

# Public Document Pack



THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

**Meeting** Tuesday, 15 December 2020  
**Time** 2.00 pm  
**Venue** Virtual Meeting - via Microsoft Teams

## Edinburgh Partnership Board

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## **Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 23 March 2021 at 2pm via Teams



## THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Wednesday 29 September 2020 – 2:00pm

Meeting held via Microsoft Teams

### MINUTE

#### Board members present

Cllr Adam McVey	The City of Edinburgh Council
Gavin Donoghue	The University of Edinburgh
Sean Scott	Police Scotland
Cllr Robert Aldridge	The City of Edinburgh Council
Cllr Susan Rae	The City of Edinburgh Council
Cllr Iain Whyte	The City of Edinburgh Council
Elaine Morrison	Scottish Enterprise
Audrey Cumberland	Edinburgh College
John Tibbitt	Edinburgh Association of Community Councils
Cllr Susan Rae	The City of Edinburgh Council
Kenny Rodgers	Scottish Fire and Rescue
Angus McCann	Chair of the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board
Ella Simpson	EVOG
Sarah Ogden	Castle Rock Edinvar
Richard Thomas	Police Scotland

#### Advisers present

Andrew Kerr	The City of Edinburgh Council
Michael Chalmers	Scottish Government

#### In attendance

Cllr Karen Doran (Substituting for Cllr Cammy Day)	The City of Edinburgh Council
Cllr Kate Campbell	The City of Edinburgh Council
Michele Mulvaney	The City of Edinburgh Council
Paula McLeay	The City of Edinburgh Council
Valerie Lawrie	The City of Edinburgh Council
Saty Kaur	The City of Edinburgh Council
Chris Adams	The City of Edinburgh Council
Martin Higgins	NHS Lothian
Nickey Brown	The City of Edinburgh Council
Crawford McGhie	The City of Edinburgh Council

## **1 Minutes**

### **Decision**

To agree the minutes of 3 June 2020 as a correct record.

## **2 Homelessness Presentation**

Nickey Brown, Homelessness and Housing Support Senior Manager for the City of Edinburgh Council was invited to report to the Edinburgh Partnership on the City of Edinburgh Council's (CEC's) approach to homelessness following emergency measures which had been implemented in respect of minimising the spread of Covid-19.

Covid-19 had offered an opportunity for the Council to engage with people impacted by homelessness. While the public health crisis was ongoing, support had been provided to people without recourse to public funds which had meant that individuals seeking support were linked into repatriation, advocacy and employability services. For the Registered Social Landlord, Council Housing and Owner Occupation settlement population- there had been a slowdown in movement of people into these groups. Between March to July in 2020 there were more people in temporary housing.

Under usual circumstances, prior to the Covid-19 lockdown period, 120 people in the city were known to be sleeping rough. Homelessness Services estimated 12-15 people who were still sleeping rough during this period and third sector providers were meeting regularly to discuss this cohort. When emergency measures were in place to support homeless people, accommodation had been offered in large hotels, however people that were accommodated in hotels during the pandemic had a move on plan and their journey from exiting the hotel was being carefully monitored.

There had been a report presented to the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee of the City of Edinburgh Council which set out the scale of the issue of homelessness and access to settled accommodation in Edinburgh. By May 2021 the Scottish Government would no longer require those seeking housing to have a local connection to the area and there was an expectation that there would be an increase in the number of people presenting as homeless in the city, presenting greater pressure on the City of Edinburgh Council.

The financial implications had been considerable both in terms of the Covid-19 component and by supporting those with no recourse to public funds. The forthcoming changes expected to Scottish Government policy were expected to add to the overall financial challenge.

A number of questions and comments emerged from those attending which focussed on the following issues:

- What were the key asks of Partners to enable the Council to make progress on the challenge of Homelessness?
- That the council's Rapid Rehousing transition Plan was responding to the challenges faced.
- The strand of preventing homelessness was required to be seen in a wider societal way and that everyone had a role to play in preventing homelessness.
- The change to local connection criteria by the Scottish Government and what was being done to respond to this?
- That a report would be presented to the Housing Homelessness and Fair Work Committee of the City of Edinburgh Council in November and would highlight the challenges which were specific to Edinburgh.
- That the Scottish Government had indicated that they were willing to work with the Council if as a result of a change in the legislation for no longer requiring a local connection to seek settlement in an area, there was an upsurge in settlement requests. This would require quarterly monitoring of anticipated likely increase of people presenting as homeless in the city.
- That those living in private rents or middle market rent were all at risk of homelessness. There was always a time lag to the claim of benefits, and a plea whether the Council could work with Scot Government and the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to bring forward a statement that these arrears were not immediately chased when those who fell upon difficult times were awaiting funds as part of a welfare claim?
- That the Council had a team who dealt with presentations for those seeking support with housing. During Covid-19 there has been a pause to dealing with evictions. There was joint working underway with the DWP to resolve benefits claims quickly and to tackle groups who had fallen out of private renting.
- That providing a person-centred approach was considered very important and a wealth of work had been undertaken by negotiating with landlords.
- What the Edinburgh Partnership could do to allow benefits payments earlier, in terms of lobbying with the DWP?
- That the Housing team was working in tandem and collaboratively with Homelessness team in the City of Edinburgh Council and the acknowledgement that there would be some families with vulnerabilities who were not known to housing or social work.

## **Decision**

1. To circulate the rapid rehousing plan to members of the Edinburgh Partnership.

2. For Members of the Partnership to consider how their organisations could consider and embed a preventative approach to homelessness.

### **3 Edinburgh Poverty Commission**

Councillor Adam McVey highlighted that the Poverty Commission had now published its final findings and that the Council's response to the conclusions of the commission was endorsed. The challenge ahead would involve how the Edinburgh Partnership should constructively respond to the Commission's findings, both as a Partnership and on behalf of organisations' individual responses.

#### **Decision**

1. To create specific actions for the Edinburgh Partnership to respond to the Poverty Commission's final findings via the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) Delivery Group as the delivery vehicle for the Edinburgh Partnership.
2. To circulate the Poverty Commission's final findings to members of the Edinburgh Partnership.
3. To note that the Council's response to the Poverty Commissions final findings was positive.
4. To request that Edinburgh Partnership and its constituent organisations consider how they could implement the approaches as set out in the Poverty Commission's final findings.

### **4 Local Outcome Improvement Plan – Annual Progress Report**

The Edinburgh Partnership was required under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 to produce a Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP). The plan presented provided the framework for supporting the delivery of partnership working to improve outcomes for those residents in the city experiencing the greatest inequality. An annual update on the plan was presented.

#### **Decision**

- 1 To approve the LOIP annual progress report.
- 2 To note an update report would be presented to the Edinburgh Partnership Board in December 2020.
- 3 To note the value in tracking data relating to the number of apprenticeships, individual career move supports and to note the availability of data during this particularly fluid time and how data may be used to support the ambitions of the LOIP Delivery Group.

## **5 Edinburgh Partnership Communications**

An update on the communications work programme was presented which focussed on three areas of development – the joint communications approach for COVID-19 recovery planning, the Edinburgh Partnership communications strategy and the new Edinburgh Partnership web platform.

### **Decision**

- 1 To agree to proactively endorse close collaboration of renewal communications aimed at citizens and city partners.
- 2 To note the progress to date to develop the communications strategy and agree to receive a further report at a future meeting to approve the strategy.
- 3 To agree to promote the Edinburgh Partnership website through partner networks and contribute to content for Phase two development.
- 4 To provide background information on Community Planning on the landing page of the new website.

## **6 Criminal Justice**

The Edinburgh Community Safety Partnership (ECSP) was responsible for developing and implementing Edinburgh's Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan (CJOIP) on behalf of the Edinburgh Partnership (community planning). The completed Community Justice Local Area Annual Return Template was presented and contained examples of partner's individual and collective community justice activity during 2019/20.

### **Decision**

To approve the completed Community Justice Local Area Annual Return for 2019/20.

## **7 Community Safety**

The new Community Safety Strategy developed to replace the current Antisocial Behaviour Strategy covered the years 2020 to 2023. Plans for a formal launch in April 2020 were suspended due to re provisioning of activity, officers and resources in response to Covid-19, however some of the actions outlined under each priority had been able to be progressed. An overview of the strategy (that was agreed by members of the Edinburgh Community Safety Partnership on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020) and an update on some of the key actions which had progressed to date was presented.

### **Decision**

To note the content of the report and the new Joint Community Safety Strategy 2020 – 2023.

## **8 Recovery Planning**

Each organisation attending was invited to share how their organisation was progressing with their recovery planning in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The City of Edinburgh Council expressed concerns around rise in Coronavirus cases within care homes and gave assurances that all Council activity was being undertaken with consideration of the public health concerns.

The NHS noted the increase in coronavirus cases in care homes and advised that increases in new coronavirus cases were driven by students mainly however that numbers were decreasing.

Work with schools had been ongoing to control cases and there had been a recruitment drive to secure staff to do contact tracing. The NHS took the opportunity to applaud the Council's Environmental Health team for their endeavours during this time. The NHS has a Remobilisation plan as part of the recovery planning and intended to recommence screening programmes and provide capacity to treat patients and looking to drive activity through the 111 service so that patient flows could be managed.

The Integration Joint Board meeting structure had recommenced, with a keen eye on Personal, Protective Equipment, Testing and Care Homes.

For EVOC much of their work was with small community-based organisations, and attention was focussed on provisioning this support in the longer term, particularly in the response to mental health and wellbeing challenges faced as a result of the prolonged period of measures to reduce social contact stemming from the lockdown. There were apprehensions around unpaid carers providing the ongoing support, when support services had been withdrawn as a result of lockdown and EVOC was seeking to avoid crisis interventions where carers had no longer been able to cope. EVOC had concerns around the sustainability of services beyond the Government's furlough scheme, which was due to conclude in October 2020.

The University of Edinburgh has a small number of positive coronavirus cases within their halls of residences and preparations were underway for movement into phase four of the Scottish Government's route map, however at present teaching remained in the hybrid online and in person.

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service had managed to provide an ongoing service however had experienced staffing challenges where test and protect had resulted in an entire fire station staffing being advised to isolate. Some of the prevention work which was underway prior to the outbreak of Covid-19 was recommencing alongside efforts to identify people that were vulnerable.



The Council's Spaces for People initiative, which had emerged due to the need to create spaces on public footpaths to allow for people to socially distance from each other, in a bid to prevent the spread of Coronavirus, has resulted in the narrowing of carriageways and expansion of footpaths and road closures which had resulted in members of the public expressing concerns about emergency vehicle access. Councillor Karen Doran, in her capacity as Vice Convenor for the Transport and Environment Committee, agreed to discuss this matter in detail out with the Edinburgh Partnership with Kenny Rodgers.

Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce was switching activity onto the digital platform and in response to Covid-19 guidelines and the associated impact on businesses, were lobbying the Scottish Government through Scottish Chambers of Commerce.

## **Decision**

- 1 For Kenny Rodgers and Councillor Karen Doran to discuss Spaces for People and the impact of this initiative on emergency access vehicles.
- 2 To note Councillor Adam McVey's vote of thanks to organisations for responding to the Covid-19 pandemic.

## **9 Food Insecurity**

As part of the response to the Covid-19 pandemic a Vulnerable Groups Board was established and was responsible for creating and monitoring several immediate support activities.

As the direct funding streams associated with the Covid-19 response were expected to come to an end, those involved in the immediate support activity began to consider how best to build on experience gained to ensure a more effective response to any similar future emergencies. The opportunity to continue to improve working relationships between statutory authorities and third sector organisations had been recognised as one area of focus for future activity.

The activity to address food poverty in response to the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the range of third sector organisations that were already involved in tackling food poverty and health inequalities across Edinburgh. In addition, other organisations have developed capabilities in direct response to the pandemic.

The immediate response work had also shown there was a wide range of Council services which interact, commission or have contracts with the third sector in relation to meeting several different citizen needs. Feedback from the third sector had highlighted a wish for further conversations with the Council around opportunities to become more sustainably involved in a range of future service

provision, including tackling food poverty, and as such an event to discuss this further would be taking place.

## **Decision**

1. To note the update in relation to the immediate support activity which had been carried out in partnership across the city in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.
2. To approve that an event involving all those organisations involved in addressing food poverty across the city, which focused on continuing to improve relationships and working practices, was arranged as a key Partnership follow up activity.
3. To note the intention of the Life Chances Poverty and Prevention workstream to take forward long term planning for transformation of the Council's future work with all third sector organisations in Edinburgh.

## **10 Adaptation and Renewal Equalities Principles**

Equalities officers across the Council, NHS Lothian and the IJB identified a need to provide a practical and shared partnership approach to equalities to support the development of partner recovery programmes following the Covid-19 emergency response.

Officers from across a number of partner organisations have collaborated to develop a set of principles that aim to support a cultural shift enabling equality to be mainstreamed into the redesign and delivery of services as the city recovers from the pandemic. These principles would provide a basis for the new Equalities, Diversity and Rights Framework.

The Council was considering how to meaningfully embed these principles into its Adaptation and Renewal Programme in order to ensure that all citizens' experience of accessing public sector services is positive and that recovery plans have the greatest impact on those citizens identified as being most disadvantaged before and during the pandemic as a result of sharing protected characteristics. An update on progress, setting out the draft equalities principles and next steps was shared.

## **Decision**

1. For members to feedback on the draft equalities principles and next steps.
2. To note that there would be an update to a future meeting of the Edinburgh Partnership.

## **11 Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 15 December 2020 at 2pm.



## THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

### Best Value Assurance Audit

#### 1. Executive Summary

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- 1.1 The City of Edinburgh Council has recently been subject to a Best Value Assurance Audit with the report published on 26 November 2020. An area of focus was partnership working and community engagement and while the audit relates to the Council, given the legal duties of partners, the recommendations made around partnership working are of concern to the Board and, in particular, statutory partners.
- 1.2 This paper provides details of the findings of relevance to the Edinburgh Partnership and proposes a mechanism for developing a collaborative response by the Board.

#### 2. Recommendations

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- 2.1 The Board is recommended to:
  - i. agree to the convening of a working group comprising, as a minimum, senior officers from those public bodies required to support and facilitate community planning, together with EVOC for the Third Sector.
  - ii. note the senior Council officer who will convene the working group will be Paul Lawrence, Executive Director of Place, and nominations from other partners are sought by close of play on 18 December 2020;
  - iii. task the working group to develop a response to address the findings of the audit with this to be reported to the Board by March 2021.

#### 3. Main Report

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- 3.1 In October 2016, Audit Scotland implemented a new approach to auditing Best Value in Scottish councils. The audit of Best Value became a continuous process that forms part of the annual audit process of every council. Findings are reported each year through the Annual Audit Report. In addition, the Controller of Audit presents a Best Value Assurance Report to the Accounts Commission at least once during a five-year cycle. This was the first assurance report on The City of Edinburgh Council in this cycle.
- 3.2 As part of this process, Audit Scotland considered partnership working, using a range of evidence gathering methodologies including attendance at meetings. The findings in relation to this aspect of the work are appended to this report.
- 3.7 Following on from the findings the report makes a specific recommendation, namely that:

**The Council should work with the Edinburgh Partnership Board to:  
implement its new governance arrangements, effectively involve  
community representatives and deliver improved outcomes for  
communities**

**produce progress reports with clear targets, accountable leads and links  
between the actions taken and the impact on performance**

- 3.8 It is noted that improvement activity is already underway to address aspects of the issues raised, for example the proposed delivery plan for the LOIP and refreshed LIPs covered elsewhere on the agenda. However, it is acknowledged that further work is required, with resources to support and facilitate improvement activity remaining a principal concern.
- 3.9 To enable the Board to respond effectively to the areas requiring progress, it is proposed to establish a short-life working group. Recognising the legislative duty of some partners to support and facilitate community planning, it is proposed, as a minimum, that this comprise senior officers from the public bodies with a duty to support and facilitate community planning, namely; the City of Edinburgh Council, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, NHS Lothian and Scottish Enterprise, together with EVOG for the Third Sector. It is proposed that this working group is convened by Paul Lawrence, Executive Director Place, City of Edinburgh Council.
- 3.10 The working group will be tasked with developing a response to address the findings of the audit with this to be reported to the Board by March 2021.

#### 4. Contact

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Michele Mulvaney, Strategy Manager (Communities), City of Edinburgh  
Council  
[michele.mulvaney@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:michele.mulvaney@edinburgh.gov.uk)

# Part 4

## Is the council working well with its partners?



**The council has established close working relationships with a range of partners, including the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board and City Deal partners, to deliver its priorities.**

**The pace of change in establishing effective community planning governance arrangements has been slow and there is limited evidence to demonstrate the impact of partnership working on outcomes.**

**Community empowerment is not embedded in the council's culture.**

**The Edinburgh Integration Joint Board faces significant financial challenges.**

### **The council has established close working relationships with a range of partners**

- 97.** The council works with many partners including NHS Lothian, Police Scotland, universities, businesses, third-sector organisations and neighbouring councils, across a wide range of partnerships and forums. These include, among others, the Community Planning Partnership, known as the Edinburgh Partnership, the Health and Social Care Partnership, the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Joint Committee, and the Alcohol and Drug Partnership.
- 98.** These partnerships share similar ambitions of reducing poverty and inequality in Edinburgh through sustainable and inclusive economic growth. Some partnerships (such as the Edinburgh Partnership, the Alcohol and Drug Partnership, and the Children's Partnership) are reviewing their governance arrangements to clarify their roles in the complex partnership landscape and establish who leads on specific workstreams.

### **The council and its partners have not yet established effective community planning governance arrangements**

- 99.** The City of Edinburgh Council has a lead role in the Edinburgh Partnership. The Partnership includes statutory partners such as NHS Lothian, Scottish Enterprise, Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. It also involves a range of other public, private and third sector partners. The Edinburgh Partnership has reviewed its governance arrangements twice in the last six years to improve ways of working. The most recent review in 2019 sought to address acknowledged problems, with a view to:

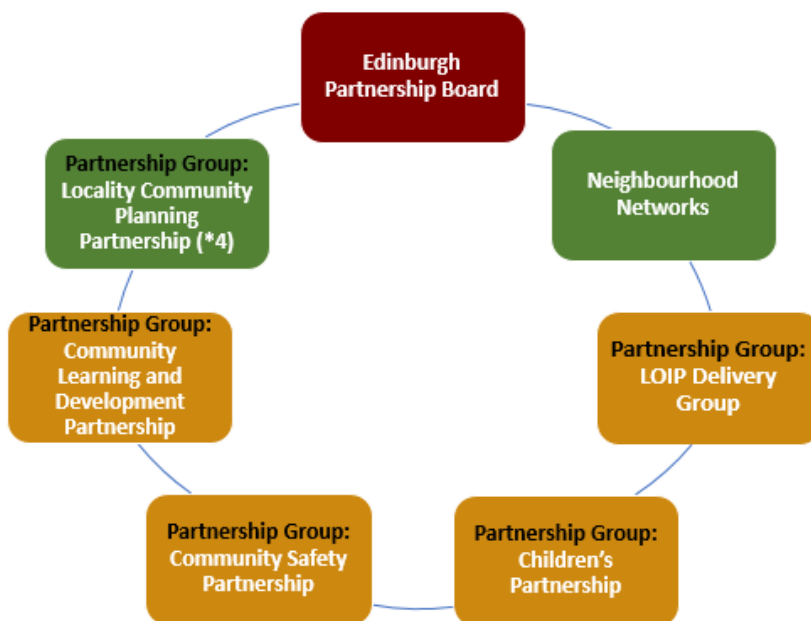
- streamlining and simplifying how partners work together
- providing a shared understanding and clarity of purpose
- strengthening partnership working
- providing greater accountability and transparency
- strengthening community influence and participation, for example in decision-making on the use of devolved funds such as the Community Grants Fund.

