

Poverty Truth Update April 2024

The Poverty Truth Commission came to an end in November 2023, and there were a number of emerging ideas that we were still exploring, and we'd like to share with you what we've been up to.

Community Commissioner Social Enterprise

Led by a small group of Community Commissioners (CCs), we spent four months designing and delivering a 'Deep Dive Listening Journey' to understand whether developing an enterprise to grow & host ideas emerging from BCP's first Poverty Truth Commission (PTC) was the right next step.

We held workshops, conducted interviews and prototyped a training workshop with students at Bournemouth University. We learnt what has been most important throughout the PTC process: We want to be led by Community Commisiosners and build on our PTC relationships, processes and values, go where our hearts are, where our energy is, to keep dreaming and remain hopeful and focused.

The feedback from the deep dive journey was very positive and we are planning to continue this work in the '**Poverty Truth Wisdom Lab**'. It's a place where these ideas, seeds and green shoots can germinate and grow.

Working with Community Commissioners from the first Commission we will be focusing on three green shoots in the Wisdom Lab:



1. **Training** - A team of CCs will be trained to deliver workshops to local organisations to raise awareness & understanding of the struggles of living with poverty (as prototyped at BU)
2. **Reverse mentoring of local leaders** - giving the opportunity for a leader to gain wisdom from someone with lived experience of the struggle against poverty, & learn how that may affect their ability to do life and access services.
3. **Sharing and embedding PTC style processes** - design & trial a slow, wise process to tackle a specific problem as raised in the Commission.

Art of Hosting Training

[Art of Hosting](#) is the foundational practice that has informed how we have held PTC in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole and as requested by the Commission, and as part of our embedding phase we hosted a training event in March 2024 to share these practices with other people across Dorset.

The training was facilitated by a team of experienced Art of Hosting Practitioners from across UK/Europe, supported by the BCP Poverty Truth team. A group of 35 individuals from around Dorset (and further afield) came together at BCHA's Factory to train in the Art of Hosting and Harvesting Conversations that Matter.

Together we spoke of 'humanising the process' and 'nurturing the soil', creating the right environment for culture-changing ideas to grow: An environment that champions slowing down to have meaningful conversations and listening to the wisdom of experience, especially in times of crisis.



We worked with Appreciative Inquiry to give us a fresh perspective to explore creative possibilities - starting with what's strong, not what's wrong.

Over the three days the participants built relationships, learnt new skills and techniques to improve and enhance their working practices such as Circle, Open Space, World Cafe, Living Systems and Designing for Wiser Action.

This new community of Art of Hosting practitioners will carry all this forward into their own communities and organisations. It's exciting to think of what brave ideas and courageous actions will emerge.

Poverty Truth Commission 2

We are planning to deliver a second PTC starting in Autumn 2024 (subject to successful fundraising), enabling us to hear new & diverse stories from a fresh set of Commissioners and to focus on new themes and work across different sectors. This will run alongside the Poverty Truth Wisdom Lab and these two projects will feed, support and nourish each other.

If you missed what happened in the first Commission you can find all the details in the [End of Commission Report](#).

If you are interested in getting involved or hearing more about any of the emerging ideas please do get in touch with us, we'd love to hear from you.