

DECEMBER 2022

# APPLE Newsletter

Addressing Poverty with Lived Experience.



## News from the APPLE Collective

Every thought is a seed...

### 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.

This year has been full of hard work and determination, amplifying voices, celebrating together, laughing together, meeting all over the country, sharing experiences and cups of tea. Sharing oatcakes and Indian food, soul food and Brian's guitar over breakfast. It's been a fantastic year for the APPLE Collective and we can't wait to see what 2023 has in store.

**From the APPLE Collective, we hope you all have a fantastic holidays and a great New Year!**



# Reflections from our Governance sub-group

APLE's visionary 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 and one of the roles of the governance group is to build the capacity and financial sustainability of the collective.

It has been a monumental year, with lots of learning and thought-provoking moments. Our focus at this present time is on becoming a CIO, consolidating our participatory approaches, and developing our APLE model.

**Reflections from one of our governance members have captured the journey we have been on:**

"A tough learning year for me as a member of the governance group, helping to bring together plans for becoming constituted, obtaining new funding for the collective and being challenged to think differently about a whole range of support. I have thoroughly enjoyed it, with brilliant support from more experienced members of the team." **Miles Goring (LIFE)**

**We are excited about the year ahead and looking forward to having our APLE members being supported to take on the roles of trustees.**

"We are working on something we truly care about. We have been persistent, reflective and open minded about the possibilities of APLE. The journey ahead, is one we will embrace." **Tracey Herrington (Thrive Teesside)**

## Quote

OF THE MONTH

"Isn't it wonderful that the really fine things of life are not things at all."



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

Your  
UK

Parliament  
Awards

WINNER



UK Parliament



## Reflections on my first year with the APLE Collective.

"Two of the highlights of my first year as an APLE member has been the meeting we had in the ATD building in Frimhurst in Surrey. The second highlight was fairly recent when myself and other APLE members met with the All Party Parliamentary Group on Poverty (APPG) in Portcullis House, London to discuss the 'Digital Divide'."



Read Brian's full blog here:

<https://www.aplecollective.com/2022/12/reflections-on-my-first-year-with-the-aple-collective/>

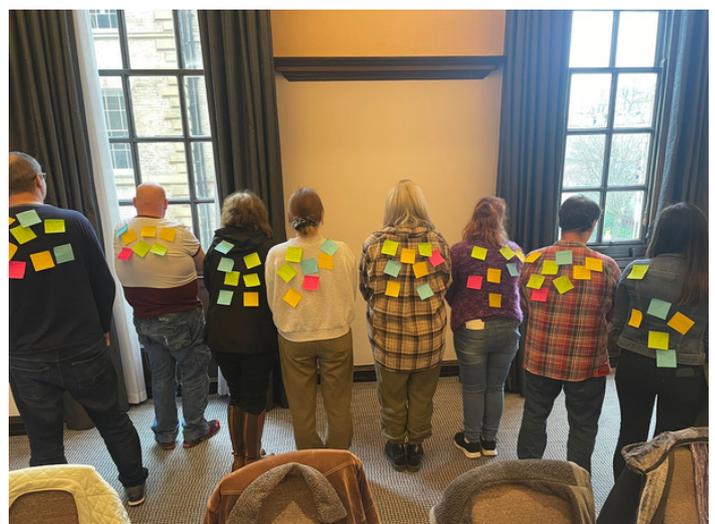
## Reflections from Caroline

"What went well this year was the Ada Lovelace work and APLE engagements in York."

Being part of a group allowed us to work better in coming up with solutions and also encouraged us all to work on what mattered most to us.

Being a member of APLE is a privilege and is an opportunity to share my voice with others to eradicate poverty.

**Caroline Mockford.**



**We asked Katy from the APLE Collective about her thoughts on APLE's 2022 and her experience.**

**1. What has been your highlight of the year from the things you have been involved in with APLE?**

All going down to the APPG in London. We (me especially) were really nervous. It was my first time travelling on a train and being back in London since the pandemic. We had spent so much time and thought preparing I was really keen for the event to go well. I was made up by our APLE Collective show of solidarity, our powerful message and the way we held the voice on the roundtable - it was such a powerful day. Taking our voice to the heart of government and being listened to by the APPG and Attending MPs and VCS groups.

**2. Do you have a sentence about how it has been for you to be a member of APLE?**

A huge thank you - we have really built up our networks and partnerships this year with Good Things Foundation and Ada LoveLace - APLE Collective members have devoted so much time, effort and wisdom to our work that I wanted to say thank you and to say how privileged I feel to be one part of this great big amazing team of activists .



