

PTC Project Report – August 2024

Date	12-06-24	Project Name	Poverty Truth Commission	Lead Manager	Andrea Beacham (OND)
Period covering	June-July 2024	Project Manager	James Lander	Sponsor	Kristian Tomblin (ICB)

RAG status

	SCOPE: Time
	SCOPE: Cost (within budget) - budget extended, new funding received
	SCOPE: Quality - low capacity / low CC participants (breadth of experience)
	Governance – steering group incl. Lived experience (CCs)
	Support
	Learning (Evaluation) – external evaluation secured, draft logic model
	Recruitment CC – KPI: 12-15 (currently 9)
	Recruitment CBL - KPI 12-15: Inviting (1 confirmed)
	Prepare phase (Community Commissioners)
	Launch event – Inviting attendees (0 confirmed)
Oct '24 - Oct'25	Commission (Engage, Explore, Experiment phases)
Nov'25-Jan'26	Embed phase
Jan 2026	Closing Event

Key

Community Commissioners (CCs); Civic & Business leaders (CBL); PTN Poverty Truth Network (PTN); Poverty Truth Commission / Ilfracombe (PTC / I)

Objectives

Phase 1 (Month 1-5) 5 months exploratory phase - Unpacking of Obj 1-4

1. PTC process builds trust between commissioners
2. Commissioners have a shared understanding of the impact and root causes of poverty in Ilfracombe based on local lived experience
3. Commissioners have a shared understanding of the system (incl. potential to influence [power], barriers to change, how decisions are made and resources distributed)
4. The commission becomes a model of shared decision making, through inclusive and participatory processes, recognising community commissioners as key contributors to tackling poverty in Ilfracombe.

Phase 2 - (Months 6-12) 7 months: action phase (coming together to influence the system).

5. Commissioners work in partnership to bring about positive social change by identifying collective goals, engaging in learning and taking action to improve services, policy and the local community for those in financial struggle (access, experience, outcomes)
6. PTC shared decision-making model embedded in external decision-making processes within PTC partner organisations (ensuring the community voice continues to influence the decision-making process)

Key deliverables and achievements in reporting period

Time

With agreed extension new timeline is:

- Commission Oct 2024 - Oct 2025
- Closing event before Christmas 2025
- Embed phase Nov-Jan 2026

Support / Governance

- Devon Mental Health Alliance providing free phone support post session and in-person support at the launch event (group debrief and 1-2-1 as needed).
- Monthly ICB supervision for facilitators are going well and very useful
- Mentor for project lead, Line management weekly, Creative support (theatre)

Evaluation/reflection

- Collaboration between Devon Communities Foundation (manage / co-supervision), Exeter University (researcher, co-supervision, creating a funding proposal) and OND/One Ilfracombe
- Researcher has visited Community Commissioners and will be working with them to ensure participatory approach to developing a 'learning framework'
- Post session feedback forms and facilitator reflection sessions to support ongoing learning
- Researcher creating proposal for applying for ESRC Impact Accelerator Account funding (an internal University of Exeter funding stream) to support us researching the process and outcomes of the Ilfracombe Poverty Truth Commission, and how the conditions for change are created. Currently securing **letters of support** from our partners.

Recruitment

KPI: 12-15 Community commissioners (CC)

- Struggling to recruit more CCs (currently have 9 with 1 other facing housing issues and likely having to relocate)
- PTN have advised 8 CCs is not enough for commission (as others may need to drop out) but 8 to share stories at the launch is ok (do not need to extend/change dates for launch).
- Aiming to increase group diversity (ethnic minorities (currently 0), young people (currently 1) and 65+ (currently 0).

Recent efforts include

- Presented to staff at North Devon Homes, The Children centre, Spark UK, DCC 16+ skills hub
- Created Facebook page / new leaflets & poster (removed mention of 'poverty')
- Drop-in info session @salvation army hall on 7th August

Young people :

- Met with staff from Childrens centre Skills hub (16+)

- Salvation Army (Shiv) are working with local schools to gather stories to advocate for under 18's
- Met with Petroc re: contacting students on bursary (students return Sept 2nd)
- **Learning from other PTCs;** PTN 'involving young persons learning space' (see notes in appendix)

KPI: 12-15 civic/business leaders (CBL)

- 1 of 15 confirmed - Currently inviting CBLs to Sept launch event and full commission (Oct '24-Oct '25)
- Facilitation team have spoken with community commissioners and created a [draft list of organisational leaders](#)
- Intention for CC to create personal invitations as well as OND contact (if does not impact their launch event prep)
- VCFSE organisations are interested to join (they have lived experience of staff/volunteers delivering services to those in poverty in Ilfracombe) - PTN advice that 'organisational leaders' need to be able to influence the emerging themes rather than advocate

Community commissioners (lived experience)

- We have 8 committed people – whilst recruiting would be useful, it is important we use our capacity to support and learn from those attending (Quality over quantity) and keep in touch with those that left (learning).
- We continue to meet every other Thursday 1100-1400 to articulate stories, develop as a group and co-produce launch event. However, attendance fluctuates due to personal circumstances of CCs.
- We are capturing lived experience stories on video/audio (Dancing road video production)
- Media interest has begun (BBC / ND Gazette) - Aug 1st group received media awareness training from Church Action on Poverty (offered to us for free).

Learning from other PTCs

- Up to 3 Community / civic commissioners will attend (9-11th Oct) annual PTN commissioner gathering to meet those involved in other UK commissions.
- Public Health Director spoke with One Northern Devon about his experience as a participant on the Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole Commission

Launch event

- Sept 26th 2024 @Landmark theatre, Pavillion room 1100-1400
- Up to 80 attendees will be invited – 40 civic/business leaders, 40 Community commissioners incl. friends/family support
- North Devon Moving Image will capture event on video
- Creating invites – Local artist (Alison Rowe) / Community Commissioners have also offered to create artwork.

