

# South East Edinburgh Locality Improvement Plan 2017-2022



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## Introduction

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### Welcome from the South East Locality Community Planning Partnership.

We are delighted to present the revised South East Edinburgh Locality Improvement Plan 2017-2022. This builds on the current successes of the first edition of the Locality Improvement Plan launched in 2017.

This plan will continue to help those people who are in greatest need and focuses on what action can be taken to improve the quality of life of those who live in the South East.

It sets out:

- the priorities for improving the area until 2022
- actions that will be carried out
- our commitment to target our shared resources in the most effective way to tackle inequality.

In developing the first edition of the plan, we asked local people across the locality,

as well as within smaller targeted areas, what would make the area better and what would we need to do to achieve this. This allowed us to identify the outcomes and priorities that will make a real difference to the lives of the people in the locality.

In 2019, the Edinburgh Partnership agreed to revise the plan, looking at what has been achieved to date and what our communities have told us so far during the delivery of the plan.

As a result, the revised plan has been reviewed and streamlined to focus on less priorities that will truly tackle poverty and inequality, identified as thorny issues in our communities and can only be achieved through partnership working.

The challenges experienced across the locality have been further exacerbated by the impact of COVID-19, with those already experiencing higher levels of poverty or inequality hardest hit. Additional pressures caused by loss of work, furlough, isolation

and reduced income have led to increasing hardship for those most in need, with longer term health and economic impacts expected to compound the position even further.

The Locality Community Planning Partnership has responsibility for the development and delivery of the plan.

Members of the South East Locality Community Planning Partnership are:

- City of Edinburgh Council
- Police Scotland
- NHS Lothian
- Health and Social Care Partnership
- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
- Skills Development Scotland
- Third sector
- Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations' Council
- Edinburgh University
- Neighbourhood Network (one representative from each Network)



## Context

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Community planning is the process by which councils and other public bodies work with local people, businesses and voluntary groups to plan and deliver better services to improve the lives of people who live in their community. It is about reducing the outcome gap for those experiencing the greatest inequality, taking a preventative approach.

In Edinburgh, the city's community planning partnership where community, public and the third sector come together is collectively known as the Edinburgh Partnership.

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 requires the Edinburgh Partnership to develop and deliver a Local Outcome Improvement Plan for the city and individual Locality Improvement Plans for those areas that are experiencing the greatest inequality.

The Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2018-28 has three priority themes: 'enough money to live on', 'access to work, learning and training opportunities' and 'a good place to live'. This is a ten-year plan with outcomes that can only be tackled through partnership working.

The first edition of the South East Locality Improvement Plan 2017-22 was subject to annual performance reviews. In 2018 it was identified that whilst there has been progress made to deliver the priorities in the plan, there are significant challenges that need to be addressed including:

- The breadth of outcomes in the plan has resulted in an extensive range and number of actions
- Many of the actions are 'business as usual' activity and not additional or collaborative
- There is mixed levels of understanding and expectation of the purpose of the plan – being viewed as a place to capture all locality activity and not specifically that which tackles poverty and inequality, which leads to dilution of impact and ineffective targeting of resources
- Structuring the priorities around five themes and multiple small areas has led to a lack of addressing the needs of those experiencing greatest inequality and is difficult to manage operationally and administratively.

Considering this, a review of the current South East Edinburgh Locality Improvement Plan 2017-22 was undertaken in 2020, looking at the outcomes contained in the plan, and assessing them against three criteria – does it tackle poverty and inequality, is it a thorny issue; and can it only be achieved through partnership working.

From this a revised set of priorities have been identified that delivery will be focussed on for the remaining lifetime of the plan. These priorities are aligned to three themes in the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2018-28 and shown in the later sections of this document.



