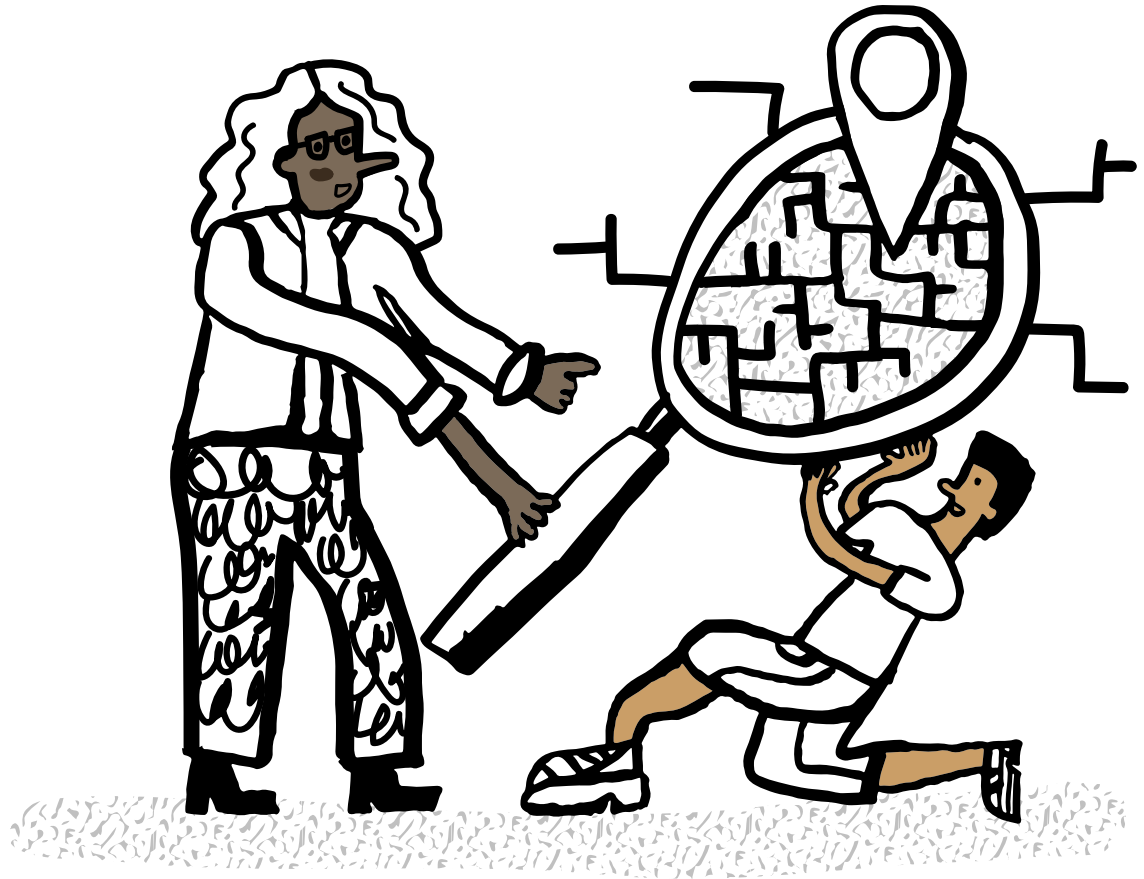


# MAPPING OUR LOCAL AREA



## 1 ICEBREAKER

This should take about 15 minutes. For more details about how to run this activity, see Meeting one.

15 mins

## 2 WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND HERE?

30 - 60  
mins

**AIM:** To allow group members to do their own research to discover availability of help for those people living in poverty in their area. Depending on where your group is, this might mean their street, their neighbourhood, their town, their city, or a larger region if they live in a rural area. Or, if they come from across the country this could be an imagined local area, based on a combination of the areas where they all live.

It encourages people to think creatively about the range of services and support available, and how easy or difficult it might be for people to access them.