# We had our first in person session of the year in February, in Stoke!

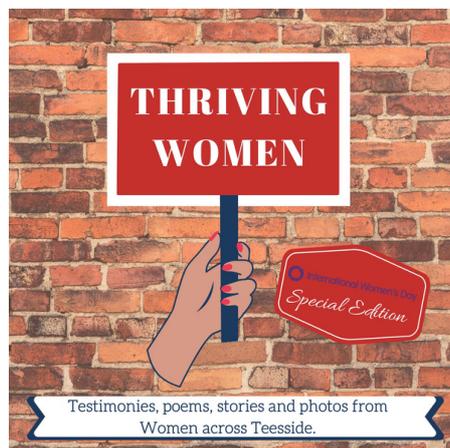
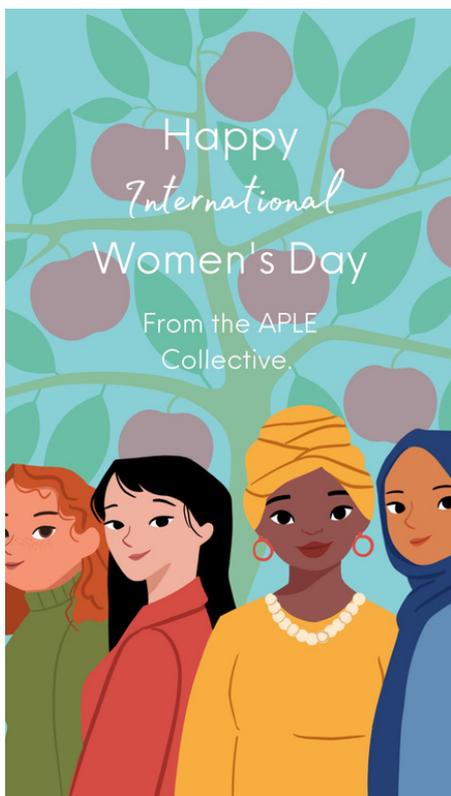
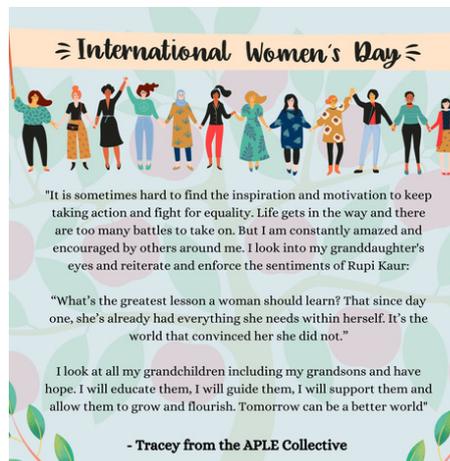
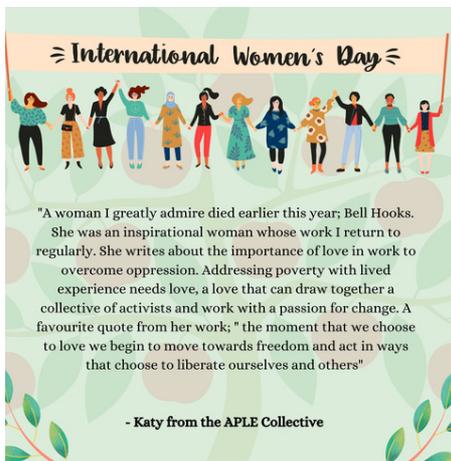


# We met again, this time in March at the Priory Centre in York, discussing our timeline of activism and our plans to address the #DigitalDivide.



# APLE & INTERNATIONAL WOMENS' DAY

The APLE Collective are committed to amplifying the voices of women with lived experience of poverty and inequality, creating a supportive space for coming together, sharing insight and knowledge and working together to influence the decisions that impact us.



## Economically illiterate.

Business is struggling,  
Supply chain issues,  
Lack of workers,  
Empty shelves.  
Rising costs,  
Restrict cheap labour,  
Benefit cuts,  
We'd rather see people with,  
High wage,  
High skilled,  
High productivity,  
I'm off to Marbella!  
Recycle the lies from 2016,  
We should all be recycling!  
It sounds great,  
But can we reach  
That pie in the sky  
He persuades us will taste delicious?!!  
It will be difficult, he says,  
Difficult for who? I think,  
He hasn't got a clue.  
It might deplete his savings a little,  
But for the rest of us it could spell disaster!  
Raising taxes on a fragile economy,  
It might work!  
Let's give it a go!

Poetry by Tracy Knight

#IWD

# CHESS: Co-defining what counts as a 'good' solution to data poverty.

## In collaboration with Good Things Foundation and Nominet.

"Data poverty is a component of the digital divide. It is defined as: "Individuals, households or communities who cannot afford sufficient, private and secure mobile or broadband data to meet their essential needs" (Lucas et al., 2021). Through our Data Poverty Lab with Nominet, we're seeking sustainable solutions to help eradicate data poverty.