## South East locality

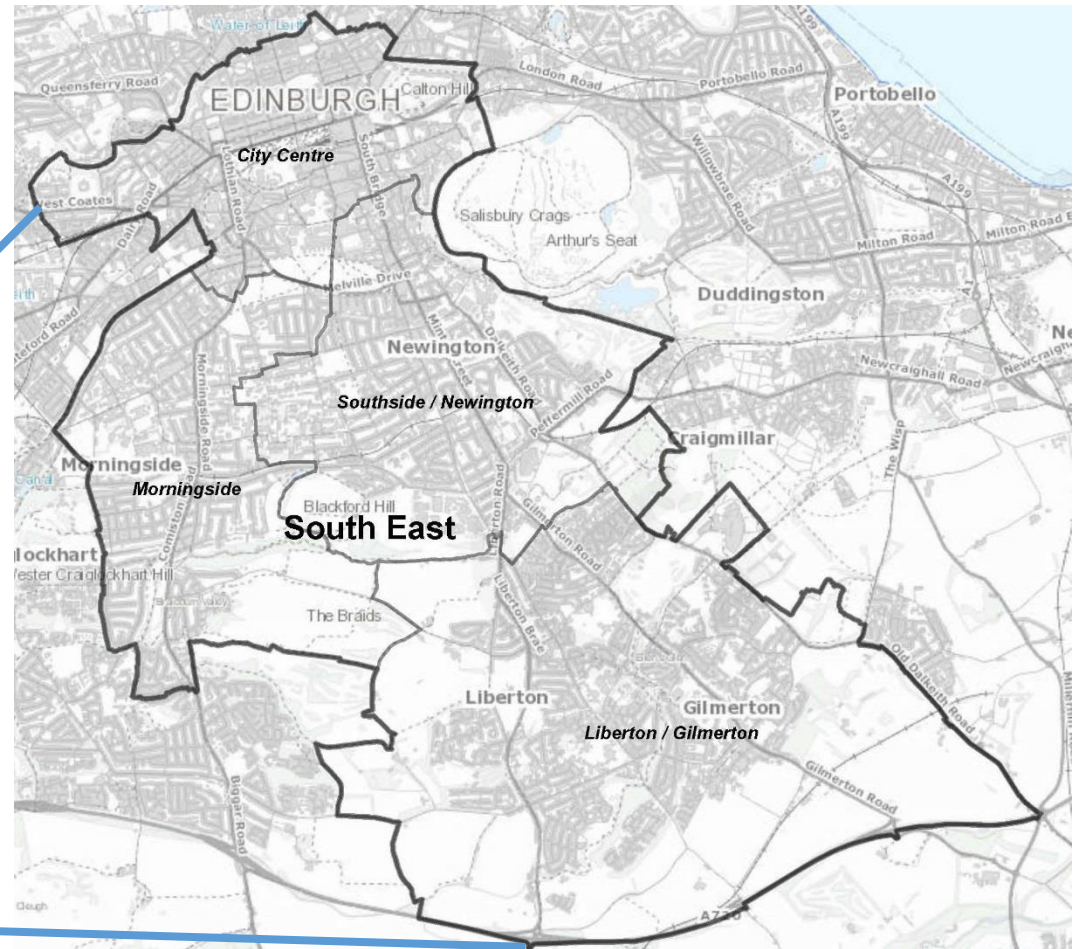
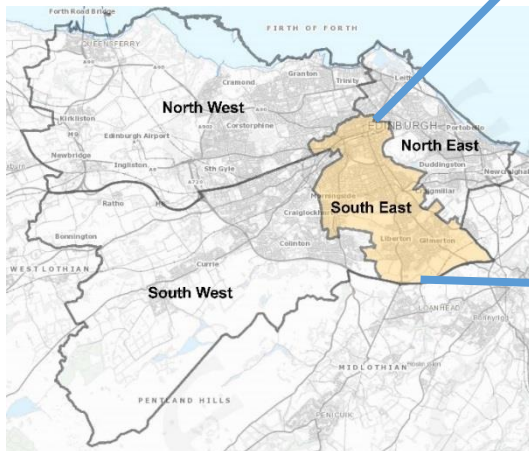
### South East locality map

#### Community Council Areas

Gilmerton/Inch  
 Liberton and District  
 Morningside  
 Fairmilehead  
 Merchiston  
 Marchmont and Sciennes  
 Grange/Prestonfield  
 Southside  
 Tollcross  
 West End  
 Murrayfield  
 New Town/Broughton  
 Stockbridge/Inverleith  
 Old Town

#### Wards

City Centre  
 Southside/Newington  
 Morningside  
 Liberton/Gilmerton



The South East locality has areas with high levels of affluence, as well as areas which are amongst the most socially and economically disadvantaged.



**Population**  
**137,642**

The current population of the South East is 137,642 and is expected to continue to increase over the next 15 years, putting additional pressure on housing and schools in the area and access to local amenities.

The South East locality has the highest rate of private rented housing and an owner occupier rate of 54%.



It also has the second highest rate of child poverty, with rates of 31% in both Liberton/Gilmerton and City Centre areas.

The South East locality overall has the lowest rate of people with no qualifications; however despite this, it has less residents that are economically active, in comparison to the other three localities.

There are distinct geographical areas within the locality where levels of affluence and inequality vary.

For example, despite its affluence, the City Centre faces many challenges with higher than average:

- crime rates
- incidents of anti-social behaviour
- numbers of people begging and sleeping rough.