100. Following ten months of consultation with stakeholders (see [Exhibit 12, page 38](#)), the Edinburgh Partnership agreed a new governance framework in April 2019, introducing four Local Community Planning Partnerships, 13 neighbourhood networks, and the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) Delivery Group ([Exhibit 11](#)).

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## Exhibit 11

### The Edinburgh Partnership Governance Structure and Membership



Source: Edinburgh Partnership Board Papers

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101. The Edinburgh Partnership proposed that the neighbourhood networks would replace the neighbourhood partnerships and include a wider range of local community groups. However, some partners and community representatives have highlighted to the council that they are unclear on how neighbourhood networks are to operate across the four localities.

**102.** We observed and heard community council representatives expressing a need for greater clarity on how community councils should engage with the Local Community Planning Partnerships. While one of the aims of the restructure is to increase community influence, meetings of the Edinburgh Partnership Board, the LOIP Delivery Group, and the Locality Community Planning Partnerships are not streamed online for communities to view. It is too early to say how successful the new structures will be in supporting the Partnership to deliver the LOIP outcomes.

### **The Edinburgh Partnership has struggled to develop effective Locality Improvement Plans**

**103.** The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 (the Act) requires a CPP to produce the following plans:

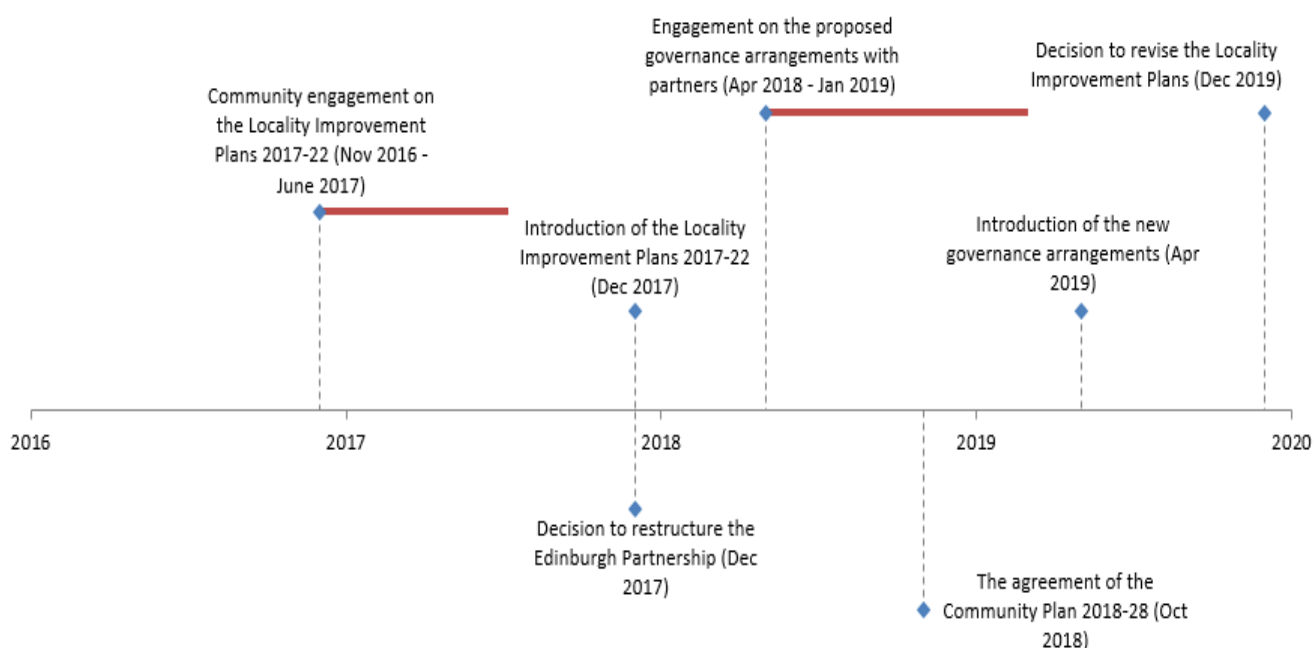
- A Community Plan for the whole council area
- A Locality or Neighbourhood Plan for each locality it has identified as experiencing significantly poorer outcomes.

**104.** Following a period of extensive engagement with communities and public and voluntary sector partners, the Edinburgh Partnership approved Locality Improvement Plans 2017-22 in December 2017 ([Exhibit 12, page 38](#)). Partners subsequently concluded that these were lacking in suitable performance measures, unfit for purpose, and hindering joint working. The plans also set out actions from respective partners rather than actions to be delivered as a partnership. A progress review by the board in December 2019 highlighted the need to refocus the plans on actions that could make a significant impact on tackling poverty and inequality through a partnership approach.

**105.** The Partnership developed the Locality Improvement Plans prior to agreeing its vision and priorities, which are set out in the Community Plan 2018-28. To develop the Plan, the Partnership engaged with its statutory partners, and used the community feedback informing the Locality Improvement Plans from 2017.

**106.** The Partnership is now developing new progress management and reporting arrangements along with new Locality Improvement Plans. They will include the priorities that can only be addressed through partnership working, are thorny issues, and which tackle poverty and inequality. Locality data profiles will form the basis of these plans. The partnership was due to finalise the plans by June 2020, but this has been delayed by Covid-19. The partnership expects to agree a revised date at its Board meeting in December 2020.

## Exhibit 12 Edinburgh Partnership – Timeline of key events



Note: red line indicates duration.

Source: Audit Scotland and Edinburgh Partnership Board papers

## The Edinburgh Partnership has made mixed progress against its Community Plan outcomes, and there are weaknesses in performance reporting

**107.** The Edinburgh Partnership made mixed progress against its 2015-18 Community Plan. The progress report of December 2018 shows that the Partnership met ten of its 17 KPI targets, excluding four data only KPIs ([Exhibit 13](#)).

## Exhibit 13 Edinburgh Partnership's progress against its 2015-18 Community Plan

Outcome	KPI met target	KPI just missed target	KPI missed target	KPI data only (no target)
Edinburgh's economy delivers increased investment, jobs and opportunities for all	3	0	0	0
Edinburgh's citizens experience improved health and wellbeing with reduced inequalities in health	1	2	1	0



<b>Edinburgh's children and young people enjoy their childhood and fulfil their potential</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Edinburgh's communities are safer and have improved physical and social fabric</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>

Source: The Community Plan 2015-18 Final Progress Report, December 2018, Edinburgh Partnership

**108.** Progress reports to the Partnership Board lack information on performance targets, specified leads for planned actions, and target delivery dates. The final progress report on its 2015-18 Community Plan (dated December 2018) did not set out the KPI targets and stated only if targets had been achieved, just missed or missed. The report did not describe what actions the Partnership had taken to achieve its outcomes. The Partnership's progress report at March 2020 includes performance information for only four of the 17 indicators in the current Community Plan.

### **The Partnership's performance against Community Planning Outcomes Profile indicators improved between 2013/14 and 2017/18**

**109.** The Improvement Service's Community Planning Outcomes Profile (CPOP) is a collection of 18 measures to help assess whether residents' lives are improving. Performance against CPOP indicators is positive, with the Partnership demonstrating improvement against 15 of the 18 measures between 2013/14 and 2017/18. This included measures of child poverty, employment and carbon emissions. Performance was maintained for educational attainment and declined slightly for unplanned hospital attendances and wellbeing.

### **The council consults extensively with residents and has used some innovative engagement approaches**

**110.** The council relies heavily on consultation responses to inform its decisions and to develop plans and strategies. The total number of consultation responses has increased considerably, from 8,000 in 2016/17 to 25,000 in 2018/19. The council's website only includes some consultation results and limited information on actions taken to address issues. The council recognises the need to provide timely feedback about consultation responses and any subsequent actions. It has developed a draft consultation policy, but Covid-19 has delayed its implementation.

**111.** The council has used other community engagement methods, such as workshops, information displays, focus groups and digital tools. It engaged with communities early in the development of its City Plan 2030 and developed on-line budget simulation tools and used game-based approaches to facilitate discussion about its budget proposals. It is also expanding its use of digital mapping tools to enable residents to provide feedback. The council is a key partner on the Edinburgh Climate Commission ([Case study 1](#)), and the Edinburgh Poverty Commission ([Case study 2](#)), both of which have used a wide range of methods to engage with citizens and stakeholders, including developing a citizen group and co-producing a youth summit on climate change with young people.

**112.** In partnership with NHS Lothian, the Children's Partnership, the Children's Parliament and Young Edinburgh Action, the council engaged with children and young people through the "What Kind of Edinburgh?" project, which enabled

children and young people to give their views about the planning and delivery of services. The council and its partners further developed this approach by establishing the Children and Young People Participation Group to influence the priorities set out in the Children's Services Plan 2020-23.

## Community engagement is not embedded in the council's day-to-day work

- 113.** The council's Business Plan and Change Strategy set out its aspiration to empower citizens and colleagues. Community empowerment is also a key theme in the Edinburgh Partnership's Community Plan ([Exhibit 2, page 12](#)). The council recognises that the pace of change in improving community engagement has been slow. Community engagement is not embedded in the council's day-to-day work and is not yet an integral part of service improvement and delivery.
- 114.** Neither the Edinburgh Partnership nor the council has a community engagement strategy in place. The council and its partners are currently developing one with the involvement of the Checkpoint Citizen Focus Group. Set up in November 2019, the group includes a dozen community representatives. Covid-19 has delayed its introduction.
- 115.** There is limited evidence of the council engaging with hard-to-reach, migrant, and minority groups. Citizens have not always been engaged early enough and meaningfully enough to influence the council's decision-making. In our fieldwork interviews, community groups and third-sector organisations told us that the council and its partners could improve community engagement by adopting an early intervention/prevention and human rights-based approach, and by working more closely with active community groups and third sector organisations to better understand local needs and support communities.

## The council's implementation of the Community Empowerment Act has had little impact on communities to date

- 116.** The Community Empowerment Act 2015 (the Act) makes it easier for communities to take ownership of land and buildings, in a process known as asset transfer. The City of Edinburgh Council has introduced an asset transfer policy outlining the principles and stages of the process. Since the Act came into force in October 2015, there have been 93 expressions of interest in asset transfers, with 19 requests submitted to the council. As at the end of August 2020, two asset transfers had been approved, one of which had been completed before the introduction of the Act. A further six have since been approved by the Council and are awaiting legal completion. Expressions of interest for three of these were submitted in 2016 and 2017.
- 117.** One of the two community groups that were successful in completing an asset transfer told us that the process took almost two years because the legal process was lengthy. Edinburgh is one of the few councils that requires community groups to pay the legal fees associated with an asset transfer. The council has not developed a process to balance the financial return for asset transfers with the long-term community and social benefits. The council has not collected feedback from community groups on the asset transfer process.
- 118.** The council considers that the low number of successful asset transfers can be explained by the following:
- Community groups lack the skills and funding to complete asset transfers.

- Community groups are put off by the timescales and work involved in complying with the requirements.
- The priorities of those interested in taking on the asset and the local community are in competition.
- Properties suitable for community use are lacking.

**119.** The Act also allows residents to influence council decisions through a formal participation request. Across Scotland, councils received a total of 45 participation requests between 2017/18 and 2018/19. Of these, councils accepted 26, 14 were refused, one was pending, and four were invalid.<sup>2</sup> The City of Edinburgh council has received five participation requests, of which two were accepted, one declined, one placed on hold, and one is still ongoing. Examples of Edinburgh's participation requests include a community group wanting to influence the proposed sale of a local site, and a community council wanting to influence local traffic management arrangements.

**120.** The council has begun to roll out participatory budgeting in some areas, which gives local people a greater say in how the council spends some of its funds. The council has a framework for considering participatory budgeting options. Since 2015, the council has allocated an estimated £1.6 million to communities through participatory budgeting. Local participatory budgeting has taken place in Leith (Leith Chooses) and Portobello and Craigmillar (Portobello and Craigmillar You Decide). The council finds replicating the approach across the whole council challenging due to resource implications. To address this, council officers are working on costed proposals to implement the participatory budgeting approach across all four localities.

### **The Edinburgh Integration Joint Board has not yet developed the detailed plans needed to address significant financial pressures**

**121.** The council and NHS Lothian established the EIJB to plan and deliver health and social care services. The Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership (EHSCP) is responsible for the operational delivery of the EIJB's strategy. The EHSCP has oversight of the planning and delivery of adult social care services, community health and those hospital-based services that are delegated under the Integration Scheme.<sup>3</sup>

**122.** The EIJB faces significant financial pressures, both immediate and in the medium to longer term, as a result of increasing demand for services. Although the EIJB has been able to demonstrate effective, short-term financial planning, it has not yet developed a medium- or long-term financial plan. In 2019/20, the EIJB's expenditure was £762 million. It balanced its budget for the first time and delivered its savings plan, without relying on non-recurrent funding from partners. The unaudited accounts for 2019/20 show a planned deficit of £6.5 million, which the EIJB addressed by using its reserves. This approach is not sustainable. Current plans show a funding gap of £4 million in 2020/21. Forecasts for 2021/22 and 2022/23 show funding gaps of £12 million and £15 million respectively. Covid-19 has significantly impacted the delivery of the

<sup>2</sup> Participation Requests: Evaluation of Part 3 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, Scottish Government, April 2020.

<sup>3</sup> Services for which the EIJB is responsible include: Adult social work services; community dentistry, pharmacy and ophthalmology; health and social care services for older people, adults with disabilities, adults with mental health issues and unpaid carers; palliative care; primary care (GP); substance misuse; and unscheduled hospital admissions.

EIJB Transformation Programme and pace of change has been slower than planned. A rephased plan was agreed in July 2020.

## The EIJB is addressing identified governance and performance issues

- 123.** The Good Governance Institute assessed the EIJB's governance arrangements in 2018/19. It made 18 recommendations and, in May 2019, the IJB developed an improvement plan. Progress against performance measures is reported to every meeting of the board. In June 2019, the board approved a new committee structure including the establishment of the Performance and Delivery Committee. Every two months, the committee considers a performance report, which includes trend analysis and 'deep dives' into specific areas identified in advance.
- 124.** The most recent EIJB annual performance report (for 2019/20) sets out its performance against 19 national performance and satisfaction indicators:
- Performance declined against the nine satisfaction indicators in 2017/18 (the most recent available data). Although this is consistent with national trends, Edinburgh performed less well than the Scottish average against six of the nine indicators and was ranked in the bottom half of all IJBs for all nine indicators.<sup>4</sup>
  - Performance was better on the ten indicators that are used to demonstrate the shift in the balance of care. Performance on most of the indicators fluctuated between 2014/15 and 2019/20, but the most recent report (between 2018/19 and the 2019 calendar year) shows that EIJB improved its performance against five of the indicators. Performance remained worse than the Scottish average in half of the indicators overall.

## The council's ALEOs face particular challenges as a result of Covid-19

- 125.** The City of Edinburgh Council uses a range of **ALEOs** to provide services to residents. Each ALEO is structured differently, in terms of ownership and influence exerted by the council.
- 126.** The largest ALEO is Transport for Edinburgh Limited, which incorporates the activities of Lothian Buses Limited and Edinburgh Trams Limited. In 2019, its turnover was £180 million. The ALEO is important for the council's finances as it pays the council an annual dividend (worth £6 million in 2018/19). As a result of Covid-19, no dividend will be issued in 2019/20 and potentially beyond this. The council is considering how to address this loss as part of its broader discussions on its budget.
- 127.** The council's ALEOs have generally operated successfully. But Covid-19 has brought challenges, particularly for those which provide leisure services, cultural venues and transport. The council anticipates significant implications for its income. The council's estimate, as at September 2020, of lost income and other required financial support is £27 million. Services will continue to be affected for some time by social distancing requirements, public attitudes and market capacity. These factors will all affect future income forecasts.

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### Arm's Length External Organisations (ALEOs)

ALEOs are companies, trusts and other bodies that are separate from the council but are subject to council control or influence. This means that the council might have a representative on the ALEO's board or that it is the main funder or shareholder of the ALEO.

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<sup>4</sup> Note this data is taken from the Scottish Government's national health and care experience survey which is conducted every two years. The most recent data is for 2017/18

**128.** The council regularly reviews its ALEOs to ensure that the operating models remain fit for purpose and that there is proper and effective oversight of ALEOs' activities. In 2017, the council agreed to reduce the number of its property ALEOs and to change to in-house management of certain activities and assets undertaken by the EDI Group (which carries out property development). The council agreed a transition strategy; this is progressing in line with the closure timetable that will be complete by 2023.

**129.** In February 2020, the council changed the scrutiny arrangements for its ALEOs to provide greater clarity and avoid duplication:

- The council's executive committees will scrutinise the future direction of each ALEO, service performance, including progress against service level agreements, and any emerging issues
- The GRBV Committee will scrutinise the ALEOs' financial performance, including the annual accounts, and any risks affecting the council or any individual ALEO.

The council had planned a wider review of its ALEOs during 2019/20 but this was delayed by Covid-19.

### The council is working well with partners on the Edinburgh and South East City Region Deal

**130.** In August 2018, the council, along with various public, private and third sector partners, signed the Edinburgh and South East **City Region Deal**. The partners, along with the UK and Scottish Governments, have committed a total of £1.3 billion, over 15 years, to a range of projects to help improve the region's economic performance ([Exhibit 14](#)). Of this total, The City of Edinburgh Council has committed £269 million to three projects: West Edinburgh Public Transport; the Dunard Centre (concert hall); and a new housing company.

**131.** In 2018, partners estimated that the Deal would attract £141 million of private sector investment and create 23,368 permanent jobs. Partners will monitor progress against these targets through the Deal's Benefits Realisation Plan (BRP), which the Joint Committee ([paragraph 132](#)) approved in August 2020. The BRP will also track progress against other outcomes, such as reducing inequalities, which are included in project business cases. The Deal partners are working to improve community engagement in shaping the proposed business cases.

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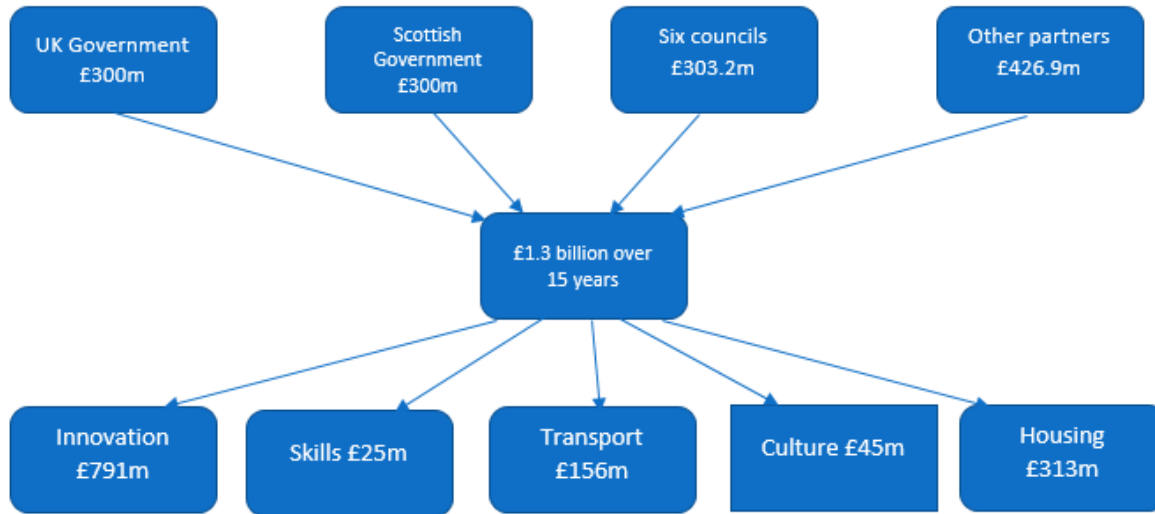
#### City Region Deals

City Region Deals involve the UK and Scottish governments giving additional funding and powers to cities and the associated regions to promote economic growth. Individual deal partners decide where to target funding based on local needs. The Edinburgh and South East Region Deal was the second deal to be agreed in Scotland.