Since October 2021, we've co-hosted a series of workshops with people with lived experience with APLE Collective and Friends, Families and Travellers. We did this to ground the Data Poverty Lab in people's experiences and ideas; we believe understanding and acting upon these helps to design more effective, sustainable solutions. With APLE Collective, we identified five dimensions of what makes a 'good' solution, framed as a CHESS board to support discussions. The main insights from workshops, and some implications which follow, are below; the rest of the paper outlines the analysis and methods." - **Good Things Fdn.**

**"Individuals, households or communities who cannot afford sufficient, private and secure mobile or broadband data to meet their essential needs."  
(Lucas et al., 2021)**

To read the full report:

<https://www.goodthingsfoundation.org/insights/chess-co-defining-what-counts-as-a-good-solution-to-data-poverty/>

**CHESS: Co-defined dimensions of a 'good' solution to data poverty.**

**Cheap** – is it genuinely affordable – not just at the start but over time?

**Handy** – is it easy to find out about? Is it easy to apply for and access?

**Enough** – does it allow me to meet my essential online needs? Is it fast enough? Is there enough data?

**Safe** – does it ensure my privacy is protected, and I'm not at greater risk of harm?

**Suitable** – is it suitable for my circumstances, and flexible if these change? Will I feel stigma or loss of pride?

There is no one-size-fits-all solution. Some solutions (such as free public WiFi in community centres or libraries) will score well on some dimensions, and less well on others.

# APPLE Month 2022

## VOLUNTEERS WEEK 2022.

Volunteers' Week is an annual celebration of the contribution millions of people make across the UK through volunteering, from the 1st to the 7th of June. We wanted to kick off APPLE Month by celebrating all of the wonderful volunteers within the APPLE Collective who dedicate their own time towards the collective, their organisations, their families and their communities.

"I love volunteering for APPLE because poverty is such a colossal monster that none of us can fight it alone. The expertise of lived experience from up and down the country makes APPLE a source of strength and helps keep us motivated to keep on keeping on."

- Diana Skelton.

#APLEMonth2022



# THANK YOU!



## APPLE SPOTLIGHT



For APPLE Month 2022, we asked APPLE members to nominate charities, organisations and individuals that use their voice to campaign and have lived experience at the heart of what they do.

Forward 



The  
Community  
Cast

To see the full list of our #APLEMonth2022 Spotlight Organisations, visit our website here:

[www.aplecollective.com/aple-month-2022/](http://www.aplecollective.com/aple-month-2022/)

The second week of APLE Month was focused on Connectivity and the Changing Landscape of the Digital Divide, we re-launched the re-vamped campaigns section of our website and shared our campaigning work with other key partners to address the Digital Divide. We published several blogs that addressed the digital divide from different perspectives during this week.

## AN OPEN DIGITAL WORLD.



"Being digitally active has never been cheap and a lot of people have found themselves seeking hotspots of free WiFi to get things done." - **Phil Parkes.**

[Read here.](#)

## THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF THE DIGITAL DIVIDE- DISCONNECTED AND WELL AND TRULY LEFT BEHIND.



"I've never been one for relying on technology. I get so stressed whenever I have to do anything that relies on me using the internet." -**Thrive Member.**

[Read here.](#)

The third week of APLE Month also coincided with Learning Disability Week and we spotlighted the experiences of living on a low income with a Learning Disability through a variety of blogs and images.



"One of the reasons why learning disability is facing a losing battle in Cornwall is housing, basically it is not there. It means having to compete with other vulnerable groups for non-existing accommodation." [Read here.](#)

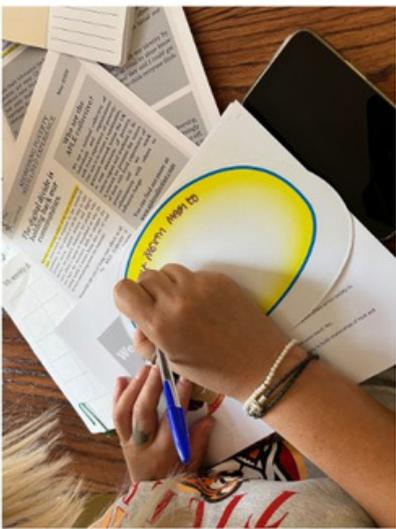
- **Chris Burns**



"The most hurtful thing about poverty and oppression is not the lack of money and the lack of holidays, it's the relationships you could've had if life treated you better." [Read here.](#)

- **Chris Burns**

# FRIMHURST 9-10TH JUNE



# FRIMHURST 9-10TH JUNE



We had a great two days in Glasgow, planning for #IDEP2022, learning together how to build collective power, sharing a meal at Soul Food Sisters and working with partners Good Things Foundation and Ada Lovelace!