Liberton/Gilmerton is diverse and includes areas where we need to focus on reducing inequality and disadvantage, including Southhouse, Burdiehouse, Moredun and Gracemount. Poor standards of health and low levels of professional and educational qualifications are amongst the greatest challenges in these areas.



A key aim of the locality approach to achieving better outcomes for people, is to shift the focus from tackling crisis to early intervention and prevention. To achieve this, there needs to be a greater understanding of the root causes and related trigger points for individuals and families in reaching 'crisis'.

The Locality Improvement Plan identifies locality wide outcomes, but also has a specific focus on smaller geographical areas within the wider locality.



## Involving our communities

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We are committed to having meaningful conversations with the diverse communities and groups that make up the South East locality about the services that are important to them.

To inform the first version of the Plan, launched in 2017, we listened to a wide range of people, taking the conversations to where people were in the locality and recognised the importance of engaging with people who would not normally take part.

As we delivered the priorities in the plan, we continued to build on our understanding of the needs and aspirations of our communities through effective and ongoing engagement and communication with local people. This is reflected in the revised Plan.

Going forwards, throughout the lifetime of the Plan, we will ensure that people can take part in a way that suits them. We will continue to create opportunities for individuals to talk to us, to enable as many people as possible to be involved.

It is clear when we talk with local people that they are also having conversations about what is important to them and what they wanted to see happen in their locality through other forums. We are using the feedback that has been collected through various engagement and consultation exercises to help shape the Plan, such as Edinburgh Poverty Commission and City Vision 2050.

The Plan has an impact on our communities and so input and feedback from you is vital to ensure the Plan is shaped to deliver what it can for the benefit of the people in our community. We want local people to get involved and feel part of the delivery of the actions in the Plan.

In 2019, the Edinburgh Partnership established 13 Neighbourhood Networks across the City, bringing communities together to promote dialogue and discussion on issues of shared interest.

The Networks are one route to which communities influence the Plan and work

with partners to develop appropriate responses for their neighbourhoods.

Network membership comprises community bodies, elected members for the relevant wards and third sector organisations. Community bodies include those such as community councils, tenants' organisations, Friends of Parks groups, parent councils, community trusts and any other community group that reflects the diversity and demographic make-up of each area. The wide membership ensures that those communities experiencing the greatest inequality are represented.

There are 4 Neighbourhood Networks in the South East: City Centre, Liberton/Gilmerton, Morningside and Southside/Newington.

What contribution could you make to your local community to make it a better place to live? For information on how to get involved, or to find out how to join a local community group, please get in touch with us at [southeast.locality@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:southeast.locality@edinburgh.gov.uk)

## The revised priorities

Under each theme, we have set out the priority, actions and possible measures. The measures provide an indication of what may be possible in measuring progress. These measures, along with outputs, timescales and resources to deliver the actions and achieve better outcomes are set out in accompanying work plans. Each of the outcomes is also aligned to one of the three priority areas of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP).

**Priority - Engage and support young people and their families to develop the skills they need to thrive and reach their potential, targeting support at those in greatest need.**

**Lead** – City of Edinburgh Council

**Partners include** – Third sector, NHS Lothian, Skills Development Scotland, Police Scotland, EVOC, Edinburgh College and Neighbourhood Networks.

Actions	Measures	LOIP priorities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver an affordable, targeted holiday programme.</li> <li>• Introduce a family befriending service.</li> <li>• Promote local parenting programmes around nurture and relationships.</li> <li>• Provide support to young unemployed people.</li> <li>• Raise awareness of information about help and support with domestic abuse, poverty, debt and housing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in families participating in Discover and accessing relevant services.</li> <li>• Increase in young people accessing post-school employment &amp; training opportunities.</li> <li>• Improve on the number of reported domestic abuse incidents.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enough money to live on.</li> <li>• Access to work, learning and training opportunities.</li> <li>• A good place to live.</li> </ul>



**Priority - Engage with and provide support to those who are rough sleeping, begging and street drinking in the city centre and southside, working closely with local partners, organisations and communities.**

**Lead –** Police Scotland

**Partners include –** Third sector, NHS Lothian, Health and Social Care Partnership, Skills Development Scotland, City of Edinburgh Council, EVOC, Edinburgh University and Neighbourhood Networks.