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## Exhibit 14

### The Edinburgh and South East City Region Deal funding and planned investment



Source: Audit Scotland

- 132.** The City of Edinburgh Council has played a lead role in the City Region Deal governance structure. In the first two years of the deal, it chaired the Joint Committee, which is the ultimate decision-making body for the Deal, and the Executive Board, which oversees a programme management office to administer the Deal. The council was also the accountable body for the City Region Deal finances. In September 2020, East Lothian Council took over as the lead authority for the Deal.
- 133.** As at August 2020, the Joint Committee had approved £736.5 million of spending through the business case process (55 per cent of the £1.3 billion deal fund). By the end of 2019/20, City Deal partners had spent £103.2 million across 24 projects. The Joint Committee has allocated a further £47 million for 2020/21.
- 134.** The August 2020 progress report shows that the overall progress of the deal is amber. Two of the council's projects are progressing as planned. There are delays to its concert hall project after plans had to be scaled back and re-submitted following a challenge by developers on an adjacent site. As part of the City Deal's Integrated Regional Employability and Skills programme, partners launched a Covid-19 Jobs Support Portal. The portal has been used by over 300 employers with almost 800 job vacancies advertised since the start of the pandemic.



## THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

### Edinburgh Poverty Commission – Calls to action for Edinburgh Partnership

#### 1. Executive Summary

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1. This paper presents the final report of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission
2. The report provides a summary of calls to action from the Commission for response by Edinburgh Partnership, and makes recommendations for actions to be incorporated through ongoing development of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan.
3. The report also makes an outline proposal for an in principle commitment of Edinburgh Partnership match funding to support the development of the End Poverty Edinburgh citizen group, subject to a formal proposal for consideration by the Partnership in March 2021.

#### 2. Recommendations

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##### 2.1 The Board is recommended to:

- i. Note the final report published by the Edinburgh Poverty Commission.
- ii. Express thanks to the independent members of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission for leading the most comprehensive inquiry into poverty and its solutions ever conducted in any local authority area in Scotland, and in particular for the more than 600 hours of volunteer time they have committed to the work of the Commission.
- iii. Express thanks also to the over 70 organisations and 1,000 participants who took time to attend meetings, workshops, interviews, focus groups, and to submit the written evidence on which the Commission has based its findings.
- iv. Agree that the Edinburgh Partnership will commit to working collectively towards, and embedding within the Local Outcome Improvement Plan, the aim of ending poverty in Edinburgh by 2030 as defined by the four targets set by the Commission such that by 2030:
  - i. No-one in Edinburgh needs to go without basic essentials they need to eat, keep clean, stay warm and dry;
  - ii. Fewer than one in ten people are living in relative poverty in Edinburgh at any given time;
  - iii. No-one in Edinburgh lives in persistent poverty; and
  - iv. No-one in Edinburgh experiences stigma due to their income.
- v. Agree that the Edinburgh Partnership should consider an annual report on progress against delivery of actions to end poverty in Edinburgh, incorporating reporting against progress towards meeting each of the four end poverty targets outlined above, and with the first such report to be prepared for Autumn 2021.
- vi. Note Appendix 1 and the specific calls to action the Commission makes for leadership and delivery by the Edinburgh Partnership as a collective.

- vii. Note that a number of these actions are already in development as part of the LOIP Action Plan, and agree that the LOIP Delivery Group develop proposals to ensure that appropriate outstanding partnership actions are further developed and incorporated as core elements of the LOIP Action Plan.
- viii. Notes in particular notes the importance of a joined up approach to advice and information as a foundation of poverty prevention that enables and supports citizen to fully claim entitlements and avoid the damaging impact of debt that can lead to increased crisis and homelessness.
- ix. Agrees that, in line with the LOIP progress update and as a matter of priority in response to current economic conditions, the LOIP delivery group should develop a project outline for a new partnership approach to the commissioning and delivery of advice and information services across the city.
- x. Agree that, in addition to collective measures described above, all partnership members should prepare, for publication on the Edinburgh Poverty Commission website, an outline of the commitment and actions to be taken by their own individual organisations in response to the commission calls to action.
- xi. Agree to meet with the new End Poverty Edinburgh citizen group to discuss future ways of working to ensure that the voices of people with experience of poverty continue to inform the way the Partnership plans and delivers services.
- xii. Agree, subject to approval of detailed proposals, to provide match funding for ongoing support and development of the End Poverty Edinburgh citizen group from 2021/22, and to agree that such work is carried out with appropriate alignment to Partnership approaches to community engagement and the taking forward of published findings from the Mind the Craic programme.

### 3. Main Report

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- 3.1 In June 2018 the Edinburgh Partnership agreed to support the launch of a new independent Edinburgh Poverty Commission and agreed that recommendations proposed by the commission will would be used in the development and implementation of the Edinburgh Local Outcome Improvement Plan.
- 3.2 The Commission was launched in November 2018 and over 18 months met 9 times in full session. During that period, the Commission held and took part in over 100 evidence sessions and project visits, met and heard from over 70 local organisations, commissioned significant new research into the experience of citizens living on low incomes and attitudes to poverty across the city and in total heard from more than 1,000 individual participants.
- 3.3 Taken together the Commission believes that this work represents the single most comprehensive city wide conversation on poverty ever conducted in Edinburgh, or any other local authority in Scotland. Meeting this objective has involved considerable support and engagement from citizens, from third sector and voluntary organisations, as well as from Council and partner agency officers and staff. Most of all, the work of the Commission has depended heavily on the continued commitment and leadership provided by its 12 independent



commission members, who have collectively contributed well over 600 hours of volunteer time to the progress of this inquiry.

3.4 The Commission's final report, provided in Appendix 3, was published on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020, and set out a call to action for the city to end poverty by 2030.

3.5 The report finds that:

3.5.1 An estimated 77,600 people were in poverty in Edinburgh in the year prior to the coronavirus outbreak, representing 15% of all citizens but almost one in five of all children

3.5.2 People live in poverty in every area of the city. Almost two thirds of people on very low incomes live in areas out with those parts of Edinburgh commonly described as 'deprived' or 'disadvantaged'

3.5.3 Inequalities are deeply entrenched in Edinburgh. A boy born in some affluent parts of the city can expect to live 21 years longer than one born in a poorer area. In schools, the city does better than the national average for pupils from affluent areas but worse for those from poorer areas.

3.5.4 Levels of child poverty in Edinburgh and Scotland have risen by more than 25% in the past five years, as have levels of in work poverty. 65% of all children in poverty live in a family where adults are in paid employment.

3.5.5 Over three quarters of people in poverty live in social or private rented accommodation and housing costs in Edinburgh are a key driver of high poverty rates in the city. Commission estimates suggest that 15,600 people in the city would not be living in poverty if Edinburgh's housing costs were closer to the Scottish average.

3.5.6 Edinburgh is already seeing rapid increases in benefits dependency as a result of Covid-19 and the related economic recession. Out of work benefits claimants in the city more than trebled in the first 8 months of 2020.

3.5.7 Despite these increases, evidence still suggests that one of the biggest barriers to ending poverty in the city remains low level of take up of benefits. Edinburgh Poverty Commission estimates suggest that £70-80m of DWP administered benefits entitlements are not claimed in Edinburgh every year, with take up rates with around half of this relating to working families.

3.5.8 Poverty rates are anticipated to rise sharply during early 2021, while long term trends suggest a continued steady increase throughout the next decade. Without policy changes it is conservatively estimated that an additional 4,500 Edinburgh citizens could be living in poverty by spring 2021.

## Actions to End Poverty in Edinburgh

- 3.6 The Commission final report sets out an ambition to end poverty in Edinburgh by 2030, with clear targets to describe what meeting that ambition will require. The report asks the Edinburgh Partnership, as a collective and as individual organisations, to make a public commitment to adopt and work towards meeting the following four targets such that by 2030:
- 3.6.1 No-one in Edinburgh needs to go without basic essentials they need to eat, keep clean, stay warm and dry
  - 3.6.2 Fewer than one in ten people are living in relative poverty in Edinburgh at any given time, and
  - 3.6.3 No-one in Edinburgh lives in persistent poverty
  - 3.6.4 No-one in Edinburgh experiences stigma due to their income.
- 3.7 To meet this ambition, the Commission final report provides a call to action to the whole city, and a framework of practical and deliverable actions.
- 3.8 At the centre of this framework the Commission makes a call for a radical new operating model for all public services in Edinburgh so that all public workers are focused and empowered to put prevention of poverty at the heart of everything they do. The approach outlined in the report would aim to embed the best available examples of person-centred service models into the core remit of all staff and empower them to work across professional boundaries to deliver whole household support embedded within local communities.
- 3.9 In doing so the Commission states that **“To end poverty in the city, the pre-condition and the single biggest transformation Edinburgh could achieve would be to make the experience of seeking help less painful and confusing, more humane and more compassionate”**
- 3.10 Alongside this core action the framework also sets out actions needed, by employers, public sector and third sector agencies across the city, to ensure that people in poverty in Edinburgh can expect:
- 3.10.1 Fair work that provides dignity and security,
  - 3.10.2 A decent home we can afford to live in,
  - 3.10.3 Income security that provides a real safety net,
  - 3.10.4 Opportunities that drive justice and boost prospects,
  - 3.10.5 Connections in a city that belongs to us, and
  - 3.10.6 Equality in our health and wellbeing

## Calls to Action for Edinburgh Partnership

- 3.11 The Commission’s final report is clear that the aim of ending poverty in Edinburgh cannot be delivered by any one agency alone. All seven areas of the reports

framework are necessary to meet the goal of ending poverty within a decade, and all areas include actions for a broad range of actors, including UK and Scottish Governments, local public sector agencies, employers and investors, third sector organisations, and Edinburgh citizens.

- 3.12 Within this, the Edinburgh Partnership does have a critical role to play in implementation of the report and the Commission makes a number of calls to action which require a specific partnership response.
- 3.13 In broad terms, the Commission asks for a response from the Partnership in recognition of the role of its members as:
- 3.13.1 **Major employers in Edinburgh:** The report asks for Partnership leadership in the area of fair work, and the promotion of the living wage in Edinburgh
- 3.13.2 **Providers of vital services:** The report sets out calls to action across core public sector services provided by Partnership members, including education, housing, social security, public safety, health and social care, and other services. Not least, the report calls for the development and adoption of a new operating model across all people facing public services in Edinburgh.
- 3.13.3 **Purchasers of goods and services:** Along with all other public sector agencies in the city, the report calls for the Partnership to ensure that public sector spending in Edinburgh generates the maximum benefits for people on low income in the city, by promoting fair work, and by generating significant community benefits from major contracts.
- 3.13.4 **Conveners of change:** The report recognises the key role the Partnership can play as a convener and leader of change in the city. As such, even where calls to action made by the Commission are directed at other stakeholders, the Commission recognises the important difference the collective voice of the Edinburgh Partnership can make in bringing partners together around a common objective to end poverty in the city.
- 3.14 In total the Commission's final report sets out a total of 55 discrete actions needed to end poverty in Edinburgh. Within these, a total of 21 require Edinburgh Partnership collective action. All these actions are detailed in Appendix 1 to this report.
- 3.15 In many cases work to take forward these actions is already and incorporated within the forward work plan of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan Delivery Group. In particular, the LOIP progress update prepared for discussion at this meeting notes planned work to:
- 3.15.1 Priority 1: Make a systematic review of commissioning, funding and provision of income maximisation services in Edinburgh with a view to

establishing a clear, co-ordinated city-wide approach to high quality, embedded support available in all communities.

- 3.15.2 Priority 2: Support the depth and breadth of work under the refreshed 'Edinburgh Guarantee for All' (EGFA), with ambassador support and stakeholder commitments, and
- 3.15.3 Priority 3: Further develop partnership approaches to place based development and service delivery.
- 3.16 Within these, in order to make a strong first step towards meeting the call to action made by the Edinburgh Poverty Commission, it is proposed that the first of these actions (falling under Priority 1 of the LOIP) is progressed as a matter of urgency.
- 3.17 The importance of such actions is suggested by evidence on the level of unclaimed and underused benefits entitlements in Edinburgh, and the level of increase in unemployment, crisis need, and benefits dependency expected in the city over the next year. Alongside these pressures, evidence presented by the Commission also emphasises the profound impact that good quality information and advice services can have for families who are struggling, as well as the cost effectiveness of these services.
- 3.18 Latest estimates, for instance, show that advice services in Edinburgh – including Council, and third sector provided services – generated an estimated £18.75m for people on low incomes in Edinburgh in 2019/20, with the best models of support showing a Social Return on Investment of £30-39 for every £1 invested.
- 3.19 By developing new proposals for a co-ordinated city wide approach income maximisation and family support services, the Partnership can make a significant contribution to preventing poverty, to reducing the £80m of outstanding unclaimed benefits in the city, and to avoiding the damaging impact of debt that can lead to increased crisis and homelessness.
- 3.20 In doing so, the Partnership would also make a visible and early contribution towards the Commission's calls to:
- 3.20.1 Make the experience of seeking help more co-ordinated, less confusing, and more person centred.
- 3.20.2 Ensure that statutory and third sector support organisations in the city need to work better together in a way that is planned, comprehensive and responds to the strengths and voices of communities
- 3.20.3 Further develop people-centred income maximisation, family and household support services, and
- 3.20.4 Work to develop a single city-wide Edinburgh Partnership approach to commissioning advice services, and aim to extend into all city

communities, holistic support to improve financial resilience, health and wellbeing for people who are already in or are at risk of being in poverty.

- 3.21 Appendix 1 also includes a number of areas where additional partnership action is required over and above actions described in the LOIP. In taking forward these actions, it is recommended that the LOIP Delivery Group develop proposals to ensure that appropriate outstanding partnership actions are further developed and incorporated as core elements of the LOIP Action Plan.

### **End Poverty Edinburgh Citizen group**

- 3.22 The final report published in September marks the end of the work programme begun by the Edinburgh Poverty Commission in November 2018. Alongside the asks it makes for the Edinburgh Partnership to respond to this report, the Commission has also worked to establish a new independent citizen led group, provisionally titled 'End Poverty Edinburgh', to carry on the conversations and relationships started over the past 18 months.
- 3.23 Comprised of citizens with lived experience of poverty, and their allies, this group will aim to
- 3.23.1 Continue to raise awareness and understanding of the experience and reality of poverty in Scotland's capital city
  - 3.23.2 Influence decisions that are made about the way the city works and the way city institutions plan and deliver services, and
  - 3.23.3 Hold the city to account for delivery of the vision to End Poverty in Edinburgh.
- 3.24 In doing so, the End Poverty Edinburgh group is modelled on successful citizen led working practices already in place in cities such as Dundee (Fighting for Fairness Commission), Glasgow (Poverty Truth Community), and in international cities such as Edmonton, Canada (End Poverty Edmonton).
- 3.25 To date the work of the group has been supported by Edinburgh Poverty Commission members, and the Poverty Alliance, and has focused on securing membership, and defining purpose, aims, and ways of working for the group. In the early months of 2021 the group would like to take first steps towards engaging with policy makers in the city, including Edinburgh Partnership members, to explore ways of ensuring the voices of people living with poverty in Edinburgh can continue to be heard.
- 3.26 In support of this work, the group has secured independent funding of £25,000 per annum over the three years from January 2021. In order to successfully develop and support the work of the group, it is proposed that Edinburgh Partnership members agree to collectively match fund this resource. Such funding will provide the End Poverty Group with development support, provided through the Poverty Alliance as host organisation, needed to build relationships

and capacity in group members, identify and take advantage of opportunities for influencing change in Edinburgh.

- 3.27 If approved in principle, it is proposed that such funding would be made from April 2021, subject to a formal detailed proposal provided by the Poverty Alliance to be agreed by the Partnership at its next meeting.

#### **4. Contact**

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#### **5. Appendices**

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Appendix 1: Edinburgh Partnership Calls to Action  
Appendix 2: End Poverty Edinburgh targets and measures  
Appendix 3: A Just Capital: Actions to End Poverty in Edinburgh, the final report of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission, September 2020.

# Appendix 1: Edinburgh Partnership calls to action



4

**ACTIONS to  
end poverty in  
Edinburgh**

## Calls to action for Edinburgh Partnership

Edinburgh Poverty Commission call to action	Recommended action
<b>Agree that the Edinburgh Partnership will commit to working collectively towards the aim of ending poverty in Edinburgh by 2030 as defined by the four targets set by the Commission</b>	Incorporate End Poverty Edinburgh targets into the long term delivery of the Edinburgh Partnership LOIP Action Plan.
<b>Agree ways of working with End Poverty Edinburgh Citizen Group</b>	Commit to meet, as a partnership, with the new End Poverty Edinburgh citizen group in the first half of 2021 to agree ways of working together and define new opportunities for citizens with experience of poverty to co-design and influence change in the city.
<b>Publish an annual report on actions taken to deliver against Edinburgh Poverty Commission findings</b>	Include annual reporting on progress towards delivery of actions to End Poverty in Edinburgh within the Local Child Poverty Action Report partnership members are already required to produce
<b>Adopt partnership approach to considering the impact on people in poverty of budget decisions made by individual organisations.</b>	It is proposed that Partnership members work to develop and agree a shared city-wide approach to assessing the impact of budget decisions on people in poverty by Summer 2021, for consideration and application during 2022/23 budget processes.
<b>Develop a new End Poverty Edinburgh innovation fund</b>	Use the collective convening powers of the Edinburgh Partnership to bring together city partners including business, private schools, independent funders and philanthropists in order to marshal all the resources of the city to grow a new End Poverty Edinburgh Fund. The purpose of this fund should be to resource innovation in support of the actions described in this report.
<b>The right support in the places we live and work</b>	
<b>Design and deliver a new operating model for all public services in Edinburgh so that all public workers are focused and empowered to put prevention of poverty at the heart of everything they do.</b>	All Edinburgh Partnership members to commit to adapt work practices to ensure public services in Edinburgh meet the ambitions set out by the Edinburgh Poverty Commission.
<p>In implementing new models of support, Partnership members should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>aim for small teams, drawing staff from statutory, third and business sectors operating at a neighbourhood level using simple existing methods to connect, assess need and build on assets.</li> </ul>	



Edinburgh Poverty Commission call to action	Recommended action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ensure that statutory and third sector support organisations in the city need to work better together in a way that is planned, comprehensive and responds to the strengths and voices of communities.</li> <li>Ensure that support services are responsive to the issues that matter to different people and are delivered as far as possible through one trusted relationship</li> <li>give clear permission to staff to make meaningful connections with citizens and empower them to respond to need flexibly</li> <li>support community anchor organisations in all parts of the city, and develop new models for contracting with the third and private sectors to support organisations and alliances which support local economies, building community wealth and trusted relationships with citizens</li> </ul>	
<b>Fair work that provides dignity and security</b>	
<b>Make Edinburgh a Living Wage City</b>	Edinburgh Partnership members to agree to work with and support City of Edinburgh Council lead action to establish a working group and action plan needed to achieve Living Wage City accreditation for Edinburgh.
<b>Embed 'Fair Work First' principles in all procurement and commissioning activity, and ensure that public spending in Edinburgh delivers at least 1 FTE job with training for a person from a targeted group for every £1m of procurement spending over the next decade</b>	Develop a city-wide partnership approach to procurement and commission that embeds fair work first principles and meets recommended targets for impact
<b>Provide more support, through procurement, commissioning, training and promotion, for businesses that are closely rooted in the communities they serve. (including social enterprise and co-operative business models).</b>	Develop city-wide guidance on procurement, commissioning, and other activities to support community based businesses.
<b>Income security that offers a real lifeline</b>	
<b>Further develop people-centred income maximisation, family and household support services. Work to develop a single city-wide Edinburgh Partnership approach to commissioning advice services, and aim to extend into all city communities, holistic support to improve financial resilience, health and wellbeing for people who are already in or are at risk of being in poverty.</b>	Deliver actions as outlined in the LOIP Delivery Plan to further develop people-centred income maximisation, family and household support services.