Full Commission (Oct 2024- Oct 2025)

- Intention to arrange Pre-launch meeting between CCs & CBLs once confirmed attendance
- Confirming dates & venue for monthly Commission (Monthly meetings for 12 months + additional themed co-design groups approx. twice monthly in months 6-12)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitation working group to be setup for planning sessions with steering group input 	
Embed phase (post commission)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project extended by 3 months until Jan'26 	
Key deliverables and achievements planned in next reporting period (Aug 2024)	
Support/Governance: Facilitation / evaluation group setup	
Evaluation: Learning framework development, funding proposal / ethics	
Recruitment: secure 12-15 CCs and CBLs	
Preparing Community Commissioners: Finalised CC stories. Moving into rehearsal for launch	
Launch event: Confirmed attendee list	
Full Commission: Dates & venue booked. Facilitation/ evaluation groups preparing session plans	
Key risks and issues and mitigations in place (see risk & issues log for further information and responses)	
Issues	Mitigations, prioritisation & Recommendations
<p>Impacting on emotional wellbeing/MH of the facilitation team – no emotional support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hard to hear stories of suffering (and feel powerless to help) Dealing with triggers behaviour of vulnerable group Bump into participants when out of work (live in the same town) Pressure to deliver project with limited capacity 	<p>Prioritisation</p> <p>Mitigation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal team meeting to discuss how we can support each other/ what we can do differently? Focused meeting with lived experience group to set boundaries for 'out of work' scenarios e.g. confidentiality/privacy <p>Recommendation</p>
<p>CC recruitment not meeting KPI (12-15) 3 have left group (9 of 12 remain – 1 other due to leave for relocation)</p>	<p>Prioritisation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reaching out to organisations that can share recruitment flyer/posters/social media Whilst we need to recruit, it is important we use our capacity to support and learn from those attending (Quality over quantity) and keep in touch with those that left (learning). <p>Mitigation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use feedback to aid improvement - Facilitator supporting a calm/participatory environment (to reduce intensity of group) Continue recruitment efforts <p>Recommendation (escalation)</p>

	<p>One Northern Devon and ICB partners directly support recruitment and speak with potential CCs on behalf of Poverty Truth Ilfracombe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need support to recruit up to 7 more CCs • Ideally commissioners under 24's, 70+ and minority ethnic but open to all • Require staff to have a conversation with potential CCs and forward contact details to james.lander2@nhs.net (James can present to your staff to support them) 		
Risks	Mitigations in place/ planned		
Reduced evaluation support if additional funding not secured	<p>Prioritisation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-developing proposal for University of Exeter additional funding • Ethics application <p>Mitigation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devon Communities Foundation and Exeter University collaboration will offer scaled back learning/evaluation based on funding secured 		
Key deliverable milestones	Date required	Date completed	Status
Create learning & evaluation framework	Oct 2024		Started
Recruit 12-15 lived experience / civic & business leaders	Oct 2024		At risk
Opening event	26-9-24		On track
Commissioners have shared understanding of lived experience of poverty, the system	20-12-24		Not due
Commission has agreed shared values, priorities	30-2-25		Not due
Task groups co-design solutions	30-08-25		Not due
Embed phase	30-11-25		Not due
Closing event	30-11-25		Not due

Feedback from Board

To be completed by Lead manager - incl. Escalation points and recommendations

Feedback from Steering group

To be completed by Project manager - incl. Escalation points and recommendations

Appendix

Notes on youth participation

From the PTN webinar plus a couple of recent conversations (as reported by Nicola from Devon Communities Foundation)

- Lots of questions about how to hear young voices when adults are present, redress power imbalances, etc. Also not all children having the confidence to present their ideas in public. Opening up a conversation on poverty (rather than quite a lot of peripheral stuff they seemed to consider, like school uniform, which is surely a school council issue) can be difficult. One technique is to use hypothetical scenarios, which allow YP to distance the discussion from their personal experience.
- Immediate follow-up was important for some, in terms of engagement with professionals for practical 'quick fixes', and more general reporting back to the YP.
- One example was a time-limited side project, lasting six weeks, for two hours a week, with primary and secondary school children, not intersecting directly with the main commission. These were selected by the schools, which meant the group did not always include the least-heard (people with a lapel-ful of badges), but they didn't feel they could challenge this.
- The other had a pre-commission bit, then a smaller number went on to participate in an education working group. This has been positive, but involved headteachers having to listen to YP, which has been hard.
- Both projects made good use of film to convey YP's ideas and opinions, which is especially good as it allows you to bring YP voices into adult contexts without them actually having to deliver, as well as it happening fairly swiftly, which YP like. You can check out all the young people's films (Morecombe Bay – completed 2x PTCs) here and a Trailer for a short film in production (West Cheshire Council – post PTC work).
 - <https://www.youtube.com/@morecambabaypovertytruth>
 - [How We Live - Trailer - YouTube created by Cheshire and West Council](#)
- Food has also been useful to help YP take ownership, through them doing the catering/eating together with commissioners
- Good outcomes have been realised through working with existing YP initiatives, which, given the time-intensity of this work, and our limited resources, we would be wise to note. Intermediary organisations will already have safeguarding and consent procedures, and will have built relationships with schools. Kailo is an obvious one, but also Family Compass have done some detailed work with Y6 in Ilfracombe, and will be following them into Y7.