Actions	Measures	LOIP priorities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Map existing services to ensure that partners are fully aware of all the support, preventative, diversionary and capacity building opportunities.</li> <li>• Signpost and facilitate access to support services, including mental health, alcohol and substance misuse.</li> <li>• Explore opportunities to develop infrastructure at known 'hot spots', thereby maximising community and personal safety.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Survey multi-agency partners to identify awareness of existing services (to be repeated on an annual basis).</li> <li>• Partners to collectively increase referral submissions (with numbers subject of year on year review).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A good place to live.</li> </ul>



**Priority - Support people living in Dumbiedykes, including those experiencing hardship, and help co-ordinate a sustainable response that builds community resilience and promotes life chances**

**Lead** – Health and Social Care Partnership / NHS Lothian (Public Health)

**Partners include** – Third sector, EVOC, City of Edinburgh Council, Skills Development Scotland, Police Scotland, Edinburgh University and Neighbourhood Networks.

Actions	Measures	LOIP priorities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make it easy to get advice regarding money, employment and health.</li> <li>• Support wellbeing and access to food and physical activities.</li> <li>• Promote the use of digital technology and learning online skills.</li> <li>• Enhance the area physically and socially by improving bus links, local shops and the park.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in people receiving support with income maximisation.</li> <li>• Increase in people participating in physical activities.</li> <li>• Increase in people participating in community-based learning activity to develop IT skills and support with employment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enough money to live on.</li> <li>• Access to work, learning and training opportunities.</li> <li>• A good place to live.</li> </ul>



## Case study examples

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### **YouthTalk Liberton/Gilmerton**

Following the YouthTalk event in March 2019, a Youth Forum has been established and meets monthly to share their experiences and views.

Complementary to the forum is the newly formed SEEYA (South East Edinburgh Youth Alliance). SEEYA is a partnership group bringing together service providers, Council, third sector, voluntary organisations, uniformed and faith groups, sports clubs, schools, police and health providers. It provides a space to share information, discuss arising youth themes, plan holiday programmes and explore partnership working and funding opportunities. The group is chaired in rotation by partners and meets in different venues across the locality.

A key concern voiced by young people through YouthTalk was feeling unsafe in their community. Community safety issues were also identified through some high-profile incidents in the Liberton/Gilmerton ward area. In response to this, Police Scotland undertook a review of the resourcing that is put into youth engagement and in March 2019, two officers were assigned as the link for the high school and the wider youth community, for 6 months, reporting back to the youth forum. During this pilot, there was a significant amount of positive engagement between young people and officers, with officers having a presence at youth groups held at Goodtrees Community Centre and getting involved in a range of summer activities in partnership with Edinburgh Leisure. In addition, officers have also working with Education Welfare Officers to design a joint initiative with School Liaison Officers to tackle truancy. There are now plans to take forward YouthTalk in the other three wards of the Locality – Morningside, Southside/Newington and City Centre, and to hopefully establish youth forums for the young people in these areas.

### Dumbiedykes Small Area Plan

The Dumbiedykes Small Area Plan prioritises working closer with residents to increase provision of activities for young people and families and improve access to the Braidwood Centre.

The Local Lifelong Learning Team organised a series of 'Family Fridays' during the summer holiday period at the Braidwood Centre. The activities delivered on Friday included storytelling, circus skills, garden games, bookbug and arts and crafts. They were structured to enable the whole family to participate together and a means to engage with families to promote future learning activities such as creative writing and employability workshops. There were also trips organised to the Holyrood Rangers and Dynamic Earth. In total 15 families participated, which included around 20-30 individuals each week. The sessions were assisted by local family support and teaching staff from the Royal Mile and Preston Street Primary Schools. Due to their success work is now underway to establish this every Friday, including term times, starting in 2020.

Additional activity in Dumbiedykes includes a Community Grant Funding Award to Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust to develop a health and wellbeing programme. An event was held in November 2019 with outreach activities, taster sessions and networking for local organisations. A sub-group to address loneliness and social isolation in the community is also being established.



## Nicolson Square

Nicolson Square and Nicolson Square Gardens is located on a busy arterial thoroughfare into the city centre and includes a public garden surrounded by small businesses, residential properties, a public toilet and a church. For many years it had suffered from antisocial behaviour and low-level criminal activity. The garden was a go-to place for street drinkers, and what should have been a prime green space in a city centre location was not a place that the community felt they could enjoy. The local businesses felt their business suffered as the Square was not seen as a welcoming or safe place.

In January 2018, a community event was held in the local church in the Square. Over 50 people attended, including residents, local businesses, the Community Council, local Councillors, Council Officers, Police Scotland, Edinburgh University and third sector groups. Attendees were asked to have three conversations:

1. What is good about Nicolson Square? What do people like about it? What does it add to the area?
2. What is not good about Nicolson Square – what don't people like about it? What impact does it have on the area?
3. What would you like to see done to improve Nicolson Square? How can the issues be tackled in partnership? Who can be involved? What contribution can you/your organisation make? What is the one improvement / change that you would make?

