

Challenge Poverty Week - October 2021 Cornwall



*A Cornwall Independent Poverty Forum Project
with End Hunger Cornwall*





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Cornwall Independent Poverty Forum (CIPF)

CIPF working with End Hunger Cornwall promoted Challenge Poverty Week 2021 in Cornwall. We asked projects working to address poverty to invite local leaders to come and visit their community group to highlight the excellent work they do and also to give insights into the reasons why so many within our communities are in poverty. Thanks to all those projects who took part and for the leaders who took time to visit and comment on the work that is taking place.

Andrew Yates, CIPF Chair

End Hunger Cornwall

By taking part in Challenge Poverty Week, many organisations at the front line of Cornwall's amazing poverty provision charities have taken the chance to engage with a new audience, be that Councillors, Church Leaders or MP's. This awareness is vital in opening dialogue because we need to be working with these people to solve the problem of poverty. We are not their opposition, but we are able to suggest positive alternatives and be heard.



Challenge Poverty Week is organised by Church Action on Poverty, an organisation with whom End Hunger Cornwall is closely associated. Through Church Action on Poverty we have been able to give Cornwall a voice at the front and centre of the national debate. Sincere thanks to everyone that has been involved in making this fantastic week happen across Cornwall. Keep those conversations going. Keep up contact with your councillors and MP's. Keep making that change. Keep Challenging Poverty!

Andrew Howell, End Hunger Cornwall





Truro - Challenge Poverty Week Launch at Truro Foodbank

At the October Cornwall Independent Poverty Forum (CIPF) meeting we, along with End Hunger Cornwall, launched the 2021 Challenge Poverty Week.

Simon Fann of Truro Foodbank provided the CIPF with a powerful presentation reflecting on the experiences of some of those who have recently needed to access the Foodbank for support. The report contained six recommendations aimed at taking the conversation forward:

1. Encourage business owners/employers to stop low pay practices.
2. Review the usage of Zero hours contracts.
3. Regulation if low pay cannot be addressed voluntarily.
4. Support agencies should be able to assist ALL people as soon as they ask for they help.
5. Improve the benefits system.
6. Investigate Universal Basic Income.



Jessie Hamshar, Cornwall Council's Director for Strategy and Engagement, also joined us at the meeting, received the report with interest and gave her full backing to Challenge Poverty Week.

Paul - Parish Church

David Carpenter of Paul Church (West of Penzance) met with Mayor of Penzance, Councillor Johnathan How, who joined the congregation for Paul Feast and took a great interest in the Foodbank and the donation point in the church porch.





St Austell - Remake Community Fridge

Carolyn Boyce and Volunteers at Remake Cornwall Community Fridge are feeding vulnerable needy people in St Austell and providing outstanding support to the whole community.

Falmouth - Community Fridge and Homeless Action Group

Robin Markland of Falmouth Community Fridge pictured with Cllr Jayne Kirkham. Robin also provides amazing practical help and warm clothing to the town's homeless population, Cllr Kirkham also being a member of Falmouth Homeless Action Group.



Newquay Orchard

The amazing Newquay Community Orchard who actively promote sustainability in lifestyle, environment and food. In doing this they are challenging poverty every day and providing real solutions – and all in a truly inspiring place.



Grampound – Community Village Store

Cornwall Councillor Michael Bunny commented on his volunteering at the store: "It's a brilliant local facility that provides a community coffee shop and store. They provide social contact too and much needed local shopping at affordable prices. Community responses to tackling poverty and social isolation are so important. I love volunteering at Grampound Community Shop and reaching out. During the pandemic I ran a meal scheme and food bank in Gorran and St Ewe and it's so important we keep community support services going".



Camborne - Transformation CPR Foodbank

Thanks to Joyce Duffin and the team at Camborne (Transformation CPR) food bank. "For Challenge Poverty Week we invited our local Cornwall Councillors to visit the food bank and talked about changes to supporting people so they wouldn't have to rely on food banks."



Cornwall Independent Poverty Forum

Paul Green of the Cornwall Independent Poverty Forum in good conversation with Cllr Jane Kirkham who attended the launch of the 2021 Christmas Giving Catalogue. The Catalogue supports twenty charities working hard to support those in poverty across Cornwall every year.



Helston - Mustard Seed

David Williams, development manager of Mustard Seed in Helston, in receipt of two backpack beds from Revd Andrew Yates, (Chair of Cornwall Independent Poverty Forum) commented, "These will be very useful, With the increase in fuel and housing costs as well as the cut to Universal Credit uplift we are expecting to see more homeless people approaching us for support. The beds could turn out to be life savers."



Penzance – Active Plus & Food For Families

Terri-Anne Livermore of Active Plus, who supported Food For Families CIC as part of Challenge Poverty Week.

