


2018

The birth of the APLE Collective!

In February 2018, a number of groups led by people with direct experience of poverty were invited to meet up with [Poverty2Solutions](#).

We agreed that there appears to be advantages and mutual benefits in coming together as a larger network of people with direct experience of poverty.




By June 2018, the collective's mission statement was agreed:

"we aim to create a sustainable grassroots network across the UK. To raise awareness of poverty, reduce stigma and work together to affect change."

The first piece of work actioned by the APLE collective was held on [October 17th](#) ([International Day for the Eradication of Poverty](#)).


2019



APLE Collective continued to develop in 2019, with our second successful [International Day for the Eradication of Poverty](#).

APLE Collective members took part in several successful events which were logged onto the [Light Up the UK Map Campaign](#).

2020



In January 2020, APLE Collective members met in Stoke on Trent to plan the year's activities. As the pandemic was declared in March 2020 face to face meetings became Zoom meetings and digital exclusion among our members was an immediate issue.

The APLE Collective began [campaigning loudly](#) about the digital divide, we spoke at APPG Universal Credit, at the Local Trust Conference and at a variety of other locally based events sharing the issues around the digital divide and seeking solutions. Our campaigning work was highlighted by our Funder [Joseph Rowntree Foundation](#), the [Guardian](#) and [BBC](#).

2021

The beginning of 2021 saw us welcome new members [Single Parent Rights Campaign](#), [Starting Point](#), and [LIFE Foundation](#).

APLE Collective members published a briefing paper, hosted a Webinar seeking to find solutions to the Digital Divide and published an accompanying fact sheet.

We won a UK Parliament Award for Digital Campaigner of the year 2021!

In June, we had our very first [#APLEMonth!](#)

APLE Collective have been working with [Ada LoveLace Foundation](#) since 2021 in a piece participatory research that addresses digital inequalities in Health.

In 2021, APLE Collective members wrote blogs about the APLE Digital Divide Campaign hosted by Church Action on Poverty, Just Fair, Good Things Foundation, Policy Press and Community Organisers.

APLE Collective members published a book 'Socially Distanced Activism' with Policy Press.

APLE Collective have been working alongside the APPG on Poverty since 2021.

2022

APLE Collective had another busy and productive year, having secured three years of funding in February 2022.

The APLE Collective celebrated the International Day to End Poverty and Challenge Poverty Week. The theme for 2022, "Dignity for all in practice: The commitments we make together for social justice, peace, and the planet."


During the week of [#IDEP2022](#) and Challenge Poverty Week, APLE Collective visited the heart of government. We hosted the APPG on Poverty on Wednesday 19th October at Portcullis House.



APLE Collective's developments in 2022:

- APLE Collective members co-designed and facilitated interactive learning sessions at each in-person meeting, tackling topics such as communicating poverty, self-care, boundaries, and power.
- The governance sub-group made progress towards becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, working on governance documents and a pilot trusteeship scheme, recruiting APLE Collective members and external partners.
- APLE Collective started working with the Digital Inclusion APPG, feeding in lived experience knowledge and attending events to bring the voices of lived experience to Members of Parliament and Members of the House of Lords.

2023



As part of our APLE Month activities we co-hosted an event in Leeds with [Ada LoveLace Foundation](#) on 9th June. This shared our APLE Collective learning from our peer led research with [Ada LoveLace Foundation](#). The report was launched in September 2023.

During APLE Month 2023, we co-hosted a national conference with Church Action on Poverty and the Joint Public Issues Team and had an in person gathering in Frimhurst.

We once again commemorated the International Day to end Poverty 2023 with the continued 'Dignity For All' theme.



As of November 2023, we have recruited our lived experience internal trustees and are in the process of recruiting external trustees. Our goal of becoming a CIO is still in progress, and we are enthusiastic about continuing our collaboration with various organisations, including [Good Things Foundation](#), [Trussell Trust](#), [Kent University](#), [Wales Centre for Social Policy](#), and more!

We will build the size and power of APLE and hope to attract more funding. We will develop our own skills and knowledge and continue to amplify the voices of people who live in poverty and build collective solidarity to end poverty.