
Church Action on Poverty Year Plan 2008/09

Strategic Objective 1:

Promoting more sustainable livelihoods

Summary

CAP's work in promoting more sustainable livelihoods will include work to challenge and change public attitudes and public policy in relation to poverty generally, as well as more specifically in relation to asylum destitution and extortionate lending. We will encourage churches to actively promote Living Wages and demonstrate the contribution that churches, community groups and people in poverty can themselves make to promoting more sustainable livelihoods through the Thrive project.

Brief description of key activities

Projected outcome

Get Fair Campaign

CAP will play a leading role in coordinating the Get Fair campaign, working with key partners to launch the campaign and support End Child Poverty's rally in the autumn, high profile media work and resourcing local activists to lobby MPs locally.

Mobilising activists within churches and other key partners to support campaign to change public attitudes to poverty in the UK and secure the commitment of political parties ending poverty across all the generations in the UK by 2020.

Living Ghosts campaign

CAP will continue working with partners in the Still Human Still Here campaign to end the destitution of asylum seekers

Increased pressure on the Government to stop making people refused asylum destitute

Living Wage church

CAP will work with several of the major denominations to promote churches' supporter for the Living Wage

Churches take a lead in advocating for and paying a Living Wage

Debt on our Doorstep

Whilst reducing our level of commitment on previous years, CAP will continue to offer support to the Debt on our Doorstep campaign.

Raising awareness about debt, financial exclusion and extortionate lending, and scoping potential for CAP to pick up debt and financial inclusion work as a higher priority in 09/10.

Thrive

CAP supports Thrive in becoming an independent local organisation, working with churches and local people on a number of issues, including financial inclusion and mental health.

Thrive demonstrates the value of the sustainable livelihoods approach in enabling people living in poverty in Stockton to have a better quality of life and increased assets.

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Strategic Objective 2:

Giving a voice to people in poverty

Summary

CAP's work in giving a voice to people in poverty will significantly increase during the year: The Participatory Budgeting Unit, work in partnership with the Department for Communities and Local Government will increase the take up of participatory budgeting by local authorities and other public agencies; the Changemakers programme (subject to funding) will expand its work in Manchester, Stockton, Bradford and beyond, and we will make more opportunities for the voices of those involved to be heard more widely within our work generally.

Brief description of key activities

Projected outcome

Participatory Budgeting Unit

The PB Unit will expand its work with local authorities, through a network of regional coordinators and associates, training events and conferences, the website, a toolkit and other publications. PB initiatives will also be developed with partners in Wales and Scotland.

People living in poverty have more control over which services are delivered in their area

Changemakers

CAP will support the launch of the Manchester Changemakers organisation; develop new community leadership training programmes in Bradford and potentially Blackburn, and continue to support the development of Thrive as a broad based community organisation.

To develop the capacity of people in Manchester, Bradford, Blackburn and Stockton to act publicly and effectively on their issues to bring about positive change in their communities.

North East Participatory Poverty Assessment

We will complete and publish report a report on the feasibility of undertaking a Participatory Poverty Assessment in the North East of England and disseminate the findings to regional and national policy makers and opinion formers

Clearer understanding of what Participatory Poverty Assessment (PPA) would look like in UK context

Voice Box

We will take more effort to 'capture' the voices of local people involved in CAP's grassroots programmes, and share them more widely via CAP publications, videos, the website and other media.

Voices and experiences of people in poverty heard more widely, as an integrated part of other CAP programmes, leading to changes in hearers' attitudes towards poverty

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Strategic Objective 3:

Mobilising churches to work with others to overcome poverty

Summary

CAP's work in mobilising churches to work with others to overcome poverty will build on developments begun in 07/08 - promoting take up of the Just Church programme; holding a second Poverty and Homelessness Action Week with significant numbers of both national and local partners. We will also seek to develop a new strand of work specifically targeting young people, as well as undertaking a major review of our communications strategy, with a view to increasing the effectiveness of our overall communications with members, supporters and the wider church..

Brief description of key activities

Projected outcome

Just Church

We will work with partners to encourage local churches to participate in the Just Church programme, running workshops and training events, developing a Just Church network and a 2009 Lent Study programme.

Members of local churches and groups make an ongoing commitment to challenge poverty and injustice

Action Week

Poverty and Homelessness Action Week (31 Jan - 7 Feb 09) will be focussed on working with partners to put on 50-60 local performances of 'Poverty Monologues' - a dramatic presentation of real life experiences of poverty being developed by Actors for Human Rights.

To raise the profile and awareness of poverty issues within the churches and public more generally, sign up active campaigners and CAP supporters.

Young people

We will develop a more active involvement with young people (in the 16-25 age range), through producing specific resources tailored for schools and young people and developing partnerships with groups already working with young people.

More young people recruited as activists, members and supporters, both inside and outside churches, safeguarding CAP's future supporter base.

Communications and supporter relations

We will develop a new communications strategy for CAP, including reviewing CAP's brand image, printed and electronic publications; increasing our profile at key events, and through our campaign activities

A higher profile in churches for poverty issues and for CAP. An increase in our sustainability and supporter base.

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Strategic Objective 4:

Being an effective and sustainable organisation

Summary

CAP's work in becoming a more effective and sustainable organisation will include a greater emphasis on shared learning, internally and with key partners; a more systematic approach to fundraising and staff management; upgrading the CAP office environment and improved reporting on the impact of our work.

Brief description of key activities

Projected outcome

A Learning organisation

We will develop an organisational training/ learning strategy, including development plans for all staff, a learning day on mobilising churches, a National Poverty Consultation, and publishing toolkits on livelihoods and participatory budgeting.

A more effective learning organisation, both internally and in sharing the lessons from our work with key partners in the churches and beyond.

Fundraising

CAP will - for the first time - dedicate specific staff resources to fundraising; develop more systematic approaches to grant-making trusts and recruiting new members/donors.

Resources secured to fund programmes and core operations for next 2-3 years. Stronger relationships with supporters and members, leading to greater member retention and increased core income,

Staff management

We will implement the new Staff Handbook, including a more systematic approach to supervision, appraisals, Performance Objective and Personal Development plans; regular team meetings, learning opportunities and awaydays

All staff better managed and able to contribute more effectively to achieving CAP's year plan

Financial management

In addition to on-going financial management and office administration, we will undertake significant improvements to CAP's office environment.

CAP's administrative and financial management systems are run efficiently and smoothly enabling CAP to be an effective organisation.

Supporting partners

CAP will continue to provide bookkeeping, payroll and financial management support and advice to key partners - UKCAP and Community Pride.

CAP Partners (UK Coalition Against Poverty and Community Pride?) to have an effective and accurate financial support service.

Planning and reporting

Within CAP's annual planning cycle, we will give particular emphasis on including more feedback from partners in the 07/08 Impact Report, and more systematic monitoring of success indicators during year.

CAP's Council is more effective in planning, coordination and monitoring the work, and in particular in assessing the impact of our work.