Terri-Anne's feedback regarding the event:

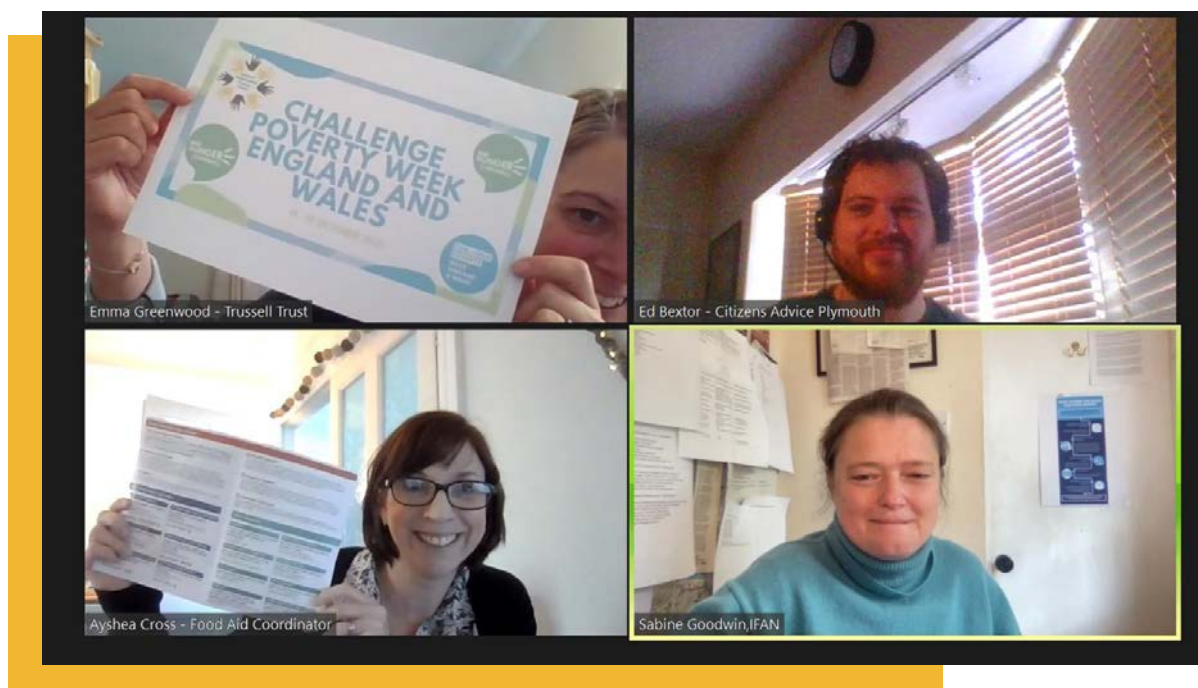
"I took the opportunity to visit 'Food for Families CIC' based in Penzance this morning. As part of the Challenge Poverty week I went down to connect with the charity that work extensively to reduce food poverty in Penzance and surrounding areas of Cornwall. Restoring dignity and pride in the local community, I went and supported the non-profit organisation at the Best Before Store today. I met some inspiring volunteers and the lovely ladies that run the store and they are very keen to network especially with Veterans and their families. With this they kindly donated some food which I'm making up 'Grab bags' for those that are in need. This will include a variety of food, recipe cards, information on food vouchers and local support."

Active Plus Challenge Poverty every day. As well as being a part of the wider debate we empower people to embrace the changes and challenges of poverty by increasing their confidence, motivation and resilience.

Trussel Trust

Slightly over the border in Devon, but the wonderful Emma Greenwood of Trussel Trust held our Cornish Challenge Poverty Week banner high at their Worrying About Money leaflet launch today.

This is a fantastic and openly available leaflet, already with a Cornwall version. Please contact Transformation Cornwall or Citizens advice for free copies.



Truro Homeless Action Group (THAG)

During Challenge Poverty Week, Bishop Philip, Bishop of Truro visited the Truro Homeless Action Group. He commented, "Great joy to be with Pam and Ann at Truro Homeless Action Group as a part of Challenge Poverty Week. Astonishingly they provide a hot meal 365 days a year. Remarkable commitment."

THAG are looking urgently for volunteers - please get in touch if you could help.





Trussel Trust Foodbank Cluster Meeting

At the recent Cornwall Trussell Trust foodbank cluster meeting held during Challenge Poverty Week, we discussed how we can Challenge Poverty and direct our energies to working towards a future where emergency food aid isn't needed because everyone has enough money to cover the basics.

Cllr Christopher Wells also attended the meeting and noted "At a meeting that I attended of Cornwall's food bank managers, I was impressed by their dedication in leading many volunteers to fulfil a demand that has grown significantly over the past year. So many residents of Cornwall who have found themselves in an urgent short-term need for assistance have found not only food but advice and support at the food banks. I was pleased to be engaged in discussions about a strategy that is seeking to eliminate the need for this type of provision."





Penzance Foodbank

Mayor of Penzance, Cllr Jonathan How, visited Penzance Foodbank as a part of Challenge Poverty Week. The food bank covers a huge area, both urban and rural, from Praa Sands right through to Lands End. Councillor How commented "What I can see as a priority for the council is really helping voluntary sector organisations in working together... If we can do stuff together we can achieve so much more".

Treverbyn Hall

Treverbyn Hall has several community larders helping to stop food waste and tackle poverty at the same time. They constantly strive to support and give people the dignity, agency and power they need to support themselves. By doing this they challenge poverty at the front line, every day of the year.

Cornwall Community Foundation

Cornwall Community Foundation Grants Committee met during Challenge Poverty Week. They were reviewing the £1.7 million that CCF has so far distributed to Cornish Community groups in 2021 – many of them working at grassroots level supporting families in poverty - including foodbanks, community larders, rough sleeper support and mental health groups. The committee were also making plans on how their funds can be most effectively used to help address what they expect to be a very difficult and challenging winter for many households in Cornwall.





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

If you would like more information about us and the work we do, please visit our website:

www.cornwallindependentpovertyforum.com

'Tackling social exclusion in Cornwall'

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