Edinburgh Poverty Commission call to action	Recommended action
<b>Expanding on successful initiatives such as the '1in5' programme in schools, we call on Edinburgh Partnership to lead on the roll out of new programmes to 'poverty proof' all public services</b>	Develop cross partnership programme to develop '1in5' programme activities across all partnership member organisations.
<b>Edinburgh Partnership should make available new long-term investment to expand the availability of and access to affordable credit in all parts of the city through examples such as Scotcash and the credit union movement.</b>	Develop partnership proposal for actions to expand access and availability of affordable credit in Edinburgh
<b>Opportunities that drive justice and boost prospects</b>	
<b>Edinburgh Partnership members should invest resources in a radical expansion of mentoring schemes in Edinburgh, to reach every school in the city with effective screening and matching to support looked after and struggling young people to improve engagement with learning.</b>	Develop cross partnership programme to expand access and availability of mentoring schemes in Edinburgh.
<b>Edinburgh Partnership to commit to monitoring and reporting on inclusion of and impacts for people living on low incomes and from disadvantaged areas, and from equalities groups, in all learning and employment opportunities in the city.</b>	Incorporate actions into reporting and monitoring of Partnership led employability programmes.
<b>Connections in a city that belongs to us</b>	
<b>Edinburgh Partnership members to collaborate with other partners to provide 'single gateway' easy access to free and concessionary travel, simplifying highly fragmented schemes already available via schools, employability programmes and Job Centres.</b>	Develop partnership proposal for improving access to free and concessionary travel schemes in Edinburgh.
<b>Edinburgh Partnership members to combine resources to develop a zero-interest loan scheme to allow low-income passengers to buy long-term travel passes and thus benefit from the lowest fares.</b>	Develop partnership proposal for launch of a loan scheme to support low cost travel for low income citizens in Edinburgh.

# Appendix 2 – End Poverty Edinburgh Targets and measures

## Definitions and targets

The final report of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission makes a clear call to action for the city, with the leadership and support of the Edinburgh Partnership, to aim to end poverty by 2030. In doing so, the Commission provides a clear definition of what ending poverty means in the context of this report. It states that:

*“Ending poverty does not mean Edinburgh becoming a city in which no one ever loses a job or ever experiences a period of their life on low income. But it does mean Edinburgh being a city where living on a low income is temporary, not a persistent trap, and does not mean having to go without food, or warmth, or safety. And it means Edinburgh becoming a city where the number of people experiencing low income at any given time falls to a level comparable with the highest performing societies in Europe.”*

### What do we mean when we say ‘End Poverty’?

#### Targets for 2030

No-one in Edinburgh feels **stigmatised** because of their income

No-one in Edinburgh has to go without the **basic essentials** they need to eat, keep clean and stay warm and dry

*by 2030 the city needs to aim to remove 7,000-9,000 people in Edinburgh out of destitution, or 580-750 people per annum*

**Fewer than one in ten children and fewer than one in ten adults** are living in relative poverty at any given time

*by 2030 the city needs to remove 20,900 people from poverty, or 2,100 per annum*

No-one lives in **persistent poverty**

*by 2030 the city needs to remove 9,970 from persistent poverty, or some 1,000 people per annum*

In line with this definition, and the four targets set by the Commission, this report asks Edinburgh Partnership to make a collective commitment towards aiming to ensure that by 2030 Edinburgh can be a city in which:

- **Fewer than one in ten children and fewer than one in ten adults are living in relative poverty at any given time**

- Data for this indicator can be drawn from annual reports published by the End Child Poverty Coalition, and modelled from annual data published by the Scottish Government. The Data and Evidence paper published by the Edinburgh Poverty Commission provides a proposed methodology and sources for these measures.
- According to Commission analysis to meet this target the city needs to remove 20,900 people from poverty, or 2,100 per annum over ten years.
- **No one has to go without the basic essentials they need to eat, keep clean and safe, and stay warm and dry**
  - The Data and Evidence paper published by the Edinburgh Poverty Commission provides a proposed methodology and sources for these measures.
  - According to Commission analysis to meet this target the city needs aim to remove 7,000-9,000 people in Edinburgh out of destitution, or 580-750 people per annum over ten years.
- **No-one lives in persistent poverty**
  - The Data and Evidence paper published by the Edinburgh Poverty Commission provides a proposed methodology and sources for these measures.
  - According to Commission analysis to meet this target the city needs aim to remove 9,970 from persistent poverty, or some 1,000 people per annum over ten years.
- **No one feels stigmatised, abandoned, or treated with less respect by the city as a result of their income or their wealth**
  - As the Data and Evidence paper published by the Commission notes, establishing baselines and quantified metrics for this indicator is particularly challenging. No data sources for the UK or Scotland are available which estimate the number of people who feel 'stigma' due to their income or wealth. The closest available proxies this analysis has found have focused on the number of people who feel stigma associated with claiming benefits . While useful as contextual analysis, it is not felt that these sources provide a strong enough basis for a metric against this target. As such it is proposed that officers work with Edinburgh Partnership colleagues to develop an approach for long term monitoring of this target.



# A Just Capital

Actions to End Poverty in Edinburgh

September 2020

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# Summary and key messages

**The Edinburgh Poverty Commission** is an independent group who have been working together since the end of 2018 to define the actions needed to end poverty in Edinburgh.

The work of the Commission has been supported by the Edinburgh Partnership, and The City of Edinburgh Council. Funding for our research activity was provided by the Scottish Government and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

This is our final report. Following what we believe to be the most extensive process of inquiry into poverty, its causes, consequences and solutions ever undertaken in a Scottish local authority, this report is a call to action to everyone in the city: the City of Edinburgh Council, the Edinburgh Partnership, the Scottish and UK Governments, the third sector, business, communities and citizens of Edinburgh.

## Key messages

- Poverty in Edinburgh is real and damaging, but it can be solved. By implementing the calls to action we make in this report, we think the city can set a course to end poverty in Edinburgh by 2030.
- We have identified six areas for action – fair work, a decent home, income security, opportunities to progress, connections, health and wellbeing - and one cultural challenge that should serve as a lens through which each action should be approached.
- To end poverty in the city, the single biggest transformation Edinburgh could achieve would be to make the experience of seeking help less painful, less complex, more humane, and more compassionate. We call on City of Edinburgh Council to lead in the design and delivery of a new relationship based way of working for all public services in Edinburgh.
- There is no solution to poverty in Edinburgh without resolving the city's housing and homelessness crisis. We call on the Scottish Government, as an urgent priority, to ensure the city has the right funding and support to meet its social housing expansion needs.
- This report marks the end of the work of this Edinburgh Poverty Commission, but only the beginning of a movement that needs to take root to create an Edinburgh without poverty. As a legacy, we have helped to develop **End Poverty Edinburgh** - a new independent group of residents with first-hand experience of living on a low income and their allies who want to be part of shaping the solutions. As a group, they will work to raise awareness and understanding of poverty, influence decisions, and hold the city to account for ending poverty in Edinburgh.

## Poverty in Edinburgh

In the wealthiest city in Scotland, we estimate that almost 78,000 people are living in [relative poverty](#), representing some 15% of the population and as many as 1 in 5 children.

The majority of people living in poverty in Edinburgh are of working age, in employment, living in rented accommodation, with the highest rates experienced by families with children. Lone parents, nine in ten of them women, disabled people, carers and Black and Minority Ethnic families are more likely to be in poverty than others in the city. Such families live in every area of the city, in every type of neighbourhood. Two-thirds of people in poverty in Edinburgh do not live in those areas commonly considered as 'deprived'. Very often these families will be affected by physical and mental health burdens related directly to the poverty they experience.

Throughout the course of our work we have heard, perhaps more than anything else, of the intolerable toll living in poverty takes on people's health and wellbeing. People in poverty told us they are exhausted physically and emotionally, having to make impossible decisions about living costs; of the struggle to find support, the stigma and shame felt being judged by others, and of feeling trapped in a system that does not care about them.

## What needs to change?

As we have listened to people's experiences, we have recognised that the change required to end poverty in Edinburgh is as much about changing the **day to day experiences**, connections and relationships between individuals and organisations as concrete change to **material circumstances**. Change will come by addressing one via the other.

In developing the actions set out in this report, we are guided by the following principles:

- We do not accept poverty is inevitable: it can be solved
- People who are struggling must be supported to move out of poverty quickly, take control of their lives, and contribute to a city where people look after each other
- Sustainable solutions can only be designed and delivered alongside people who experience poverty
- All the power in Edinburgh, from all our organisations and communities, is needed to directly effect change within the city, but also to build the public and political will for change needed at national level
- We do not aim merely to 'tackle', 'reduce', 'address', or 'mitigate the effects of' poverty. Our aim is to end poverty within a decade.



## What do we mean when we say, ‘End Poverty’?

Ending poverty does not mean Edinburgh becoming a city in which no one ever loses a job or ever experiences a period of their life on low income. But it does mean Edinburgh being a city where living on a low income is temporary, not a persistent trap, and does not mean having to go without food, or warmth, or safety. And it means Edinburgh becoming a city where the number of people experiencing low income at any given time falls to a level comparable with the highest performing societies in Europe.

By implementing the actions we describe in this report, we think that Edinburgh should, by 2030, aim to be a city in which:

- **No one feels stigmatised, abandoned, or treated with less respect by the city as a result of their income or their wealth**
- **No one has to go without the basic essentials they need to eat, keep clean and safe, and stay warm and dry**
- **Fewer than one in ten children *and* fewer than one in ten adults are living in relative poverty at any given time**
- **No-one lives in persistent poverty**

## A call to action

We have identified seven areas of action needed to end poverty in Edinburgh, each highlighting a set of challenges and solutions emerging from our inquiry. In each action area we set out the city partners who need to act, and the fundamental changes they need to make.



This is not a menu of options the city can pick and choose from, they represent a single set of inter-connected, actions that need to be delivered if Edinburgh is to end poverty. Across all these areas of action, the solutions we highlight are practical and deliverable, and in many cases build on the good practice we have found already being delivered in Edinburgh. The challenge to the city is to extend the reach and impact of solutions we already know work.

Most importantly, this is a call to action for the whole city and everyone who has a stake in its future. Many, though not all, of the levers needed to end poverty are held by the city – public sector, employers, third sectors, citizens all have critical roles to play in delivering these actions.

But the city cannot end poverty by itself – achieving the goals we have set out will need active and committed partnership with the Scottish and UK Governments. Scotland’s poverty challenge is Edinburgh’s poverty challenge: the Scottish Government cannot meet its own ambitious goals on child poverty, on housing, on homelessness, and on a fairer Scotland without action in Edinburgh, and without a funding settlement and regulatory support that meets the needs and challenges of our capital city.

The main body of this report provides detail on every action included in this report, along with the rationale and evidence underpinning their inclusion. In summary:

- **The right support in the places we live and work:** To end poverty in the city, the pre-condition and the single biggest transformation Edinburgh could achieve would be to make the experience of seeking help less painful and confusing more humane, and more compassionate. We call on City of Edinburgh Council to lead, working with other Edinburgh Partnership members, the design and delivery of a new operating model for all public services so that all public workers are focused and empowered to put prevention of poverty at the heart of everything they do. This model should ensure that people in all parts of the city have local, safe, welcoming community spaces within walking or pram-pushing distance where they can connect with others, access the right support for them and make progress at the right pace.
- **Fair work that provides enough to live on:** Edinburgh has a thriving local economy with high rates of employment and high average pay, but even here work is not always the secure pathway out of poverty that it needs to be. We call on Edinburgh’s employers, Trades Unions, social enterprises, and public sector bodies to come together in a new alliance to make Edinburgh a Living Wage City in 2021, to deliver a new Edinburgh Guarantee for people of all ages, and to commit to delivering at least 1 FTE job with training for a person from an at-risk group for every £1m of public sector procurement spending over the next decade.
- **A decent home we can afford to live in:** There is no pathway to ending poverty in Edinburgh without resolving the city’s housing and homelessness crisis. Almost one in three of the city’s households in poverty are only there due to high housing costs, compared with one in eight households in poverty across Scotland. We call on the Scottish Government, as an urgent priority, to work with city partners to ensure that its next Housing Investment Plan is sufficient to build 2,000 social rented homes per annum in the city over the next decade. We call on City of Edinburgh Council to commit to making maximum use of new powers to regulate and license short term letting in the city, and to expand and improve early person-centred advice and advocacy services to prevent homelessness.

- **Income security that offers a real lifeline:** Too many people in poverty in Edinburgh are not aware of, or able to access all the support to which they are entitled. We call on Edinburgh Partnership to ensure proactive, high impact support to maximise household income is embedded in every nursery, school, and GP surgery in the city. Additional long-term investment to expand access to affordable credit is needed to support this action. We call on UK Government to commit to keeping temporary increases in Universal Credit, Working Tax Credit, and Local Housing Allowance, beyond April 2021 and extending this uplift to other legacy benefits. We welcome the learning to date from research into ideas such as Citizen’s Basic Income and a Minimum Income Guarantee, and encourage further exploration of the ways such innovations might provide a pathway towards greater income security.
- **Opportunities that drive justice and boost prospects:** Inequality in Edinburgh is most starkly apparent in the way that the availability and quality of opportunities to progress in life depend on your income and where you live in the city. This is reflected in an attainment gap that is wider and reducing more slowly than in Scotland as a whole. We call on City of Edinburgh Council to to codesign with young people and families living in poverty a significant new programme to improve attainment and to develop genuinely mixed school catchment areas by 2030.. We call on Edinburgh’s Universities and Private Schools to do more to improve opportunities for people on low incomes, for example by sharing teaching and learning resources online. We call on the Edinburgh Partnership to invest in a radical expansion of mentoring schemes in Edinburgh to help children and young people develop trusted connections and build bridges to a wider range of high quality experiences and opportunities.
- **Connections in a city that belongs to us:** Too many people we met during our inquiry told us they feel large parts of the city don’t belong to them or that many aspects of Edinburgh life feel ‘off limits’. The Scottish Government and City of Edinburgh Council should ensure that any public funding for the post Covid renewal of the city’s festivals and tourism economy is conditional on delivery of actions to promote fair work, inclusion and equality. We call on City of Edinburgh Council to embed a 20-minute walking or ‘pram pushing’ distance principle at the heart of designing all neighbourhoods in Edinburgh with consequences for planning of housing, amenity, employment, and services.. We call on the Scottish Government to extend eligibility for concessionary travel to under 25s and to unpaid carers with Edinburgh serving as a demonstration site, and the Edinburgh Partnership to collaborate with partners to provide ‘single gateway’ easy access to free and concessionary travel. We also call on City of Edinburgh Council to work with partners to accelerate digital inclusion, putting affordability and skills at the heart of its plans .
- **Equality in our health and wellbeing:** Through all our work, we have heard about how poverty takes an intolerable toll on people’s mental and physical health. We call on City of Edinburgh Council, EVOG and local organisations to continue their collaboration to co-ordinate services to

ensure citizens experiencing food insecurity have access to quality fresh food, and that this serves as a gateway to the wider support many will need. We call on The Edinburgh Partnership to support local organisations and primary care teams to provide community-based activities which promote wellbeing for living with long term health conditions, and to invest in early intervention, first aid and holistic approaches to improve mental health. We believe city residents have a role to play as volunteers, spotting and supporting friends, neighbours and colleagues with signs of mental distress. We call on NHS Lothian to review service transformation to ensure renewal has a sharp focus on addressing health inequalities, establishing the trust needed to identify wider issues beyond immediate presentation and deal with medical complexity.

## Passing the baton: End Poverty Edinburgh

This report marks the end of the work of this Edinburgh Poverty Commission, but only the beginning of a movement that needs to take root to create an Edinburgh without poverty. Our final action is to pass on the baton to those who will work to make the changes we have set out in this report, identify other priorities in future, and hold the city to account for delivering those changes.

The Commission has been working hard to develop a new network provisionally named **End Poverty Edinburgh**, who will carry on the work we have started. This is a group of Edinburgh citizens we have met during our inquiry, who have expressed their desire and commitment to be a part of the change their city needs to make. They are a mix of people with first-hand experience of living on a low income and civic allies. We believe this group, independently funded and working without oversight from any Edinburgh institution, represents the start of a new citizen-led movement to end poverty in Edinburgh, which will build in force as they are joined by allies from all parts of the city.

## Commitment, starting now

This report describes a big ambition and a large number of practical actions that need to be taken in this city. As a Commission we are under no illusions about the scale of the challenge we have set out, even without the pandemic.

We fully recognise that the economic and public health risks facing us bring with them serious financial challenges for all sectors in the city. We are also clear that we are in a period of change which will to a great degree shape Edinburgh's new ways of working and that the first year following publication of this report must be one of real commitment and progress.

With these thoughts in mind, we expect **the first twelve months following publication of this report to be a period of implementation and planning** - delivering those actions which can be started immediately and planning of those actions which need further development. In particular, we expect:

- All city partners to make a public commitment to end poverty in Edinburgh by 2030, and to delivery of the four core targets set out in this report
- City of Edinburgh Council and Edinburgh Partnership to meet with the new **End Poverty Edinburgh** citizen group to agree ways of working together and define new opportunities for citizens to co-design and influence change in the city.
- City of Edinburgh Council and Edinburgh Partnership to publish detailed plans setting out how they intend to respond to all the calls for action in this report
- City of Edinburgh Council and Edinburgh Partnership to include annual reporting on progress towards delivery of these actions within the [Local Child Poverty Action Reports](#) they are already required to produce.
- The Scottish Government to commit to work with City of Edinburgh Council and other city partners to agree the additional investment, in particular to drive actions on housing and homelessness, needed in the city.
- All Edinburgh Partnership member organisations to commit, starting within the next budget cycle, to publish an annual statement on the impact they expect their budget decisions to have on the lives and experiences of people in poverty in Edinburgh and the poverty-reduction measures we have set.
- Edinburgh Partnership to use its convening powers to bring together city partners including business, private schools, independent funders and philanthropists in order to marshal all the resources of the city to grow a new **End Poverty Edinburgh Fund**. The purpose of this fund should be to resource ongoing innovation in support of the actions described in this report.