#IDEP2022 and Challenge Poverty Week quickly came around, we continued to light up the UK map and APLE members and partners hosted events and shared solidarity across the country.

Every year on October 17, people worldwide commemorate the International Day to End Poverty. This year's theme was **Dignity for all in practice: The commitments we make together for social justice, peace and the planet.**

This year, our map had over 1,100 views and 66 entries- beating last year's effort!

We also crossed 2,000 followers on Twitter over the week of #IDEP2022!



[www.aplecollective.com/idep-2022/](http://www.aplecollective.com/idep-2022/)



## The digital divide is holding back our communities.

Society is moving online at an ever-increasing rate, particularly in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. In this context it can be easy to take Internet access, suitable devices and digital literacy for granted. However, for people who can't afford a laptop or broadband or who do not have the necessary skills to navigate the online world, it means being shut out of vital services and paying more for essentials.

Meanwhile the cost of living crisis affects us all, but not equally. The APLE Collective is concerned that people experiencing poverty will be excluded further digitally because of increased costs of energy and food. We need a system that pulls families out of hard times and that creates opportunities.

To ensure no one is left behind, disconnected and unable to participate in every aspect of life, we are asking the Government and other decision makers to work in partnership with people with lived experiences of the digital divide, to identify solutions such as the provision of free Wi-Fi for low-income households.

### Who are the APLE collective?

We are a national collective of individuals and organisations with lived experience of poverty. Our aim is to create a sustainable, grassroots network across the UK to raise awareness of poverty, reduce stigma and eradicate it. As a network we promote the voices of those with lived experience of poverty and we work collaboratively with others to influence change.

You can find out more at: [www.aplecollective.com](http://www.aplecollective.com)

### Our Partners:

- Good Things Foundation.
- Ada Lovelace Institute.
- Trussell Trust.

In partnership with



We released our updated 2022 Digital Divide briefing paper:

[www.aplecollective.com/the-digital-divide/](http://www.aplecollective.com/the-digital-divide/)



We had our annual JRF Twitter Takeover- thanks to the JRF team for continuing to amplify the voices of the APLE Collective!

<https://twitter.com/i/events/1581995290994900997?s=20>

# POVERTY STRATEGY COMMISSION- APLE COLLECTIVE

Thursday 13th October we held an online one hour workshop followed by a Q&A Conversation. The meeting welcomed the APLE Collective as we introduced ourselves and our aims & values.

Topics included what does addressing poverty with Lived Experience mean? Taking Voice Seriously: For Change Making, Taking Voice Seriously: As an Epistemic Necessity and Taking Voice Seriously: As a Collective Action.

We also looked at how to work in creative and participatory ways to listen to the voice of lived experience. APLE Collective members with lived experience of poverty shared approaches that they find valuable, using their lived expertise.

This was a well attended event with a range of stakeholders and we are looking forward to progressing this work further.



## WHAM WEBINAR

### The Sharp End: Lived Experience of Poverty and Deprivation.

"I don't know what to say. I am overwhelmed and touched by you all being willing to give up an evening to take part in our event, and your testimonies have stayed with me since then... You made the case for change more powerfully and movingly than any politician could have" -**Feedback from our WHAM Webinar.**

WEBINAR



### The Sharp End Lived Experience of Poverty & Deprivation

📅 Thursday, 3rd November 2022  
🕒 07:30pm - 08:30pm  
📍 Microsoft Teams

# CHALLENGE POVERTY WEEK 2022

The APLE Collective took part in Challenge Poverty Week, which was an opportunity for voices that are often ignored to be heard loud and clear. It was a chance to focus on the need to tackle poverty and show the immense difference we could make to our society if we do.

**CHALLENGE  
POVERTY  
WEEK**

[challengepoverty.co.uk](http://challengepoverty.co.uk)

## COMING UP

- **16th December 12.30-1.30pm**  
**Governance Group.**
- **Christmas Break.**
- **5th January 9.30-10.30am**  
**Learning Together.**
- **11th January 11-12pm**  
**Campaigns and Communications**
- **25th January 11-12pm**  
**Campaigns and Communications.**
- **1st February Trustee Training in person in York.**
- **7th February 12-1pm APLE First of the month Sub-Group Feedback Meeting [note: no January meeting as not much will have happened over Christmas break]**

## APPG ON POVERTY

During the week of International Day to End Poverty and Challenge Poverty Week APLE Collective visited the heart of government. We attended the APPG Poverty on Wednesday 19th October at Portcullis House, APLE Collective members travelled the length and breadth of the UK, flying in from Glasgow and travelling by train from Cornwall to give just two examples of the tremendous effort our Collective have to go to have our voice heard.



**READ HERE**



@APLECollective



WWW.APLECollective.com