



UBI LAB

Sheffield

The UBI LAB Sheffield

UBI LAB Sheffield is a collaboration between researchers, social justice organisations and campaigners within Sheffield to explore the idea of a Universal Basic Income. The key aims of UBI LAB Sheffield are to pilot a Universal Basic Income within the city, encourage debate around social support, and create a movement for change.

Why Run a Pilot?

Evidence: There have been several pilot UBI schemes introduced around the world. There is also evidence from some historical trials. However this evidence has not always been robust or in a context relevant to the UK.

Discussion: A UBI pilot would contribute to the discussion and public awareness of the tax and benefit system, particularly around how the system works, where money goes, conditionality, and possible alternatives.

Immediate benefits: Based on previous evidence, a UBI pilot should reduce poverty and improve wellbeing for many of those involved in it. This presents an opportunity to make an immediate impact on a communities in Sheffield.

Why Sheffield?

Sheffield is a city of communities: Sheffield is as much a constellation of towns as a city, with some of the wealthiest and poorest areas in the country.

Sheffield is a city of makers: UBI supports entrepreneurship, providing unconditional support for people who need the freedom to explore new ideas and take risks.

Sheffield is an innovative city: Sheffield has the skills to run a successful UBI pilot, with two major universities and extensive public and third sector expertise.

Sheffield is a city of change: Artificial intelligence and job automation is changing the face of labour as we know it, with Sheffield leading the way in these areas.

The Sheffield UBI Pilot

The Sheffield pilot looks towards a model of Universal Basic Income that is:

- **Fair:** significantly reducing poverty and acting to address income inequality
- **Efficient:** replacing most benefits to reduce bureaucracy
- **Democratic:** allowing people to contribute to their community

The model proposed replaces the benefit system at the current level of payments, with a lower payment for children and a higher payment for pensioners. People who are disabled would get payments equivalent to those made currently. It would also substitute personal tax allowance with an equivalent universal payment.

The key aims of the pilot are to explore:

- **Precarity:** evaluating the impact on workers in precarious employment, rates of entrepreneurship and re-skilling
- **Inequality:** evaluating the impact on health and social wellbeing, both individually and across a community
- **Poverty:** evaluating impacts on poverty and the services supporting those in poverty, including state and third-sector bodies
- **Community:** evaluating impacts on community, through individual relationships and activities, and wider social cohesion

Dependent on funding, the pilot will incorporate either purely qualitative, or both qualitative and quantitative components. The funding range is from around £0.5m for a small study exploring mechanisms to £30m for a full study.

How do I find out more?

Watch out for our forthcoming public meetings on UBI in general and our proposal in particular. If you fancy getting involved on the research or campaigning side, or both, just get in touch

ubilabsheffield.org

facebook.com/UBILabSheffield/

hello@ubilabsheffield.org

UBI LAB is a model for exploring the potential of UBI. If you are interested starting a UBI LAB where you live, get in touch for more information