# Foreword

## Dr Jim McCormick | Chair of Edinburgh Poverty Commission

Our Call to Action in Edinburgh comes after almost two years of conversations across the city: with people experiencing poverty, the community anchors that support them, keyworkers, employers, councillors, public service officials, housing providers and taxi drivers. This rich process has uncovered new insights on how poverty is experienced in Scotland's capital city – some arising directly from the COVID-19 pandemic – but more stemming from long-established struggles. We set out much of what we had learned about the immediate impact of Covid in our interim report in May.



Since then, we have maintained a clear focus on addressing the root causes of poverty as well as mitigating the consequences. We have discovered common ground among people with different experiences and in different sectors: that poverty in Edinburgh is real, damaging and costly – but also that, despite the powerful currents that threaten to drive us further off course, there is enough determination in the city to embrace the twin challenges of solving poverty and reducing carbon emissions over the next decade.

We have identified six broad areas for action and one cultural challenge that should serve as a lens through which each action should be approached. Our first proposition is that Edinburgh will only succeed in creating a prosperous city without poverty if it creates the conditions for good jobs, genuinely affordable housing, income security and meaningful opportunities that drive justice and boost prospects – above all, in the city's schools. In addition, a much sharper focus on connections across the city is needed – via digital participation, cheaper transport and creating neighbourhoods that work. These actions combined will flow through to reduced harm to people's physical and mental health. Emergency food support should not become locked in as a fourth emergency service but serve as a gateway to other support that will ease isolation and build human connection and kindness where it has been lacking.

The common challenge running through all of our work is a cultural one. We call on the City Council and its partners in all sectors to shift towards a relationship-based way of working which gets alongside people and communities in a holistic way. The experience of poverty is too often one of stigma, being assessed, referred and passed from pillar to post – a separate service and multiple workers for each need. This radical move would see public servants authorised to put poverty prevention at the heart of their day-to-day work.

It will mean new relationships with citizens, employees and third sector partners. It will take visible leadership and longer-term financial commitment. There are green shoots in Edinburgh and examples from beyond Scotland demonstrating how better outcomes for families can be achieved and fewer resources locked into multiple complex systems. We call this ‘the right support in the places we live and work’ to signal the importance of local access to multiple forms of support under one roof and within walking or pram-pushing distance – for example money advice and family support offered in nurseries, schools, GP surgeries and libraries.

None of these challenges are new. The City Council and its partners can point to significant investment in recent years to turn the tide on poverty. But we are not persuaded that actions have been consistent, at scale, sustained over time or have poverty reduction as part of their purpose.

While Edinburgh has many of the powers to go further, we are not persuaded that it can deliver on the required social housing expansion without a new funding deal with the Scottish Government. This is urgently needed to boost investment and to help unlock the supply of land at a reasonable price. Almost one in three families in Edinburgh in poverty are pulled below the water line solely due to their housing costs. That compares with one in eight households in poverty across Scotland. Solving the city’s housing crisis will go a long way to delivering on affordable housing ambitions for the country as a whole. At the same time, the UK Government has a critical role in creating an income lifeline for families in and out of work, by maintaining the currently temporary increase in Universal Credit and Local Housing Allowance – both of which have become more significant as a result of damage to Edinburgh’s job market since March.

This Call to Action is not a list of recommendations or a menu of options. Reflecting our lives, each area is connected to the others. A plan for housing makes little sense in isolation from a plan for schools. Developing skills for employment will fall short if basic needs for secure, decent housing and food are neglected. Nor is the ten-year horizon a get-out clause. We have worked on this basis because Scotland has committed to a significant cut in child poverty by 2030 and because many of the city’s existing plans run to the same schedule. We call on the City Council and the wider Edinburgh Partnership to set out its initial response by Christmas, as part of a first year of planning and early implementation.

And we are leaving a legacy through a new independent network, End Poverty Edinburgh. Led by Commission member Zoe Ferguson and our partners at Poverty Alliance, this brings together a core group of residents with first-hand experience of living on a low income and allies who want to be part of shaping the solutions. Inspired by a similar approach in Edmonton (Alberta), they will stress test this report, challenge and add their own ideas, work with city partners to achieve progress but also hold the city to account on its response.

I want to thank everyone who contributed to our work in the hard graft of sharing painful stories, completing surveys and through organised and chance conversations. Each member of the Commission

gave their time, energy and ideas generously and for longer than originally asked. The quotes in this report reflect only a little of their brilliant contributions. Our work – and this report - was only possible due to the skill, care and patience brought by our secretariat team of Chris Adams, Nicola Elliott, Ciaran McDonald, and Gareth Dixon.

We have listened, been shocked and inspired – I hope we have done justice to what we have learned. Our Call to Action sets out something beyond hope: it is an expectation of what the city can and must now achieve.

### **CLlr Cammy Day | Vice Chair of Edinburgh Poverty Commission**



On behalf of all my fellow commissioners I want to offer our huge thanks and gratitude to the over 1,000 citizens and workers who contributed their voices, experiences and insights to our inquiry over the past 18 months. Edinburgh is a fantastic, thriving city, but we are still home to over 77,000 people who struggle in poverty every day. We cannot accept this any longer.

Tackling poverty in Edinburgh is a challenge that must be acted on urgently, with great responsibility and through a Team Edinburgh approach. We will need to work together partnership and marshal

all the resources of the city if we are to truly make a difference.

I'm very appreciative of the hard work and dedication that has gone into the creation of this report and further to that, incredibly grateful to have been part of the process over the last few months, to have the opportunity to meet and hear from those who are living in poverty in our city. As the Council's Poverty Champion, I will do everything I can to enable our city to make the changes that the Commission has identified, however, these can only be fully achieved through a joined up approach from local and national governments and where local businesses, communities and residents in our capital city do all that we can to alleviate poverty.



# Introduction

**The Edinburgh Poverty Commission** is an independent group working together to define the actions needed to end poverty in Edinburgh.

This is our final report. It is a call to action to everyone in the city: The City of Edinburgh Council, the Edinburgh Partnership, the Scottish and UK Governments, the third sector, business, communities, and citizens of Edinburgh. We know that poverty and inequality act as a drag on prosperity and impact negatively on wellbeing for all. Ending poverty in Edinburgh benefits all of us.

The conclusions the Commission has arrived at in this report have been informed fundamentally by the voices of citizens who live in poverty. More than anything else our work has been to listen. And now that this phase of the Commission's work is complete, it is these voices, together with their allies from all parts of the city, that must continue to drive change and justice.

*“Hopefully having it down on paper in this Edinburgh Poverty Commission document will mean decision-makers actually take it seriously. It is exhausting for people in poverty to have to re-explain their experiences and traumas, particularly when results don't always seem forthcoming.”*

Edinburgh Poverty Commission contributor

Our aim in this report is not just to describe the problem of poverty in Edinburgh but to draw on the glimmers of hope we have seen in what can be done by organisations and individuals. We want this report to shine a light on the actions, behaviours and attitudes which make a real difference to people's lives.

This report is being published at the end of a phase dominated by a global pandemic and the beginning of an economic storm. While the risks and impacts of poverty have been heightened by the Covid crisis we have also seen evidence of increased understanding, empathy and solidarity. It is this sense of shared humanity, underpinning a shared responsibility to rebuild a city which values justice over privilege, that fires our firm hopes for real change.

## The journey

Edinburgh Poverty Commission was launched in November 2018 and met 9 times in full session over 18 months. During that period, we held more than 100 evidence sessions and project visits, met and heard from over 70 local organisations, commissioned significant new research into the experience of citizens living on low incomes and attitudes to poverty across the city and in total heard from more than 1,000 individual participants. This process, we believe, represents the single largest conversation about poverty ever undertaken by any local area in Scotland. A separate report captures the breadth of evidence we have considered.

In the midst of drafting our findings in March this year, the lockdown to limit the spread of Covid-19 was imposed. We decided to delay publishing our final report until now and use the time to hear what was happening across the city over the spring and summer: to listen to concerns, fears and hopes and reflect on what this means for poverty in Edinburgh, now and in the future. This testimony was set out in our [interim report](#) in May 2020.

This, our final report, combines the evidence we collected before Covid alongside the new experiences and reflections gathered during this crisis so far. It sets out a framework for change, and the immediate, medium term, and long-term actions needed to end poverty in Edinburgh by the end of the decade.

## Poverty in Edinburgh

Edinburgh has a distinctive profile of poverty that is different from other cities in Scotland.

In the wealthiest city in Scotland, we estimate that almost 78,000 people are living in poverty, representing some 15% of the population and as many as 1 in 5 of all children. As the Covid recession begins to bite, our estimates suggest that number could rise by at least 4,500 people by spring 2021 unless significant action is taken now<sup>1</sup>.

Inequalities are entrenched in Edinburgh. A boy born in some affluent parts of the city can expect to live 21 years longer than one born in a poorer area. In schools, the city does better than the national average for pupils from affluent areas but worse for those from poorer areas.

The majority of people living in poverty in Edinburgh are of working age, in employment, living in rental accommodation, with the highest rates experienced by families with children. Such families live in every area of the city, in every type of neighbourhood and community. The majority of people in poverty in Edinburgh do not live in those areas commonly considered as 'deprived'. Very often these families will be affected by illness, disabilities and mental health problems brought about either as a cause or a consequence of the poverty they experience.

*"Well, I know private rent is terrible, in Edinburgh you can pay up to about £1000 a month. For private rent in Edinburgh. I would say we're just as bad as London...And it's never been acknowledged. I mean, I work in retail part-time and you're only on minimum wage, and they don't care. They don't care if you can't afford to pay your rent or not."*

Edinburgh Poverty Commission contributor

Pre-Covid, even with record low unemployment and high average wages, we heard the frustration felt by people working hard to hold down a job that barely pays enough to get by. People told us about the impossibility of managing and planning a household budget when insecure work, including zero hours

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<sup>1</sup> Sources for all data referenced in this section are available in the evidence paper that accompanies this report

contracts, means working hours and pay are volatile. We heard particularly from women and young people, who often feel exploited in the city's job market.

Edinburgh is the least affordable city in Scotland to buy or to rent a house. Average house prices are more than six times average earnings. The cost of buying is too high for many and the lack of social housing and growth of the short term let market means many are trapped in unaffordable private rental accommodation. We heard of the fear that rising housing costs are making ever larger parts of the city 'unliveable' and the isolation felt by the large number of people living in temporary accommodation, disconnected from family and friends.



*Edinburgh Poverty Commission members at one of more than 100 evidence sessions and project visits (July 2019)*

Throughout the course of our work we have heard, perhaps more than anything else, of the intolerable toll living in

poverty takes on people's mental health. People have told us they are exhausted physically and emotionally, having to make impossible decisions about living costs. They have told us they struggle to find support, often feel shamed and judged by others, and feel trapped in a system that does not care about them.

Covid has shone a light on pre-existing inequalities. Edinburgh experienced one of the largest drops in job vacancies in the UK between March and June, while the number of people claiming unemployment related benefits in July 2020 was more than three times the level recorded a year ago. Already, those in low paid jobs have been impacted most by a cut in working hours and redundancy and longer term an increase in the number of people pulled into poverty is likely. In our interim report we reflected the significant trauma felt by many of those having to claim out of work benefits for the first time.

Premature mortality rates for people from the most economically deprived parts of Edinburgh have always been significantly higher than average, and there are significant fears for widening health inequalities flowing from both the health and economic impacts of Covid.

The experience of those struggling previously has been made significantly harder during the current crisis with particular impacts for young people, disabled people, black and ethnic minority groups, and women. Our interim report spoke of the overriding sense of fear in which many people are living.

Throughout the Covid crisis, many of those who continued to work in essential roles, often at significant risk, did so in material hardship. The widespread respect and gratitude shown to those key workers'

demands that post Covid we cannot return to accepting that people in work who keep essential services running should often be doing so in poverty. The biggest challenge we face now is to prevent these inequalities persisting and deepening.

*“Struggling is the worst thing to do. If you have any mental health problems, and you’re short of money, then everything gets worse and worse. You don’t know what bills you’ve paid and what ones you’re waiting to pay. You get yourself all confused, then, have you anything in to eat, or were you not able to eat this day because you were paying a certain bill. How many times could you be chased by people who are needing money and you just don’t have the money.”*

Edinburgh Poverty Commission contributor

## What needs to change?

As we have listened to people’s experiences, we have recognised that the change required to end poverty in Edinburgh is as much about changing the day to day experiences, connections and relationships between individuals and organisations and within communities as concrete change to material circumstances.

We are clear that as well as fair work, a decent home, income security, better health and improved prospects, people need experiences, connections and relationships based on understanding, kindness, dignity and respect. Rather than being shunted from pillar to post through complicated systems of assessment and referral people need help with all the issues that matter to them and that enables them to take control of their own lives.

It seems all the clearer now, following the experience of the last few months, that lasting solutions to end poverty will have to be built together, in connections and relationships defined by our shared humanity. We need to ensure that the growing understanding of shared hardship we have witnessed during the Covid crisis -those instincts to reach out and offer help - are harnessed rather than merely observed then allowed to recede.

In developing the actions set out in this report, we are guided by the following principles:

- **We do not accept poverty is inevitable: it can be solved**
- **People who are struggling must be supported to move out of poverty quickly, take control of their lives, and contribute to a city where people look after each other**
- **Workable solutions can only be designed and delivered alongside people who experience poverty**

- All the power in Edinburgh, from all our organisations and communities, is needed to directly effect change within the city, but also to build the public and political will for change needed at national level
- We do not aim merely to ‘tackle’, ‘reduce’, ‘address’, or ‘mitigate the effects of’ poverty. Our aim is to end poverty within a decade.

*“It feels like the system is especially designed to prevent people from helping themselves and taking an active role in shaping their lives.”*

Edinburgh Poverty Commission contributor

*“Having to choose between heating a home or eating... being left with very little money after the bills are paid... being made to feel inadequate and unable to provide the basics.”*

Edinburgh Poverty Commission contributor

## A call to action

This report is a call to action to all in the city. Our work tells us that the path to ending poverty in Edinburgh starts with a determination to open our eyes collectively to injustice in this city and a commitment to change. This means a change in the relationships employers have with their workers, a change in the relationship between the Scottish Government and Scotland’s capital city, a change in the relationship between public agencies and the citizens they serve, a change in the relationship between public bodies and the third sector organisations they rely on, and a change in the relationships we all have within our communities, and across the city.

We are focused on the actions Edinburgh needs to take to end poverty. But we are acutely aware of the actions which also need to be taken by the Scottish and UK Governments. Our report highlights the fundamental steps needed at these levels to underpin local actions.

*“Kindness might sound a bit ‘meh’ but that is what I think changes people.”*

Edinburgh Poverty Commission contributor

This report asks us all to listen to the voices of those who most need support and ensure those voices impact fairly on decisions. For too long, our institutions and many citizens have accepted a city which rewards privilege and the fatalism that says poverty cannot be solved. We

need to change the way democracy works to value the voices of those with experience of poverty and ensure our institutions match the empathy we have seen between citizens in recent months, to create a just transition towards a city that ends poverty.

The next sections of this report describe the framework of actions we expect the city to commit to over the next ten years. In delivery of these actions, we think that Edinburgh can realistically aim to end poverty in this city, and we set out the definitions and metrics by which success in meeting that aim can be measured.

There are actions in this report for every employer, every organisation, every sector, and every citizen in Edinburgh to take ownership of and help to deliver. Across all these actions we specifically call on:

**The City of Edinburgh Council** to take a lead role in implementing a radical new operating model for all public services in Edinburgh so that all public workers are focused and empowered to put prevention of poverty at the heart of everything they do.

**Edinburgh Partnership member organisations** to ensure the voices of those living in poverty are heard and effectively influence the way local decisions are made and budgets set.

**Employers** to value and support their staff like never before, building relationships of trust, and offering rewarding work that provides security and dignity.

**The Scottish Government** to commit to resetting the geographic balance of funding across Scotland, taking full account of the unique pressures faced in the capital city and recognising that Edinburgh's challenges are Scotland's challenges.

*“Employers of all sectors have a key role to play. If we come out of this current crisis having learned one lesson it’s surely that all people deserve a decent, secure income and to be treated fairly at work. This applies across all sectors and in all roles. As a society, we just pay the price elsewhere if we don’t do this for each other.”*

**Sandy MacDonald**, Edinburgh Poverty Commission member

**The UK Government** to play its role in maintaining and extending the lifelines of support it established during the early months of this Covid crisis.

**All organisations, public, private and third sector**, to work together to create partnerships which support local economies and communities and enable people to take control of their lives. This means genuine partnerships based on mutual respect, trusted relationships and resource sharing, not limited to charitable giving.

**All funders** to ensure that **any public spending in Edinburgh is conditional** on supporting Fair Work and investing in organisations which benefit local economies and communities.

**Print and broadcast media** to listen harder, to reflect truth and reality, to call out the causes of poverty and inequality rather than highlight symptoms and apportion blame. People living in poverty deserve understanding and respect.

**The citizens** who did not wait to ask for permission to help others during the pandemic, to hold onto the connections they have made, to continue to notice, and reach out to each other, to engage within their

own communities and between communities across the city, to participate actively in democracy, listen to the voices of those living in poverty, and make choices which benefit the public good, building more equal communities with fairer opportunities for all.

## Actions to End Poverty in Edinburgh

This section sets out the specific actions needed to end poverty in Edinburgh. We have identified seven areas of action, each highlighting a set of challenges and solutions emerging from our inquiry. In each action area we set out the city partners who need to act, and the fundamental changes they need to make.

Overall, we find that ending poverty in Edinburgh means delivering actions to make sure that everyone in this city can expect:

- The right support in the places we live and work
- Fair work that provides dignity and security
- A decent home we can afford to live in
- Income security that offers a real lifeline
- Opportunities that drive justice and boost prospects
- Connections in a city that belongs to us, and
- Equality in our health and wellbeing.



These are the seven areas of action we think the city needs to deliver against in order to end poverty in Edinburgh. Our analysis tells us that by taking these actions, collectively and with sustained commitment, we can end poverty in Edinburgh within the next decade.

### What do we mean when we say, 'End Poverty'?

Poverty is often described as a complex problem with simple solutions. It is also often thought of as a perennial problem that is impossible to eradicate – after all, if we take a definition of poverty based on relative income levels, there will surely always be a proportion of the population who fall below any threshold we choose to draw?

Building on the work we have carried out in this city, listening to the experiences of people who live in poverty and what needs to change, we have set a definition of ending poverty that rests on specific goals and expectations against which success can be measured.

Ending poverty does not mean Edinburgh becoming a city in which no one ever loses a job or experiences a period of their life on low income. But it does mean Edinburgh being a city where periods of low income are temporary, not permanent traps, where a period of low income does not mean having to go without food, or warmth, or safety. And it does mean Edinburgh becoming a city where the number of people experiencing low income at any given time falls to a level comparable with the highest performing societies in Europe.