### RESOURCES



#### IN PERSON:

- Maps of the local area if all participants come from the same area
- An internet connection
- Devices to access the internet
- Paper and pens

#### ONLINE:



- You may want to use a collaborative platform such as Jamboard

### TASK:

*If working with a group based across a wide geographical area first ask them to draw up a 'map' of an imagined town. This could include a high street, a bank, supermarket, shops a school etc.*

In pairs or small groups, use either real or imagined maps and websites to identify and write down services and support in your local area that might be useful to people experiencing poverty.

*Encourage group members to be creative. It is not just about support provided from the government but includes access to affordable shops; public spaces e.g. parks; health and education services; and so on. Also consider what barriers might prevent people in poverty from accessing them*

Ask each group tells the whole group what they have proposed. The whole group then discuss any similarities and differences between the different views.

*Identify providers or services that the group are particularly interested in, or have knowledge about. This will help with the next activity*

### 3 CONTINUING TO MAP OUR AREA

30 - 60  
mins

**AIM:** To develop a sense of problems and potential in the area where your group is located. It builds on Activity two.

**It provides group members with an opportunity to identify problems and consider solutions, and explore how members of the local community could campaign for change together.**



#### IN PERSON:

- Pens or pencils
- Large or flip chart paper
- Post-it notes in at least three colours

#### ONLINE:



- Paper and pens
- Or access to an online creative platform such as Jamboard

#### TASK:

Ask the group to look again at the map of their local area. As before, they can define their local area in whichever way makes most sense for them, including online communities and resources.

*The map does not have to be geographically accurate, but should include places which the group members identify as important to them and relevant to people living in poverty, starting with the places and services identified in Activity two.*

Next, ask people to add descriptions of poverty 'hot spots' to the map (that is, places where poverty is relevant to the experiences of local people – and possibly even themselves).

For example, a row of shops which people living in poverty can, or cannot access; schools; parks; streets or areas which people feel are welcoming or not – anything that the group identifies as important.

Ask group members to use one colour of post-it notes to identify problems; another colour to identify good things about the local area; and a third colour to identify opportunities (places that could be helpful for people in poverty or changes that could be made to make problem areas into strengths).

*If working in person add these post-it notes to the relevant spots on the map. Or if working online ensure that one person is taking notes.*

Finally, take time as a group to look at the map and discuss all the different impressions people have of the local area, and their suggestions for change.

*Consider as a group whether there is anything in particular that inspires you to campaign or take action, and make a note of any ideas! These will be useful for meeting five!*

## 4 INVITE A SPEAKER



**AIM:** Arranging to hear from someone working on the frontline against poverty in your local will help widen your group's understanding of the issues.

It may inspire them to campaign or take action or simply encourage them to carry on thinking and talking about poverty. Either is fine!

Please note: This activity involves the group in choosing and inviting a speaker for a separate session in the future.

### RESOURCES

None at this stage, although you will need a room to hold a meeting with an invited speaker or access to the internet for an online meeting if working remotely. You may also need to consider making available funding to cover the speaker's costs.

### TASK:

Look back at the local resources and services that you identified in Activity two and ask the group to choose one or more that they would like to know more about (for example, foodbanks, a local group working with young people, anything you like!)

Work out how you will approach the organisation and invite someone to visit the group.

Select who should approach the organisation to ask if someone is available to speak to the group, ideally at the next session.

## 5

## DEBRIEF



This should take about 15 minutes. For more details about how to run this activity, see Meeting one.



You can get in touch with the coalition by emailing the Coordinator Rachel Walters at [rachel@endchildpoverty.org.uk](mailto:rachel@endchildpoverty.org.uk)

Toolkit design by [www.noble.studio](http://www.noble.studio)



**[WWW.ENDCHILDPOVERTY.ORG.UK](http://WWW.ENDCHILDPOVERTY.ORG.UK)**

Copyright © 2022 End Child Poverty Coalition