appropriate projects that the statutory authority is involved in to alleviate poverty in the area.

Local authorities by no means provide the sole answer to long-term poverty alleviation efforts. The effect of the recent vote on leaving the European Union on poverty remains unclear and the prospect of further cuts from central government is all too imaginable. There is need for poverty alleviation efforts to diversify funding sources and it is imperative. In this regard, private sector involvement in poverty alleviation could prove imperative. Firms should be encouraged to commit to long term economic development initiatives rather than offer programmes of their own that scarcely consult people suffering in poverty themselves. Furthermore, experimental models for funding such as asset-based community development could be explored to secure long-term project funding.

Our original briefing involved: gathering as much information about poverty in Morecambe Bay as possible, gathering information about potential funding sources and has mostly conglomerated around the third of these points, as an effective list of organisations involved with poverty alleviation has been compiled.

Yet the question remains: to what extent does the PTC adage “nothing about us, without us, is for us” apply from a multi-institutional, top-down level across the entire bay? Our limited research indicates that charities are most likely to heed this approach, that statutory authorities depending on their remit are likely to consult people suffering in poverty but not involve them as much in the delivery process and that the private sector tends operate with less transparency. Faith groups often act as an intermediary between these sectors, though we have seen through interviewing community leaders that often the understanding of poverty often differs between the clergy and the laity.

Our work has provided a vital first step forward in formally scoping the extent to which poverty afflicts Morecambe Bay’s towns and cities. Yet as we have seen, there are no clear patterns across each of the indices we measured. It is not possible to fully grasp the inequality through such an overarching project relying primarily on institutional-level publicly accessible information. While this may initially seem dispiriting, new relationships that have been forged in the process of completing this project have opened the door to further research, which could perhaps grasp poverty from a closer perspective.

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