By 2030, ending poverty in Edinburgh means having a city in which:

- **No one feels stigmatised, abandoned, or treated with less respect by the city as a result of their income or their wealth**
- **No one has to go without the basic essentials they need to eat, keep clean and stay warm and dry**
- **Fewer than one in ten children *and* fewer than one in ten adults are living in relative poverty at any given time**
- **No-one lives in persistent poverty<sup>2</sup>**

The evidence paper prepared to accompany this report provides more details, but our estimates<sup>3</sup> suggest that meeting these targets will involve, by 2030, Edinburgh committing to:

- **Removing 7,000-9,000 people out of destitution, or 580-750 people per annum**
- **Removing 20,900 people from relative poverty, or 2,100 per annum, and**
- **Removing 9,970 from persistent poverty, or some 1,000 people per annum**

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<sup>2</sup> Scottish Government analysis suggests that an individual is in persistent poverty if they have been in poverty for three or more of the last four years.

<sup>3</sup> The evidence paper prepared to accompany this report provides detailed sources and methodologies used to estimate each of these targets



*“We are all about making relationships with people. We have banned the word ‘referral’. We work with partners, but there are never handovers. Our whole ethos is to remove disconnects and help people through whatever support they need. Working this way gets better outcomes for people than working to narrow, predefined paths. We find that we get better results from the funding sources that don’t pay us by results than from the funds that do”*

Edinburgh Poverty Commission contributor

*“To tackle the scale of inequality we see in Edinburgh will take radical and bold interventions. We know that we must use this moment to act and that given the scale of the task, success will require cross-sector collective effort of a kind that has never been seen before. There are no quick fixes, so we need to invest in leaders and organisations with strong track records, as well as vision, passion, and creativity.”*

Celia Tennant, Edinburgh Poverty Commission member

### The challenge Edinburgh faces

Living in poverty grinds people down and too often the attitudes and experiences they encounter trying to get help or just function day to day make their situation even worse.

People have told us that they feel shame and stigma and that they will be judged if they seek help. They feel they are frequently not listened to, or treated with dignity, respect and kindness. They are shunted from pillar to post, telling their story numerous times to deal with all the issues they need help with. Help with one specific problem can fail because it is just one of multiple issues which are not addressed together and at worst help in one area precludes help in another. Many have additional difficulties in accessing support due to disabilities or health conditions and / or language and cultural barriers exacerbated by difficulty in accessing translation services. Often the support available ignores the ways people may need help to address the emotional toll of their situation.

**To end poverty in the city, the pre-condition and the single biggest transformation Edinburgh could achieve would be to make the experience of seeking help less painful, more humane, and more compassionate.** In fact, we believe that without this shift in culture and ways of working, none of the other actions will have the impact they need to.

We have concluded that Edinburgh needs to:

- Ensure people in all parts of the city have local, safe, welcoming community spaces where they can connect with others, access the right support for them and make progress at the right pace.

- Ensure those places of support are available in all parts of the city, where people can access them as easily as possible. For some this will mean local spaces in the community, for others this will mean the workplace or other accessible places in the city.
- Give staff at the frontline permission to make meaningful connections and develop relationships with people, removing over-reliance on procedural, risk-averse and rule bound approaches.
- Support development of positive values and culture through recruitment and workforce development.
- Empower staff from a range of services with different skills to work together to support people with all the issues that are relevant to them, removing the need to negotiate numerous and complex referral systems.
- Ensure support enables people to take control of their lives. Addressing immediate needs is only the first step to moving on. Holistic support must also be about helping people and communities to develop their strengths and skills and work towards goals for a better life.

The immediate impact of Covid made the support people could access the most relevant focus for our interim report. We heard of the significant trauma for many of losing work during the crisis and the difficulty of finding advice and support with social security and other entitlements. People told us they needed one point of contact who could help them navigate complex systems, support them through bureaucracy and address the emotional impact. While many of the community spaces people relied on were closed and face to face connections not possible, many organisations told us just how much people needed a trusted relationship to access support.

Throughout our inquiry we have seen many local organisations playing exactly this role, providing a single point of contact to build trusted relationships and help people find the support they need. We have seen excellent examples of money, welfare, and debt advice embedded in schools; we have seen third sector and statutory bodies working together to provide wraparound support for families on parenting, budgeting, and employability; we have seen community institutions across the city use food support as a focus to bring people together, to build relationships and to create safe spaces for people to find the help with wider issues. And we have seen the impact those ways of working provide, both in terms of profound, life changing experiences for the individuals and families supported, but also in terms of the return on investment delivered.

During the lockdown period, these city networks - including Maximise!, CHAI, LIFT, Working Rite, the Grassmarket Centre, The Ripple, Broomhouse Space and Hub among many others - made great strides to shift their ways of working to make sure those relationships can still be there for people when they need them.

In recent months the experience of how organisations have come together to support communities through Covid has accelerated the process we would have proposed in March. We must not go back. We must hold on to the gains which have been made and go further, building capacity and trust within organisations, between organisations and with communities. Almost ten years on from the Christie Commission there is both an absolute imperative and perhaps a greater opportunity than we have previously felt possible to shift power to communities, integrate organisations and embed prevention.

*“If we really want to deliver services that are person centred, holistic and meaningful, we are going to need to be ready for investing the right level of resources in them. I think that it is not just about "throwing" money into services, but to make sure that the services we are contracting are "up for the job". If we are using public money to contract services, those services should be accountable, and the Local Authority should have in place systems to monitor how public money is used.”*

Carmen Simon, EndPovertyEdinburgh member

## The action needed

City of Edinburgh Council should lead, working with other Edinburgh Partnership members, in design and delivery of **a new operating model for all public services in Edinburgh so that all public workers are focused and empowered to put prevention of poverty at the heart of everything they do**. The city should bring together what has been forged in emergency with the learning we already have from promising work focused on integrating support in communities. These approaches are in evidence already in Edinburgh, from the perspective of the physical assets in My Gracemount, shifting Health and Social Care to personalised asset-based approaches through 3 Conversations, and in Community Renewal’s development of holistic community support in Bingham/Magdalene.

In implementing new models of support, the city should aim for **small teams, drawing staff from statutory, third and business sectors** operating at a neighbourhood level using simple existing methods to connect, assess need and build on assets. We should build on shifts in how and where services operate, have confidence to try new approaches that successfully remove the barriers people face, evaluate and alter plans to change direction if we need to and spread successful practice across the city.

There is no one sector or organisation which can manage all the support individuals and communities require on their own. Statutory and third sector support organisations in the city need to **work better together in a way that is planned, comprehensive and responds to the strengths and voices of communities**. Support structures should be responsive to the issues that matter to different people and be delivered as far as possible through **one point of contact, a trusted relationship**.

National and local government, agencies and organisations should give **clear permission to staff to make meaningful connections** and empower them to respond to need flexibly, balancing the risk of carrying on as before against the usual approaches to eligibility criteria, risk assessment, accepted activity and performance management.

Alongside holding on to a more local approach to service delivery which has blurred the boundaries between sectors as we emerge from lockdown, Edinburgh Partnership needs to accelerate **the shifts in culture which have begun to happen** and are essential for the city's capacity to achieve **person centred, holistic support based on trusted relationships**. Where permission has been clearly given, we can expect to see increasing examples of the positive change that happens where staff operating at the frontline have confidence to connect, to respond to need flexibly and make judgements borne of humanity rather than only procedure. We should collect those examples and begin to systematically assess what they mean for our pre crisis ways of working. **Where a return to business as usual would stifle the value which has been created we must not return to where we were and instead begin to change the rules of** procurement, eligibility criteria, measurement, and performance management.

City of Edinburgh Council must **support community anchor organisations** to enable human connections and build on the groundswell of citizens who have been moved to give at a scale we have not previously seen to continue to contribute to their community.

City of Edinburgh Council, and Edinburgh Partnership members should **develop new models for contracting with the third and private sectors to** support organisations and alliances which support local economies, building community wealth and trusted relationships with citizens.

#### **WHAT WORKS: Community Renewal - Lifting Neighbourhoods Together**

*During our inquiry we have encountered a number of promising approaches which exemplify on a small scale many of the features we are challenging the city to implement across all publicly funded services in Edinburgh.*

*Lifting Neighbourhoods Together is one of these projects. This is the name for Community Renewal Trust's five-year programme to improve support to lift neighbourhoods out of poverty. Funded by the National Lottery Community Fund it will launch simultaneously in Bingham & Magdalene in Edinburgh and in Walker (Newcastle-Upon-Tyne) in October 2020. It is a partnership approach which is the culmination of two decades work to apply evidence, experience and resources to break out of silos.*

*The programme will bring together an existing group of frontline specialists who already work in the locality delivering community/local services for public sector and third sector organisations. They will become a team without silos who are able to stick with people whatever their need for as long as is helpful.*

*When established, this local team will systematically engage with every household in Bingham and Magdelene, conducting a listening conversation to identify factors that help and hinder quality of life and wellbeing in the community. From these conversations, the programme will work with households to develop a personal or family holistic plan to identify and access the multiple forms of support they need, and work with them for as long as it takes to achieve their life goals and lift their household out of poverty.*

## Fair work that provides dignity and security

*“The impact of poverty on wellbeing is constant uncertainty, lack of security and having to focus on day to day survival without having the luxury to make long term plans about the future”*

Edinburgh Poverty Commission contributor

*“The Covid crisis has exposed a need to rethink employment practices and progress a Fair Work agenda. Behind this collapse in livelihoods lie some truly heart-breaking stories of families thrown into severe financial difficulty. We need all the city’s employers, public sector organisations, and trades unions to work together and make a collective commitment to delivering fair, rewarding, secure jobs for everyone.”*

**Mary Alexander,**

Edinburgh Poverty Commission Member

### The challenge Edinburgh faces

Edinburgh has the most successful local economy in Scotland, but even here work is not necessarily the effective pathway out of poverty that it needs to be.

Pre Covid the majority (59%) of people in poverty in Edinburgh were in working households. Although coverage of the real Living Wage was second highest in Scotland, this still left 41,000 residents working in jobs paying less than the real Living Wage. Around one in ten (9%) of all jobs were casual, temporary or non-contract. Even for the lowest-income fifth of families in the city, earnings from employment account for more than 45% of all household income, broadly similar to the share provided by social security payments.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Scottish Government, Poverty and Income Inequality in Scotland 2016-19, available via <https://www.gov.scot/publications/poverty-income-inequality-scotland-2016-19/>

In our citizen survey, conducted on behalf of the Commission by the Scottish Poverty and Inequality Research Unit during winter 2019/20, 'work does not pay enough' was the single factor most commonly raised as a cause of poverty in Edinburgh – cited by 83% of all respondents. But pay alone was not the only factor – most of our conversations about work in Edinburgh focused on experiences of insecurity and

*“The wages of average jobs do not keep up with the cost of living...This means working becomes only a means to survival and not prospering.”*

Edinburgh Poverty Commission contributor

unpredictability of hours and of earnings. We heard story after story of people who could not be sure how much they would be paid next week, or how many hours they would be expected to work. We heard examples of people not knowing how Universal Credit

would be adjusted to take account of earnings until a couple of days before payment. We heard about working people making impossible decisions about how to manage their living costs, for example choosing between eating and heating and using foodbanks to survive. Many people felt there would be no point approaching their employer about working conditions and flexibility to enable them to work and fulfil caring commitments.

Post Covid, Edinburgh has suffered one of the biggest drops in job vacancies of any local authority area in the UK. The stabilisation efforts introduced by the UK Government have provided a significant lifeline for many people during this crisis. At their peak during Summer of 2020, 100,000 jobs in Edinburgh were being supported by the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and the Self Employment Income Support scheme. Even with that support, the number of people claiming Universal Credit in Edinburgh has trebled in comparison to the same period last year and grown more quickly than any other part of Scotland. Alongside this, the crisis and the coming recession are amplifying for many people those feelings of insecurity. Part of this insecurity comes from the planned ending of the UK Government's furlough scheme, but even for those with work, there remains uncertainty over how to transition safely back into the workplace. We have heard from workers worried about whether they will be paid if they have to self-isolate, and about balancing work with childcare responsibilities if their children are asked to stay home from school.

All these pressures impact most strongly on those in low paid jobs, on women, BAME workers, young people, disabled people and carers. The structure of Edinburgh's economy means that those sectors likely to be slowest to re-open and hardest hit during this recession – hospitality, tourism, non-food retail - are those where low income workers are most likely to be employed. As unemployment is projected to rise to levels not seen for decades, if at all, in this city, there is an urgent need to ensure that the impacts of recession are not perpetuated by a new wave of long-term unemployment among those groups with the least opportunity to bounce back.

To end poverty, Edinburgh needs a strong response to these challenges of low pay, security of hours and earnings and opportunities to progress at work. Coming out of recession we know that Edinburgh is still likely to be the city in Scotland best placed to recover and create new jobs. The challenge for the city is to

make sure that the economic recovery means that every worker in Edinburgh can expect their employment to be fair, and to provide dignity and security.

The pathways to this recovery are becoming more clearly defined – examples such as the Scottish Youth Guarantee and the UK Kickstart scheme represent a positive step towards preventing this recession having a scarring impact on the lives and careers of young people entering the jobs market. And we have seen good examples of programmes already in the city to help address in-work poverty and help people progress in their careers. Projects like [Next Step](#), for instance, provide person-centred one-to-one support to help people who are in work but in poverty to progress towards better paid, more secure jobs.

In the short term, though, there is still a need for action from UK and Scottish Governments to ensure that the closure of furlough schemes do not result in an abandonment of workers of all ages and their families to immediate redundancies and unemployment. We do not underestimate the scale and urgency of the task at hand for employers of all sizes and sectors: securing a just, low carbon recovery which solves the problem of in-work poverty will take time. In the years ahead, though, many of the levers for change in this area are very much in the hands of the city itself.

At the moment there are an estimated 386 accredited living wage employers in Edinburgh. The [Living Wage Places toolkit](#) provides an excellent and promising template of how to build a local movement to make fair pay a basic norm for all employers in the city.

Beyond pay, initiatives like the [Living Hours](#) campaign and the [Fair Work Convention](#) provide the city with a clear and compelling guide to what it will take to make sure that jobs in Edinburgh offer all workers an effective voice in the workplace, opportunity, security, fulfilment and respect. Similarly, Strathclyde Business School’s framework for [employer action on tackling in-work poverty](#) sets out a clear way forward for employers, enterprise agencies and unions to work together to create workplaces and supply chains that help people avoid and escape poverty.



*“Fair work is work that offers effective voice, opportunity, security, fulfilment and respect; that balances the rights and responsibilities of employers and workers and that can generate benefits for individuals, organisations and society.”*



The final strand in our pathway to fair work rests on the role of procurement and commissioning. There is solid evidence from other cities pursuing a pathway to inclusive growth to show how maximising the

impact of public spending can make a real difference to the lives of people in poverty. For example, research evidence finds that “*significant impacts on poverty and social mobility would be achieved if the entire UK public sector pledged to generate a year’s work for a person from a target disadvantaged community for each £1m in contract value*”<sup>5</sup>. Our challenge to Edinburgh is to meet this standard, and to make sure that the potential to help people out of poverty through fair work is maximised from every procurement and commissioning exercise the city undertakes in the next decade.

## The action needed

Edinburgh’s employers, Trades Unions, social enterprises, and public sector bodies need to come together in a new collective to **make Edinburgh a Living Wage City in 2021**. This should include a shared commitment to the actions needed to at least double the number of living wage accredited employers in Edinburgh over the next three years.

This alliance should further commit to promoting and acting as **ambassadors for fair work in the city**, exemplifying all the principles set out by the **Fair Work Convention**. In doing so, employers, public sector bodies and Trades Unions should adopt and act on the **Framework for Employer Action on In-work Poverty** developed by Strathclyde Business School.

We welcome the Scottish Government’s announcement of a new Youth Guarantee, but we are clear in our view that Edinburgh needs to address challenges not only for young people, and not only in terms of access to work. Edinburgh took the lead in Scotland during the last recession in launching the **Edinburgh Guarantee**, and we challenge it to do so again in extending that guarantee to ensuring that **anyone out of work in the city can access the support they need to progress**. In doing so, employability programmes should make sure that support does not end with access to a job, but stays with people for as long as it takes to achieve the progress in skills and earnings to ensure they are free of in-work poverty.

Edinburgh Partnership members need to ensure their procurement spending does more to create fair work in the city. This means collective commitment to embedding ‘**Fair Work First**’ principles in all public sector commissioning in Edinburgh. In doing so, partners should follow [Scottish Government good practice](#) to ensure that receipt of public contracts is conditional on employers’ commitment to **invest in skills and training, no inappropriate use of zero hours contracts, action to close the gender pay gap, genuine workforce engagement including with trade unions, and payment of the real Living Wage**.

In line with standards recommended by international research evidence, all Edinburgh Partnership members should make a collective commitment to ensuring that public spending in Edinburgh delivers at **least 1 FTE job with training for a person from a targeted group for every £1m of procurement spending**

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<sup>5</sup> MacFarlane, R with Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP (2014), Tackling poverty through public procurement, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, available at <https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/tackling-poverty-through-public-procurement>



over the next decade. In doing so, partners should commit enough resources to the monitoring and effective delivery of community benefits clauses agreed with employers.

Scottish Government and city partners need to **invest more in reward and support** (through procurement, commissioning, training and promotion) for businesses and business models that are **closely rooted in the communities they serve**. This includes social enterprises, local co-operatives, and local entrepreneurs, many of which face barriers in accessing public procurement despite being strong on delivery of social and community benefits. In doing so Edinburgh should look to and learn from the best examples of local authorities adopting **Community Wealth Building** approaches at the heart of their economic recovery plans.

Scottish Government and city partners need to make sure that recovery plans recognise and effectively support the **Social Care and Childcare sectors**. This means more focus on wage levels, career progression opportunities, and investment needed to build this vital workforce. Specific action is needed from the Scottish Government to ensure that local funding settlements are sufficient to meet commitments to fair work in these critical sectors, and that contracting is conditional on the delivery of fair work in these sectors which underpin the city's economic infrastructure as well as child development and the care and wellbeing of disabled adults, carers and older people.

#### **WHAT WORKS: Living Wage Places**

*The Living Wage Foundation and Living Wage Scotland have worked over several years to support and encourage employers to pay their staff the real Living Wage. Last year the two organisations, with the support of Carnegie UK Trust, launched **Living Wage Places**, a new scheme to harness the power of place, involving local employers, communities and people, to help extend the Living Wage to more workers and lift more people out of low pay.*

*The model outlines a journey cities and towns can take towards making the real Living Wage the expected norm in their area. Dundee and Glenrothes are among the pioneers in the UK with this approach, and Edinburgh is better placed than almost any other area in Scotland to follow the lead they have set.*

*It involves the establishment of a local Living Wage Action Group, prepared to work in partnership over a period of three years. In order to receive formal accreditation, this group will need to demonstrate the ambition and commitment to 'Making a Living Wage Place' in their locality by encouraging other local employers to pay the Living Wage and increase the number of people in their area who are paid the real Living Wage.*

We think this is a promising approach to focusing local commitment in Edinburgh towards improving low pay. More than that, we think this collaborative effort could and should mark the starting point towards a longer-term commitment to other elements of the **Fair Work Framework**.

## A decent home we can afford to live in

*“The cost of renting privately in Edinburgh continues to rise, and it is now beyond the reach of most people on low incomes even if they are working full-time. This obviously leads to increased pressure on social housing, which in turn puts increased pressure on temporary accommodation, and the people who often end up suffering the most are those who are homeless”*

Edinburgh Poverty Commission contributor

*“During my 18 months as an Edinburgh Poverty Commissioner, I have become even more convinced than I always have been that an adequate supply of high-quality social rented homes is critical to answering the challenges of inequality, poverty and social exclusion.”*

**Craig Sanderson,**

Edinburgh Poverty Commission Member

### The challenge Edinburgh faces

There is no pathway to ending poverty in Edinburgh without resolving the city’s housing crisis.

