

FAQ's

What is a deliberative workshop?

Deliberative processes are used all over the world. They bring together a group of diverse people. The people who attend learn about issues, discuss them with one another, and then make recommendations about what should happen and how things should change.

Who is running the event?

The workshops are commissioned by the independent Highland Poverty Commission. Event design, facilitation, and support to participants is being led by Involve (www.involve.org.uk), who are specialists in public engagement.

What will taking part involve?

If you are selected to take part you will attend three interactive and supportive workshops plus an initial welcome and warmup workshop. We will hear relevant information and you will get to discuss what is important to you and your ideas for alternatives to the current approaches. You will work in small groups with facilitators to make sure everyone has their voice heard. You will help The Commission to test their current thinking, challenge assumptions, generate ideas; and ensure calls for action on poverty are realistic, relevant, and effective.

How will you ensure that the workshops are accessible?

All of the workshops are online. We can provide laptops and internet dongles to you by post if needed. We can also help you to find local community venues with internet connectivity but cannot guarantee we will be able to find this for all locations.

We will take breaks throughout the workshop. We will also have a designated trained wellbeing lead available if you need to talk to someone.

The information provided during the workshops will be as jargon-free as possible. There will be opportunities to ask speakers to explain what they mean if what they are saying is not clear.

If you require any form of additional support, for example translation, or support with accessibility issues, childcare, or other caring responsibilities, then every attempt will be made to provide or support this. If you are selected please just let us know about your specific requirements when we contact you.

If you are selected to take part, you will receive £265 to compensate you for your time, (£40 for the pre-engagement session and £75 for each workshop) provided as a voucher of your choice. If you are concerned that receipt of a voucher may affect your benefits then you should speak to your benefits adviser. Attendance at three workshops plus the introduction session will be required for the full gift of thanks.

Who can apply?

Anyone age 18+, who has current or recent experience of financial insecurity can apply, with a few exceptions set out below. Please note that a maximum of one person from any single household will be selected to participate.

The following people cannot apply: Elected representatives from any level of government; paid employees of any political party; or council employees working in any politically restricted post.

How was I selected to receive this invitation?

We have sent this invite to a range of local community groups across the Highlands, the majority of which have already engaged with the Poverty and Equality Commission and asked them to suggest people who might be interested in taking part.

After I register my interest, what happens next?

Once registration has closed, 20 people will be selected to form a balance of people from different communities and with different experiences. This is done through a mix of random selection and sorting by different criteria that we've asked about, for example location, age, gender, experience of financial insecurity.

If you are selected, Involve will contact you by phone and email to let you know. We will then arrange a call with you to confirm that you can attend, discuss any requirements you may have to make it possible for you to attend, and explain what happens next.

What will happen as a result of the workshops?

Your contributions in the workshops will help the Commission as it prepares its final report setting out its calls for action to address the root causes of poverty in the Highlands. This report will be presented to the Highland Council in June. The Council has already earmarked £500,000 in its budget to take forward the recommendations from the Commission's work.

Where can I get more information?

If you would like to talk to someone about the workshop before registering, please email highlands@involve.org.uk or text us on 07418 318108