When 2-3pm 30.03.22

Where via zoom

Attendees

Malene Bratlie (London Funders) Klara Skrivankova (Trust for London – Chair)

Greg Windle (Peabody –Speaker) Jessica Herbert (London Funders- summary notes)

Anna Wynne (Mercers’ Company) Jane Deller Ray

Phoebe Nicholson (St Mungo’s) Jasmine Birmingham (NPC)

Caroline Davies (Walton Charity) Barbara Reichwein (Urban Health)

Kari Holtung (Pears Foundation) Caroline Howe (Lloyds)

Anne Shewring (Cripplegate) Amy Reid (London Community Foundation)

Lucy Norgate (Hyde Housing) Victor Willmott (Peabody)

Emma Turnball (Allen & Overy) Anu Liisanantti (Islington Giving)

Natalia Rymaszewska (Leathersellers) James Shearman (Urban Health)

Stephanie Woodrow (Urban Health) Jen Oatley (Tudor Trust)

Veronica Pearce (City of London) Bel Crewe (BBC Children in Need)

Michelle Palmer (PHF) Rachel Takens-Milne (Legal Education Foundation)

Clara Espinosa (City Bridge Trust) Kevin Turner (Cloudesley)

Kristina Wintermerier (Chanel) Nezahat Cihan (London Legal Support Trust)

Greg Windle, Research and Insight Analyst at Peabody

The methods for the index were two fold; they look at macro-economic trends and used online surveys of residents (over 1,000 responses)

During the pandemic they had bulletins which revealed discouraging results throughout:

* Ethnic minorities more likely to have lost jobs than being furloughed.
* London has the worst in-work poverty rates in the country

The cost of living crisis is causing inflation rates to rise and they are in some areas up 60%. Some of the largest increases are in groceries and alcoholic beverages.

Resident survey in latest edition of Peabody index identified that people are feeling worse off by more than half compared to a year ago. In London, 37% are in a desperate financial situation.

Lower pay is impacting on hardship, with two thirds going without heating. It is a real concern for the upcoming year. The surveys found 47% of people went without food.

The changes to the universal credit system with the £20 per week cut is contributing to a desperate situation.

More people are coming into work since the pandemic, but Peabody are seeing a high rate of in-work poverty. The percentage of people earning below London living wage hasn’t gone down.

The levelling up agenda should not just focus on the north to the detriment of the south. We need more specific devolution and a lifetime skills guarantee extension.

Peabody have referred hundreds of residents via their employment team to help get people into work. This includes 1 to 1 counselling and training.

They are leading further research on routes into employment and looking at what works. They are conducting a survey that looks at some success stories and tries to identify patterns.

Group discussion:

* Chancellors spring statement last week – is what he put forward meeting the needs? Greg says it is not enough. The tax changes were not helpful for people on low incomes
* Peabody are trying to adopt more of a critical friend view – if household support gives more local autonomy that’s a positive
* London Legal Support Trusts usually funds advice, which is going to be so affected. The rising cost of living is going to have an impact on organisations as well. Another issue for London is that it is already a very expensive city to live in. How can LLS help funders?
* Greg suggested funders dig deeper into the data of what works and what the trends are telling us.
* For Peabody they are seeing bigger issues for single parents, ethnic minorities, and the disabled and are doing their best to make sure they are addressed.

Breakout rooms

Topics to discuss:

* Are you funding/thinking about funding work related to the cost of living crisis?
* What are you hearing from grantees?
* What can London Funders do to support your work in this area?
* Any other intelligence?

Group discussion points:

* Increase in core funding needed
* Offering small grants to help with increasing electricity bills for organisations
* Wellbeing grants to staff
* Joint actions are going to be helpful / a joint policy statement
* How do we look at increasing salaries in line with inflation? How do we ensure funding is passed on to the staff?
* General cost increases – how is that built into our funding?
* Staff on contracts – how are they impacted?
* How do we build a common practice? We need to encourage organisations to think about inflation and factoring that in
* What about the cost of venues?
* Why hasn’t the government responded to the worry around cost of living?
* Do we need a coordinated body that focusses on the networks around migration?
* The amount committed to the Household Support Fund is less than they've committed to improving DWP's capability to prevent and detect fraud

Resources shared:

<https://www.coordinatedcommunitysupport.org.uk/>

<https://imix.org.uk/>