The contributions at this session were captured and formed a list of commitments that were with actions that would be taken forward in partnership with the community to tackle the problems identified. Key partnership actions delivered include:

- Increased focus and a different approach in tackling antisocial behaviour, with joint working between Police Scotland, Streetwork (a charity that provides street-based outreach to people rough sleeping and with addictions) and the Council resulting in significant reduction in antisocial behaviour in the Square
- Friends of Nicolson Square - the new group is now well established and has worked hard to deliver physical improvements in the Garden, in partnership with the Council's parks team. It holds regular community events and clean ups, encouraging the community to feel a sense of ownership for the Square
- A community arts project, bringing artwork wraps to the litter bins designed by local people and groups, and inspired by local history and features.

This successful partnership work has delivered a substantial increase in community involvement in the Square, restoring a sense of ownership and connection with the Garden and seen a significant reduction in instances of crime and antisocial behaviour. It is now a more welcoming and vibrant place, an asset to the community. The degree of change and what it means to the local community is borne out by the results in the annual Parks Quality Assessment 2019. It noted Nicolson Square Garden as the most improved greenspace in the South East Locality of the 36 greenspaces assessed in the area since 2018.



## How we will measure success

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The revised priorities include a strategic description of high-level actions and possible measures. This will be underpinned by workplans which set out detailed actions, timescales and the key measures that will demonstrate how change is taking place in each locality.

These more detailed workplans will form the basis of monitoring progress allowing scrutiny of areas of success and identifying improvement needs and will be subject to regular review.

An Annual Progress Report will also be produced evidencing progress on delivering the outcomes in the plan, based on the output of the continuous monitoring and scrutiny, and will be presented to Council Committee and partner governance bodies for further scrutiny and approval.

The core principles and methods for monitoring progress and performance reporting are set out below:

### Principles

- 1 Easy to access and understand**  
Information on how each outcome is progressing needs to be readily available, regularly maintained, clearly laid out and free of jargon.
- 2 Focused on outcomes as well as outputs**  
The aim of monitoring information is to measure the difference made to local people and communities and not just changes made to services.
- 3 Alignment with other strategic aims**  
The partners' progress towards achieving the outcomes must be consistent with their own established strategic aims. This is to ensure that the services are working towards clearly aligned goals and are monitoring their work in a consistent way.

### Methods

- 1 Workplans**  
A set of more detailed plans relating to the outcomes and associated actions will allow monitoring of the partners' activity and progress towards achieving our shared goals.
- 2 Regular performance reports**  
These will detail progress towards achieving the outcomes. They could include actions, key performance indicators, case studies and customer research to give a balanced view on progress. These reports will form the basis for the Annual Progress Report.
- 3 Annual Progress Report**  
Progress in achieving the outcomes for the locality and small areas will be reported annually to Council Committee and partner governance bodies.



## Further information and contacts

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### Key contacts

Further information about this plan is available by contacting the South East locality team:

- email [southeast.locality@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:southeast.locality@edinburgh.gov.uk)
- telephone 0131 529 5151 and ask to speak to the Locality Manager or the Lifelong Learning Service Manager.

### Links to plans and strategies

The Locality Improvement Plan links with a range of existing strategies including:

#### The City of Edinburgh Council

- [Business Plan](#)
- [Local Development Plan](#)

#### Edinburgh Partnership

- [Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2018-22](#)
- [Children's Services Plan](#)
- [Community Learning and Development Plan](#)
- [Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan](#)

#### NHS Lothian

[NHS Lothian Strategic Plan 2014 - 2024](#)

#### Edinburgh Integration Joint Board

[Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership Strategic Plan 2019-22](#)

#### Police Scotland

[Strategic Police Plans](#)

#### Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

[Strategic and Local Fire and Rescue Plans for Scotland East](#)

#### Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations' Council and Volunteer Centre Edinburgh

[Everybody's Edinburgh](#)



## Equalities statement

Locality Improvement Plans set out our commitment to promoting equality and diversity. An Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) have been carried out, enabling all partners to meet their legal duties to consider equality, human rights, sustainability and the environment. The assessments ensure that the planned services and policies promote equality of opportunity eliminate discrimination and harassment and promote good relations between those with protected characteristics and those with none. They also allow broader inequalities to be addressed, ensuring that the needs of all people are met.

For further information or to view a copy of the assessments please contact: [southeast.locality@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:southeast.locality@edinburgh.gov.uk)

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