

FEBRUARY 2022

APPLE Newsletter

Addressing Poverty with Lived Experience.



WHO WE ARE:

We are the APPLE Collective.

A national collective of individuals and organisations who have experienced or are experiencing poverty.

Our aim is to create a sustainable, grassroots network across the UK to raise awareness of poverty, reduce stigma and work together with others to eradicate it.

We work collaboratively with allies to use our voice to affect change and we invite groups that have experience or are led by people who are experiencing poverty to join us and become part of the APPLE Collective.

News from the APPLE Collective

Every thought is a seed...

Following January, considered the month of fresh starts and new beginnings, is February. From the Latin word Februarius, meaning “to purify”. A lot of history is held within this month of love and remembrance, including over forty years of celebrating Black History Month, national LGBTQ+ History Month and of course; Valentine's Day!

February was a brilliant and busy month for the APPLE Collective, in this Newsletter you'll learn more about our in-person get together in Stoke, giving us the chance to reflect on our action plan for the next year and prioritise key actions.

Our meeting in Stoke was a great way to build our planning together and to build our networks, when we met in Stoke we invited in the Raising Voices project from Staffordshire University and Ada LoveLace whom we are partnering with on a Digital Health Inequalities project. We shared activism and oatcakes (Stokes famous dish) and set out our plans for meetings throughout 2022 - check out the list of these later in the newsletter.

In person APLE Gathering

STOKE- 3-4TH FEBRUARY 2022

ORIGINS, OBJECTIVES AND OATCAKES

Kindly hosted by Expert Citizens CIC, Members of the APLE Collective gathered at the Dudson Centre in Stoke in February, with aims to set our objectives as a group, create a timeline of action and prioritise our next steps; as well as eat plenty of oatcakes, a Stoke delicacy!

Several workshops were held, including a session on communicating poverty facilitated by Camille Furtado from JRF, looking at framing, metaphors and a practical Domino Chain exercise. A creative Social Media workshop also took place, facilitated by APLE Media and Communications Officer Dylan, giving APLE Members practical tips and tricks about writing for Social Media, more specifically Twitter and Facebook!

We also had a discussion around our long term goal of becoming a Lived Experience Think Tank. The group thought about what we already know about existing Think Tanks as well as what makes us distinctive as a group.

Kira from the Ada Lovelace Institute kindly came along to our in-person meeting to introduce herself and her project, 'Understanding the Lived Experience of Digital Systems Deployed During the Pandemic.'

We developed our conversations with Ada Lovelace and Kira collaborating with the APLE collective to bring lived experience insights into their project. Ada Lovelace were keen to learn more about APLE Members and our communities about how members have experienced digital and data-driven systems and technologies during the pandemic.

APLE also welcomed Connected Communities Ryan and Dana from Staffs Uni! Read more about the work at Staffs Uni [here](#).

Quote

OF THE MONTH

"We are born believing. A person bears beliefs as a tree bears apples."

- Ralph Waldo Emerson.



APLE are proud winners of the UK Parliament Digital Campaigners of the year 2021 Award!



Stoke meeting gallery:



Updates from our Campaigns Sub-group:

The campaigns subgroup is currently working on a few things that arose from our face-to-face meeting in Stoke. Firstly, we realised that our briefing paper needed an update to fall in line with current circumstances. We also want to work the campaign to be more of a 'coalition' campaign and with that create a key messaging document that we can all add to and use for our own organisation's work.

We also spoke to Kira from Ada Lovelace regarding some Digital Health research work and Tom from Good Things Foundation who are offering up fellowships to do some digital inclusion research. As of yet, it is looking likely APLE will sit on the selection panel to help decide where these go.

Updates from our Communications Sub-group:

From the back of our really great in-person get together in Stoke, APLE Collective members decided a more in-depth session surrounding APLE Communications would be beneficial, so a two-hour interactive workshop will take place at our next meet up in York in March. This will feature a round-up of some of the social media tips and tricks from the last session, as well as fleshing out ideas for some of our upcoming activities and events like:

- Our involvement with the 5k Trussell Trust Challenge.
- APLE Month 2022!