*“Rents are fast outpacing people’s ability to pay.”*

Edinburgh Poverty Commission contributor

Throughout the discussions we have had with people in the city during the past two years, housing is the one topic that has come up in every conversation. In our survey work with citizens, four in five (79%) respondents said that a lack of affordable housing is a main driver of

poverty in the city<sup>6</sup>. Private sector rents are too high for households on low and modest incomes to manage and there are not enough genuinely affordable homes to go around.

Within this system, the overriding feeling of trying to find and maintain a home on a low income in Edinburgh is one of powerlessness. We heard people’s experiences of long stays in temporary accommodation, and the way that some forms of support can place inadvertent obstacles in the way of efforts to keep a job and progress out of homelessness. The high rents, and the need for expensive deposits restrict and restrain the options for low-income private renters to move or manage their costs. Lothian is

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<sup>6</sup> Sources for all data referred to in this section are available in the Data and Evidence paper that accompanies this report.

one of only three 'broad rental market areas' in Scotland to have seen average rents increase substantially ahead of prices in the past five years.

At the same time, tenants and people stuck for too long in temporary accommodation told us the systems to allocate social housing can feel unclear and unfair. We believe the root cause is the severe rationing of social housing, a good in short supply. But this is not only about investment in new homes: The Improvement Service's Local Government Benchmarking Framework paints a picture of a city that had been lagging the Scottish Housing Quality Standard but has been improving steadily in the two years to 2018-19. There is still some way to go: one in seven council houses in the city don't meet common quality standards compared with around one in twenty across Scotland. In private rented housing, a mix of licensing, regulatory and conditional investment should be used to improve housing quality where it is poor, including loan finance to upgrade heating systems and reduce energy bills for tenants.

Edinburgh is the least affordable Scottish city in which to buy or rent a home. The average house now costs more than 6 and a half times the average full-time wage. The average advertised price of a private rented flat in Edinburgh has grown over the past ten years at an annual rate well over double the rate of growth in earnings. Across Scotland typical rents equate to one-third of average earnings – in Edinburgh in 2020 that ratio has risen to 45%.

Rental affordability has also been exacerbated by the proliferation of short term lets in recent years. According to some estimates 1 in 10 properties in the city centre were listed on Airbnb in 2019 with a total of 12,000 properties listed across Edinburgh as a whole, intensifying supply constraints within an already pressured housing market. Other research shows that housing stock in areas of the city popular with short term lets has fallen by as much as 30%.

The link between these challenges and poverty is clear. Our estimates suggest that 22,600 people in Edinburgh are pushed into poverty by the cost of housing alone – this equates to 29% of all people in poverty, more than double the Scottish proportion in poverty only due to the cost of paying the rent. Taking this analysis further, we estimate that 15,000 people in the city could live free of poverty if the cost of housing in the city were more in line with the Scottish average.

There is a clear link too between these housing market pressures, and the challenges the city faces in tackling homelessness. Tenancy loss as a cause of homelessness in Edinburgh is more than double the Scottish rate while over the past six years, loss of tenancy from the private rented sector has shown the highest increase amongst all reasons for homelessness.

Finding a suitable home for people experiencing homelessness has remained a significant challenge for the city. The average length a household stays in temporary accommodation rose by one-third over the past three years to almost 8 months in 2019/20. These increases come even though Edinburgh already allocated a higher proportion of social lets – both Council and RSL – to homeless households pre-Covid than any

other part of Scotland. Seven in ten (72%) of all the Council's housing lets was to homeless households in 2019/20.

All this evidence points to a clear gap between demand and supply of housing in Edinburgh. To end poverty the city most fundamentally must find ways to provide more homes that people can afford to live in. More action is also needed to help prevent homelessness in the first place and to improve the experience of people seeking support. The extraordinary response to the pandemic saw people who had been sleeping rough and in hostels being accommodated with wraparound support with speed and compassion. Working with third sector partners, the City of Edinburgh Council should ensure a sustainable and fully resourced service is in place to provide the holistic support people need to get and sustain a tenancy. At the same time, we have heard the frustrations of frontline staff who feel restricted in the support they can offer and by the long average stays in temporary accommodation. There is common ground between them and people in the city who need a secure housing solution. None of the actions we are calling for can fully succeed unless the city can build enough homes with appropriate support to meet the needs of its population.

Edinburgh is committed already to an ambitious housebuilding plan including the 20,000 new affordable

A Housing Need and Demand Assessment is a technical document which sets out the estimated total additional future housing need across all tenures over a 20-year period. The most recent [Housing Need and Demand Assessment](#) for City of Edinburgh provided scenarios suggesting a need/demand for between 39,099 to 49,902 affordable homes in the city over the period 2019 to 2032, or at least 3,000 per year.

This estimate is broadly confirmed by [recent research](#) commissioned in May 2020 by Shelter Scotland, CIH Scotland, and the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations. This research finds a need for 53,000 new affordable homes across all of Scotland over the period 2021 to 2026 and the three commissioning organisations recommended that between 66-70% (up to 37,100) of these should be new social rented homes.

Within the 'capital city region' – incorporating Edinburgh, East Lothian, Midlothian, West Lothian, Fife, and Scottish Borders – a need for 6,215 new affordable homes a year is identified between 2021 and 2026. Assuming that at least 50-60% of this region's need is likely to be located in Edinburgh itself, this again equates to some 3,000 affordable homes per annum. Following the Scotland-wide ratio implies that at least 2,000 of this need is for social rented homes.

homes spanning homes for social rent, mid-market rent and low-cost ownership, and there is strong evidence of innovation in the way social landlords – including the Council - are working to meet this challenge. This includes innovation in funding mechanisms, to attract new forms of investment over and above grant subsidy from the Scottish Government. But we know that even this level of ambition will not be enough to meet the anticipated need for affordable homes in Edinburgh over the next decade.

Going beyond current plans will require a fundamental change in the way housing investment is made and supported in Edinburgh. [Recent evidence](#) from the Collaborative Centre for Housing Evidence confirms our view on the importance of an increased supply of social rented housing and the wider role of good social landlords as community anchors. Put simply, high housing costs are a financial burden for people on low incomes, damaging work incentives and wellbeing. Boosting the availability of social rented homes, in mixed income neighbourhoods close to the amenities and job opportunities we all need and with rents significantly lower than the private sector, will reduce poverty and the social security bill in Edinburgh.

The city's capacity to build quality homes for social rent is, however, highly dependent on Scottish Government grant funding which pays for almost 50% of development costs. Current grant funding arrangements fall an estimated £70m short of the level needed to meet even the city's existing housing commitments, and any further shortfall will create an even wider gap. The first step towards solving the housing crisis in Edinburgh, therefore, rests upon a new commitment from Scottish Government to ensure that its upcoming Housing Investment plans beyond 2021 commit to resetting the geographic balance of funding across Scotland, taking full account of the unique pressures faced in the capital city. Put simply, Edinburgh's housing challenge is to a large extent Scotland's housing challenge. The Scottish Government cannot meet its own ambitions for reducing child poverty, ending homelessness and addressing housing shortages without a radical change in the way housing investment in Edinburgh is supported.

While we believe that many of the answers to poverty in Edinburgh will be found within the city's existing powers and assets, this is one challenge that requires a new, long-term settlement with the Scottish Government to help address the shortfall in grant funding relative to need and to other parts of the country. This will help the city to attract other forms of 'patient' capital – for example from ethical pension funds – and will serve as a much-needed economic stimulus for the city's construction sector and supply chains as we recover from Covid.

## The action needed

The Scottish Government and City of Edinburgh Council should commit to ensuring that **all citizens have a decent home as a human right**, and to taking all steps needed to ensure the city's return to activity following Covid does not result in a return to rough sleeping or evictions into homelessness on financial grounds.

Edinburgh needs to build an estimated **3,000 affordable homes, including 2,000 social rented homes per annum** to meet its housing needs over the next decade, according to our estimates. But this need cannot be met under current funding arrangements. As an urgent priority, the **Scottish Government** should meet with city partners and ensure that its next Housing Investment Plan is sufficient to address Edinburgh's housing crisis.

Alongside grant funding, meeting these challenges will require new steps to address the cost and availability of land in Edinburgh. Towards this, it is critical that future city plans secure a **minimum 35% affordable housing contribution** from new developments in Edinburgh. Longer term, it is important that UK and Scottish Governments **reform tax systems to reduce pressure on land prices** in cities like Edinburgh.

We have welcomed the important steps that the UK Government made in temporarily increasing Local Housing Allowance levels to 30% of local benchmark rents in response to the Covid crisis, but we are concerned that the planned removal of this increase next April will result in many more people facing a growing shortfall between rental commitments and support with housing costs, at a time when employment options for many will be restricted. We want to avoid these families being pushed into poverty. The UK Government should set **Local Housing Allowance levels at a rate sufficient to meet median rents in Edinburgh**, at least as a temporary measure through recovery from recession, and maintain the LHA at 30% of local rents permanently.

We have also welcomed Scottish Government **legal protections against eviction into homelessness for rent arrears** during the current crisis, but are similarly concerned that relaxation of these measures will result in a new wave of evictions next year. The Scottish Government should extend current protections to the end of 2021, and act now to strengthen measures and supports to ensure private landlords and tenants agree genuinely affordable repayment plans for rent arrears.

City of Edinburgh Council should commit to making maximum use of new powers to **regulate and license short term letting in the city** and aim to secure as many properties as possible for long term letting.

City of Edinburgh Council should expand and improve **early person-centred advice and advocacy services to prevent homelessness**, including specific support to help private rented tenants stay in their home when this is a sustainable option, draw upon Discretionary Housing Payments when they are eligible, maximise their incomes and manage their living costs. More broadly, housing and homelessness support services should be part of early phase work to implement holistic service models based on the 'right support in the places we live and work' principles set out earlier in this report.

**Increases in private rents** are one of the biggest challenges the city faces, but one of the hardest to address through the policy levers available at present. In carrying on the conversations this commission has started, the city needs a **new alliance between City of Edinburgh Council, private rented tenants and**

*“Now is the moment to think and act big, by putting truly affordable housing at the centre of Scotland’s recovery from COVID-19 to permanently end rough sleeping and to mitigate the expected spike in homelessness envisaged as more people struggle to recover from the pandemic.”*

Diana Noel Paton, Edinburgh Poverty Commission Member

**landlords** to build common ground and co-design practical measures to slow down rent growth in Edinburgh.

## Income security that offers a real lifeline

*“I’m a working single mum who was made redundant while on maternity leave to my 3rd “capped” child. I found myself stuck... Job centre didn’t know how to help get me back to work. Not one person could advise me on getting back to work coz there is no help with a 3rd child... There is no interest in the wellbeing of low income families. Food banks are keeping people fed.”*

Edinburgh Poverty Commission contributor

*“Universal Credit and other types of support need to be less about ‘we’re going to catch you out’ and more ‘we’re going to help you out’. It doesn’t create a sustainable relationship between people and the services they are using. We’ll never build trust unless we move in that direction.”*

**Chris Kilkenny,**

Edinburgh Poverty Commission Member

### The challenge Edinburgh faces

Before the Covid crisis, we knew already that there were many people in poverty in Edinburgh existing on less than they might have if they had been aware of, or taken up all the support they were entitled to.

Across the UK, DWP estimates tell us that 40% of households do not claim Pension Credits that they are entitled to; 20% of those entitled to Housing Benefit do not claim their entitlement; and 10% of those entitled to Income Support/Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (IS/ESA) do not claim their benefits<sup>7</sup>. No official estimates on benefits take up in Edinburgh are published, but based on the city’s share of population and income our estimates suggest that some £70-80m of these key income related benefits may be unclaimed in this city every year.

Many people are often simply not aware of the range of social security payments that could help make ends meet. They are also often frustrated with the processes they have to undergo to receive entitlements. They feel judged, shamed and fearful about putting existing support at risk. For some of these families the amount of unclaimed benefit may be not be significant, but our inquiry has revealed many examples of people whose lives have been improved substantially by support to help them maximise their take up of

<sup>7</sup> Department for Work and Pensions, Income-related benefits: estimates of take-up: financial year 2017 to 2018, available via

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/867973/income-related-benefits-estimates-of-take-up-2017-2018.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/867973/income-related-benefits-estimates-of-take-up-2017-2018.pdf)

entitlements. On average, DWP estimates that unclaimed Housing Benefit amounts to £2,900 per year for each entitled family who does not take up the benefit. For Pension Credits and IS/ESA these averages rise to £2,000 and £4,100 per year respectively.

We knew too, that even if all benefits were claimed, the long-run impact of the benefit freeze until April 2020, the benefit caps and the 2-child limit meant that working-age people were often still left with not enough to live on. The gains from a rising minimum wage have too often been more than undone by these cuts. We heard many stories and reviewed much evidence to support the conclusion that the UK's social security system has been failing.

These failings have real consequences. The UK's Social Security system is a critical lifeline which supports almost all of us at various times in our lives and is part of a wider system of public services – like education, roads, and the police - that we all rely on to maintain a decent standard of living<sup>8</sup>. Scottish Government estimates tell us that even median income households derive around a quarter of their income (23%) from social security payments.



Since the onset of the pandemic, the importance of that lifeline has been clearer than ever. We are seeing a record increase in Universal Credit claimants in the city, alongside the potential of a new debt and mental health crisis for people on low incomes. Half of all families on Universal Credit say that they were struggling to pay their rent and other bills during the Covid lockdown, while 65% say their mental health was being affected by concerns about money<sup>9</sup>.

The experience of recent years has shown that government responses can make a profound difference to the number of people living in poverty. Despite a high and stable employment rate until Spring 2020, cuts to the value and reach of benefits in and out of work are the biggest single driver behind the increase in child poverty seen in recent years. At the same time, temporary increases in the value of Universal Credit and Working Tax Credit made in April for a year – combined with the scale of furlough schemes - have helped to dampen the growth of poverty rates in 2020, despite record increases in unemployment. It is vitally important that governments work together to make sure these short-term gains are not lost by a

<sup>8</sup> Brook, Paul et al (2019), *Framing Toolkit: Talking About Poverty*, Joseph Rowntree Foundation & Frameworks Institute, available via <https://www.jrf.org.uk/blog/five-doodles-help-make-sense-uk-poverty>

<sup>9</sup> Maddison, F (2020), *A lifeline for our children: Strengthening the social security system for families with children during this pandemic*, Joseph Rowntree Foundation and Save the Children, available via <https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/call-stronger-social-security-lifeline-children>



planned reversion to previous payment levels which were already less adequate than originally planned by the architects of Universal Credit.

Longer term we want to see more fundamental reform of the way social security systems provide a lifeline for people when they need it. As a society, we have committed to dignity in retirement: successive governments have put in place measures which have more than halved the rate of pensioner poverty. We need to see the same level of ambition for working age people, to ensure that when insecure work, redundancy, disability, caring or illness restricts people's ability to earn a decent living, we commit to a minimum level of income below which no one falls.

These are serious challenges that need national action, but the evidence we have seen during our inquiry has also demonstrated the power of local action to fill in gaps and help keep people's heads above water. Edinburgh made the right choice in the early months of the Covid crisis to automatically channel free school meal payments in cash to all families who were receiving them and, with the support of the Scottish Government in June, continued to make those payments during school holidays. It is vital that Edinburgh continues the good work it is already doing to ensure that locally administered payments are automated wherever possible to remove the complexity and stigma experienced by some with claiming.

At the same time, we have seen that Edinburgh is already a leader in the field of money advice and advocacy. Projects like [Maximise!](#) rank among the best and highest impact approaches seen anywhere in the UK. To end poverty, it is essential that the innovation and progress made in this area is built upon in the coming years, with high quality advice, advocacy and wellbeing support embedded in key public services in all parts of the city and available to all communities.

With most people who live in poverty in Edinburgh being in working families, and social security only accounting for half of the income of the lowest income households, we know that a stronger social security system alone is not enough to end poverty. As we have seen, fair work and genuinely affordable housing needs to do its share of the 'heavy lifting.' But we know too that we can do much better. The actions we describe in this section will by themselves represent a substantial step towards reversing the upward trend in child poverty in Edinburgh. Without these changes the system will continue to fail, stigmatise and constrain people when they need it most.

## The action needed

**Edinburgh Partnership and City of Edinburgh Council should work with third sector partners to ensure consistent, proactive, high impact support to maximise household income, reduce debt and boost family prospects is embedded in every nursery, school and GP surgery in the city. Building on best practice examples such as Maximise!, this approach should combine welfare rights and debt advice, advice on managing living costs, housing support, holistic family support, employability, and healthy living advice.**

Extension of this support is critical to ensuring that Edinburgh drives down the £80m of eligible DWP benefits which city residents are currently not taking up.

Cutting benefits in the middle of a recession is the wrong thing to do. The UK Government should **commit to keeping the increase in Universal Credit and Working Tax Credit, as well as Local Housing Allowance, from April 2021** and extend this uplift to other legacy benefits. This will maintain demand in local economies during a recession and prevent thousands of families in the city from being pulled into poverty and the higher demand for other services this would be likely to trigger.

Further, in support of campaigns by JRF and Save the Children, we agree that the UK Government should introduce an **urgent increase of £20 per week in the child element of Universal Credit and Child Tax Credit**. The UK Government should also lift the 2-child limit and the benefits cap.



*Edinburgh Poverty Commission members met citizens and organisations from across the city (July 2019)*

We welcome the Scottish Government's decision to open applications for the **Scottish Child Payment** to eligible families with younger children this year, but more is needed. The Scottish Government should take urgent action to extend applications for families with children aged six and over using local government payment channels to reach at least some eligible families faster than current plans.

During an economic crisis families in most need cannot wait until the end of 2022 for this support.

At the local level, the **Scottish Welfare Fund** is a lifeline for families and during the Covid period has played a critical role in supporting people who were reaching crisis point. During our inquiry, however, we met too many people who could benefit but were not aware of this support. City of Edinburgh Council should take a lead on more active promotion of the crisis support available in the city – including welfare funds, advice and advocacy services – to make sure these lifelines can reach anyone who needs them.

Longer term action is needed to **implement bold changes to social security in Scotland**. The UK and Scottish Governments should commit to ensuring that the building of a new support system for Scotland is based on a fundamental objective of providing income security sufficient for people in Edinburgh to live free of poverty. We welcome the learning from research into ideas such as Citizen's Basic Income and a Minimum Income Guarantee, and encourage further exploration of the ways such innovations might provide a pathway towards that objective.

Edinburgh Partnership and City of Edinburgh Council should lead on the roll out of new programmes to **'poverty proof' all public services**. Expanding on successful programmes such as '1in5' in schools, partners should commit to ensuring any costs under the direct control of city authorities are affordable, and that any debts or arrears are managed over the long term on fair repayment terms and with compassionate support.

Edinburgh Partnership should make available new long-term investment to expand the **availability of and access to affordable credit** in all parts of the city through examples such as Scotcash and the credit union movement. Such investments should be part of a long-term programme to boost responsible lending and financial inclusion in Edinburgh.