Updates from our Learning Together Sub-group:

The learning together group spent a little time reflecting back on the F2F Stoke event feedback, which was really good and helpful to have.

Our main learns are that we need to be clearer in what people understand they are attending, the perspective we are trying to share and more time allocated for general discussion follow up.

We're also excited to see how the new roles Coy and Dylan develop, and any areas members would like to learn more about - we agreed we would invite Coy to our next meeting, to share her initial thoughts gathered.

Our digital library is still early days in, and we will grow this over the next few weeks, months and share it across the collective.

Exciting times are ahead, we work best together, and together we will grow.

Updates from our Governance Sub-group:

The Governance group are working hard to develop the APLE constitution, this is the document we need to present to the Charity Commission that will register us as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

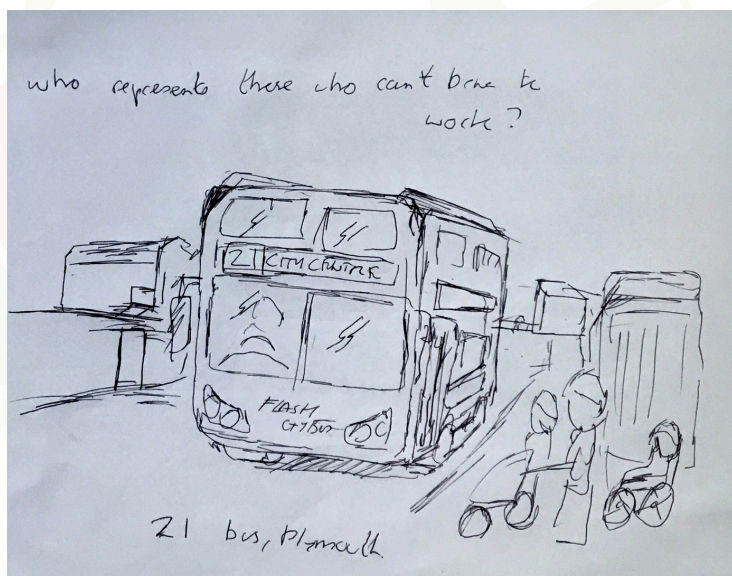
To help us get this right for APLE we are keen to work with the wider APLE group to make sure we have our decision making and membership approach agreed and will be delivering a session when we meet up in March.

We are also excited about pulling together all the fab work our member organisations have done over the years. We are keen to learn more about the collaborative pieces of research or activities that have worked well and why groups and individuals have found this approach valuable.

Artwork Submissions:

Who will represent those who can't drive to work? - Christopher (APLE Collective Member)

Sent a letter to the big issue today. It was about representation in parliament for those who can't drive a car or can't afford to have one. Not everyone within the disability community has been fortunate enough to have a car parked on their driveway like I have (touch wood I won't lose it) electric cars may not be affordable to everyone in the future.



COMING UP

- Tuesday 1st March 2022- First of Month. Sub-Group Action Feedback.
- In-person APLE Gathering- 14th-15th March in York.
- APLE Meeting with Ada Lovelace 16th March in York.
- Campaigns & Communications 9th & 23rd March 11-12.30pm
- Learning Together 10th & 24th March 9.30-10.30 am.
- Governance 10th & 24th March 11-12 pm.



@APLECollective

WWW.APLECollective.com

APLE SPOTLIGHT



For our February Newsletter, we'd like to spotlight **Community Pride CIC!** They are:

Community Pride CIC is a social enterprise based in Salford that was set up in 2015. We work with communities and individuals helping them to identify and take positive collective action on the socio-economic issues that affect them daily.

We lead on projects such as the Salford Poverty Truth Commission that aims to build new and equal relationships of trust and mutual respect between people in power and those who experience poverty.

We work closely with organisations, activist networks, think tanks and academic institutions across the UK and Europe to share our learning and influence systems change that is led by the voices of those with lived experience. Increasing opportunities for inclusion and representation of working-class communities and grassroots leaders.



@Community_Pride



/communitypridecic