#### **WHAT WORKS: Maximise!**

*The Maximise! team is one of the best examples we have encountered during our inquiry of a project finding innovative ways to collaborate across sectors, to break down barriers, and to help struggling families in Edinburgh improve financial resilience and health and wellbeing.*

*[Maximise!](#) is a Family Advice and Support Project delivered in partnership by Children 1st and CHAI (Community Help and Advice Initiative) and supported by NHS Lothian, the City of Edinburgh Council and Capital City Partnership.*

*Based in targeted schools across Edinburgh, the model is made up of integrated teams of staff offering advice on benefits, debt or housing problems, employability and family wellbeing support. Families can select the areas of support they engage with and they can move through and engage with the model of support in a manner and pace which suits their situation.*

*Every practitioner in the Maximise! Team identifies 'building relationships with families' as central to their practice and to the success of the approach in helping families. Emerging research by University of Edinburgh found that across each strand of service delivery approximately 70-80% of practice time was noted to involve relational efforts to build, or in many cases re-build, individual confidence and trust in others.*

*“My depression comes from not having enough or able to give my kids not what they want but what they need. I battle every day to ensure my kids are loved, but do they know they are loved when all they hear is ‘sorry we can’t do that today’ or ‘you can’t have that today’. I do not want the choices I have had to make in their life affect their health, education, or wellbeing all because I just simply didn’t have the money!”*

Edinburgh Poverty Commission contributor

*“We all need to understand the cumulative impact of poverty on people’s opportunities to progress. The stress, anxiety and trauma that comes from constantly worrying about food, energy and how costs will be covered. The worry for the safety, health and wellbeing of yourself and those close to you. Helping learners overcome these concerns – from basic food provision through to emotional support– so they can actually give attention to learning is crucial.”*

Stephen Kelly, Edinburgh Poverty Commission Member

### The challenge Edinburgh faces

The impact of inequality is perhaps illustrated most starkly in the opportunities available to you depending on your income and where you live in Edinburgh.

Education in Edinburgh is more polarised than anywhere else in Scotland. The city has more pupils in independent schools in the city than any other part of Scotland. Six state schools in the city account for more than half of all pupils who live in the most deprived (first SIMD quintile) areas of the city, but only 2% of those from more affluent (fifth SIMD quintile) areas. At the same time, a group of seven other schools account for two thirds of all pupils from affluent areas, but only 10% of those from more deprived areas<sup>10</sup>.

Despite the significant efforts evident to close the attainment gap, Edinburgh is making slower progress than many other areas in Scotland. As the evidence paper that accompanies this report shows, there is slow progress at each stage except in P1 where the gap for key measures has stalled or widened. We have seen the pressure many headteachers are under to analyse a raft of data and deliver change on a range of school, city and national level indicators. Alongside that pressure, we have seen the positive work that can be done in some schools where a forensic approach to understanding the circumstances and needs of individual pupils means that personalised support can be put in place involving a range of services.

Across the system, however, Edinburgh seems to entrench inequality, doing better for more affluent pupils than the national average while doing worse for those from deprived neighbourhoods.

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<sup>10</sup> Scottish Government Schools Information Dashboard, available via <https://public.tableau.com/profile/sg.eas.learninganalysis#!/vizhome/SchoolInformationDashboard-Secondary/Introduction>

This is in large part a reflection of the city's residential polarisation. Inequality in school carries forward to opportunities beyond school as high-quality work experience and exposure to the world of work is still too often driven by parental connections. While most young people growing up in poverty go on to live stable, productive lives, they are more likely than their peers to be involved in the criminal justice system – regardless of the nature of their actual offending behaviour - and contact with the criminal justice system increases the likelihood of continued offending. Only 11% of entrants to higher education in Edinburgh are from the 20% most deprived areas, compared to 19% nationally<sup>11</sup>.

Covid has acted to widen these inequalities with a marked gradient between participation in education in private and state sectors and between the affluent and socio-economically deprived. One survey of 1,000 disadvantaged pupils across Scotland, for instance, showed that two thirds were unable to do school work during lockdown. One in four could not do any work because they had to care for others, while two-thirds said they felt low, anxious and stressed<sup>12</sup>. Significant fears have been voiced by many of the lasting impact of a growing gap in educational attainment as a result of this experience.

Many of those we have spoken to reflect that the inequality of opportunity apparent for children and young people in Edinburgh is evident also for adults and particular groups in the city. We have heard of restricted opportunities for black and minority ethnic people, often highly qualified and working below their level of qualification. They feel they do not have access to opportunities which would enable them to take control of their lives and earn their way out of poverty.

We have heard from many that childcare, learning and employment opportunities are not flexible enough to enable parents to balance improving their prospects with caring for their families. We heard about a 60% increase in mental health disclosures at Edinburgh College over the last two years reflecting the stresses of balancing work, learning, childcare and living costs. Professionals also told us how the positive development delivered through early learning, childcare and education can be limited or undermined when it is delivered in isolation for the child and not integrated with wider family support. This is particularly illustrated in attainment for looked after children, which is consistently lower than for those living in the most deprived areas, and is reflected in [The Promise's](#) focus on more integrated family support following the Independent Care Review.

This inequality of opportunity represents not only a challenge of structures and resource allocation, but also one of attitude and culture. For too long Edinburgh appears to have tolerated and been unwilling to

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<sup>11</sup> Scottish Funding Council, Report on Widening Access 2018-19 available via <http://www.sfc.ac.uk/publications-statistics/statistical-publications/2020/SFCST062020.aspx>

<sup>12</sup> MCR Pathways Lockdown Survey: Listening To The Voices Of Our Young People July 29, 2020, available via <https://mcrpathways.org/mcr-pathways-lockdown-survey-listening-to-the-voices-of-our-young-people/>

address these injustices. The significant investments and genuine efforts to tackle the attainment gap in state schools will fail if we do not also address structural and cultural barriers.

To end poverty in the city, Edinburgh needs to make a long-term commitment to be a city which values justice over privilege, by expanding access to high quality opportunities for all its citizens. Making this change will require action to improve understanding and awareness of poverty throughout the education system in Edinburgh, action to address structural issues which embed inequality and segregation, and action to embed approaches that are proven to build opportunities and improve prospects.

## The action needed

City of Edinburgh Council and all state schools need to invest in a significant programme to **codesign action with young people and families living in poverty**. They must build on the learning from approaches to close the attainment gap, continuing to evaluate and crucially **investing in local organisations working alongside families** to build the foundations of a generational shift in opportunity.

City of Edinburgh Council should establish a deliberative process for all schools (including private) and their communities to **increase awareness and understanding of poverty** in the city (building on the 1 in 5 programme) to contribute to long term culture change and broad-based citizen support for **building more equal communities with fairer opportunities for all**.

**Private schools in Edinburgh have a responsibility** to do more to positively overcome segregation and inequality in the city. This means more action to share teaching, infrastructure and networks with local state schools and community groups – including for example sports facilities, digital learning links to widen subject choice where it is currently restricted, and access to a wider range of employers and individuals who could make valuable connections with state schools.

City of Edinburgh Council needs to act **to develop genuinely mixed school catchment areas** by 2030. This means long term commitment to develop mixed income neighbourhoods, review school catchments where opportunities arise, and ensuring decision on school placements, school building and investment reflect this aim.

Edinburgh's Universities must do more to make a positive impact on **improving opportunities for people on low incomes or living in disadvantaged areas in Edinburgh** to access and complete higher education and go on to high quality employment.

We believe there is a mindset shift needed in the approach to measurement. **City of Edinburgh Council should reduce the pressure on schools to report performance on comparative attainment ladders**. All schools should take a diagnostic approach to using live data on attendance, behaviour and crucially engagement to track progress and underpin the provision of rich experiences and enjoyment in school.

City of Edinburgh Council should **ensure early years learning and childcare support is integrated with family support** which is provided with flexibility of hours to enable parents and carers to work or learn and care for their families (drawing on example of Flexible Childcare Services Scotland [www.fcsc.org.uk](http://www.fcsc.org.uk)).

Edinburgh Partnership members should invest resources in a **radical expansion of mentoring schemes in Edinburgh**, to reach every school in the city with effective screening and matching to support looked after and struggling young people to improve engagement with learning.

We call on citizens from a wide range of backgrounds to **participate in managed mentoring schemes for children and young people and seek opportunities to champion individual schools, building positive relationships and bridges to a wider range of experiences and opportunities.**

City of Edinburgh Council and Edinburgh Partnership must commit to **monitoring and reporting on inclusion of and impacts for** people living on low incomes and from disadvantaged areas, and from equalities groups, in all learning and employment opportunities in the city.

#### **WHAT WORKS: Child and Youth Mentoring**

***Intandem** is Scotland's mentoring programme for young people aged 8-14, looked after at home. The programme aims to help provide young people with at least one long term relationship with a positive adult role model. Intandem matches young people with trained volunteers to build trusting, supportive and secure relationships which are supported to continue even if a young person's home circumstances change. Among common values, it is important that the programme is ambitious for young people and celebrates success and that the programme is dedicated and consistent providing support for as long as young people need it.*

***MCR Pathways** is a school-based mentoring programme that currently supports around 2300 young people across Scotland each week. The charity works to address the attainment gap between care-experienced young people and their peers with a vision that, "every care-experienced and disadvantaged young person in the country gets the same education outcomes, career opportunities and life chances as every other young person".*

*In February 2020, the City of Edinburgh Council and MCR Pathways joined forces to roll out the mentoring programme throughout the city. In part, this followed the local authority's commitment to the Care Review's recommendations, which emphasised the importance of relationship-based practice in schools, including mentoring, to better support young people with experience of the care system.*

*Over the next three years, the scheme will support and inspire 500 young people in Edinburgh to build aspiration and confidence to fulfil their potential in education, training or employment opportunities of their choice.*

*“LIFT gave me support as single parent, struggling to manage on benefits because I couldn’t find work that would fit in around looking after my kids. Then I started volunteering to help others and now have a job with LIFT. I am able to work hours that are suitable for me and my kids, which has given me so much more chance as a working parent and hope for the future”*

**Claire Baxter**, End Poverty Edinburgh

*“If we have learned anything from the last six months it is to value our connections to others within and between our communities. We must do everything we can to help people maintain connections or reconnect across the city, in very practical ways including transport and digital and in the longer term designing places as settings for relationships”*

**Zoe Ferguson**, Edinburgh Poverty Commission

### The challenge Edinburgh faces

Too many people we have spoken to during our inquiry have told us they feel large parts of the city don’t belong to them or that many aspects of Edinburgh life feel ‘off limits’ to them because of their lack of income, or the way they think people will judge them. These issues are particularly strongly voiced when people talk about some of the city’s iconic institutions – such as Edinburgh’s Festivals or tourist attractions – whose value seems remote to the lives of many citizens.

In addition to feeling that much of Edinburgh is ‘off-limits’ it can on a very practical basis just be unaffordable to travel and many people have told us they don’t have places they want to go in the evening within walking distance of their home.

Bus travel in Edinburgh remains cheaper than in other cities in Scotland, but it is still too expensive for many hospitality workers – a gauge perhaps of how low their wages are and how few hours they can rely upon per week/month. There is also an issue with a lack of public transport for shift workers both early morning and late night. Being unable to afford or get transport to and from work also causes health and safety issues with workers (particularly young women) having to choose between spending 2 hours wages on a taxi home and walking home in the dark. For students the cheapest form of transport isn’t always the most efficient to get to and from campuses. Some students have to take up to three buses when they could get one train, because the cost of train fares isn’t covered in FE travel bursaries. We have heard that many people cannot afford to buy a monthly travel pass which would be the cheapest option because their income is too low.

While we have all been limited in our enjoyment of the city since the Spring, Covid has intensified the divide in experience:



- Perhaps most of all the experience of Covid has emphasised the importance of local community infrastructure - the value of having shops, quality outdoor and particularly green spaces, and support services available within walking distance of your home. The shift in provision of essential services to local resilience hubs has highlighted a longer term need for support close to home for people or issues which are not well suited to digital / remote approaches;
- While the pattern of movement around the city is still limited and the future largely unknown, we know that pre Covid, the cost and ease of transport across the city was a major barrier to people's ability to hold down jobs, access educational opportunities and support, participate in activities and maintain family and social connections;
- Pre Covid, we know many of those who would most benefit from being digitally connected were least likely to be so – particularly disabled people and those with long-term conditions. Digital exclusion has worsened during the pandemic due to the data costs of greater use being unaffordable for many. Digital connectivity has become an absolute necessity to maintain connections and relationships, but we also know that for many, particularly older people on low incomes, lack of access to digital devices and skills have contributed to many people feeling ever more isolated.

Perhaps one way in which Covid has acted to bring us together rather than divide is in prompting us to care more for our fellow citizens. Neighbours have reached out to provide informal support for each other, huge numbers of people have volunteered to provide vital help and there are [numerous examples](#) of community activists stepping forward to address local needs.

To end poverty in the city, Edinburgh needs to address the way the city's future development is planned, provide support to tackle social isolation and enable connections within and between communities.

## The action needed

In the renewal of Edinburgh's Festivals and tourism economy post Covid, Scottish Government and City of Edinburgh Council should ensure that any public funding is **conditional on delivery of actions to promote inclusion and equality in the city.**

In addition to supporting Fair Work, festival programmes and tourist attractions must **improve affordability and access for people in all parts of the city, including schools.**

City of Edinburgh Council should ensure planning and design of housing, amenity, employment and services addresses the need for quality spaces, green space, support, activities and opportunities where people live. We support [Edinburgh Climate Commission's](#) call for placing the **20-minute walking (or 'pram pushing') distance principle at the heart of designing all neighbourhoods in Edinburgh.**

Starting with Edinburgh as a test site, Scottish Government should **extend eligibility for concessionary travel** to under 25s and to unpaid carers. This is the next step towards our ambition by the end of this decade, that a fleet of low carbon Lothian Buses carries all passengers at no or very low cost.

Edinburgh Partnership members should collaborate with other partners to provide 'single gateway' **easy access to free and concessionary travel**, simplifying highly fragmented schemes already available via schools, employability programmes and Job Centres.

Edinburgh Partnership members should combine resources to develop a **zero-interest loan scheme** to allow low-income passengers to buy long-term travel passes and thus benefit from the lowest fares.

Lothian Buses should **commit to listening to the voice of low-income passengers in the city**, and ensure routes and timetables adapt to enable people from all communities to access work locations – including early shifts and night-time economy jobs - and participate in the life of the city.

City of Edinburgh Council should work with city partners including specialist third sector organisations like People Know How to improve affordability, availability of broadband, and digital equipment, and to **promote digital inclusion** and skills. At the same time, they must ensure people can speak to someone on the phone or face to face when that is what they need or prefer.

There is a challenge for Edinburgh residents too: we call on citizens **not to let go of the connections they have made**, to continue to reach out to each other, to engage within their own and other communities across the city whether formally as volunteers or mentors, or informally as good neighbours.

#### **WHAT WORKS: Low Income Families Together**

*Established in November 2017, Low Income Families Together (LIFT) is a support and advocacy project based in the Muirhouse Millennium Centre in the north of Edinburgh. It provides an integrated, specialist advisory service covering issues such as housing, benefits and debt advice, linking and enabling progress to relevant services and skills training for employability.*

*Through one-to-one and group support, LIFT seeks to develop a stable and positive environment for families and the community through encouraging peer interaction and tackling social isolation. As well as practical support, such as financial budgeting, LIFT staff and volunteers offer emotional support to increase the confidence, wellbeing and self-esteem of people.*

*LIFT provides immediate help in crisis but also sticks with families as long as support is needed. Support is personalised, holistic and enables people to build confidence to take control of their life and contribute to their community.*

*“My experience as an employee with a recognised mental health disability and nearing retirement age has been one of not feeling valued enough or understood, to be considered and supported for advancement up the career ladder. This mindset needs to change. We are all human and we all have problems.”*

**Denise List**, EndPovertyEdinburgh

*“I have serious concerns about young people and men who are at risk of suicide since Covid restrictions came into force. This has to be highlighted, and we need to do more to reach out and help people connect to mental health support”*

**Betty Stevenson**,

Edinburgh Poverty Commission member

### The challenge Edinburgh faces

Scotland has long held the shameful position of the sick man of Europe, with some of the widest health inequalities. There is clear evidence that poverty and wider income inequalities, combined with planning decisions grouping low income households together in poor quality social housing drives this unenviable reputation. Multiple public health initiatives have failed to deliver any sustained narrowing of the gap because we have not effectively addressed the underlying determinants.

Edinburgh shows higher than average levels of health and wellbeing compared with Scotland, but health inequalities are very wide, reflecting inequalities in income, wealth and power. Citizens in the most deprived areas of the city experience significantly poorer physical health, higher incidence of poor mental health and higher levels of premature mortality than those in better-off parts of the city. A boy born in New Town West can expect to live on average 21.4 years longer than one born in Greendykes/Niddrie Mains.<sup>13</sup>

Through all our work, we have heard that poverty takes an intolerable toll on people’s mental health. Great hardship is caused by a combination of poor material circumstances and the way people in poverty are often treated. We know from Scottish Government data that you are three times more likely to have below average wellbeing in the most deprived areas compared to the least and at GP practices like Craigmillar Medical Group and Muirhouse Medical Centre, poor mental health is the predominant feature in half of all consultations.

Even before the pandemic, our health services were insufficient alone and not equipped to address the root causes of significant health inequalities in the city. People living in deprived areas experience longer

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<sup>13</sup> Sources for all data referenced in this section are available in the Evidence paper that accompanies this report.

waiting times, shorter appointments and lower empowerment, while GPs in practices in deprived areas experience higher levels of stress.

By mid-September, a total of 2,150 positive cases of the virus had occurred in Edinburgh and sadly 429 deaths had been registered. The virus has shone a very bright light on pre-existing inequalities and injustices. The most socio-economically deprived have been and continue to be more likely to die. Between March and September, people in the most deprived areas in Scotland were just over twice as likely to die with Covid than those living in the least deprived areas. There is also evidence of increased risks of serious illness due to COVID-19 in those of South Asian origin, with a two-fold increase in risk of needing critical care or dying within 28 days of a positive test. There is also evidence of an increased risk of hospitalisation among Scots of Black, Caribbean or African ethnicity. It is estimated that half of excess Covid mortality in black and ethnic minority populations is accounted for by poverty. In addition, the largest rise in excess mortality for non-Covid deaths occurred in the most deprived areas. Inequality by this measure was 30% higher than average for the previous five years. Those in the lowest paid jobs have been the least likely to work from home during the pandemic and consequently most at risk of infection.

At the most basic level, an estimated 10,000 adults in Edinburgh reported 'running out of food' at least once in the past 12 months because of a lack of money. Since Covid the efforts to provide food for people, initially assumed to be primarily for those self-isolating, has uncovered a much larger number of people experiencing food insecurity. To a very large degree, this is a symptom of falling incomes, rising costs and vulnerability of support networks which needs to be addressed upstream. In our interim report we highlighted the large number of organisations who had stepped in and shifted their purpose to ensure food was reaching those in need. Over the lockdown, significant collaboration between the Council, EVOC, and a wide range of voluntary organisations developed a systematic approach to food provision

We know Covid has exacerbated anxiety and depression and the Royal College of Psychiatrists predicts the impact could widen mental health inequalities for a generation. Our interim report highlighted the impacts of Covid on mental health including bereavement, increased numbers of people in circumstances causing trauma and stress and intensified impacts. We have heard particularly the concern for young people in our communities and increasing risk of suicide. We welcome [Thrive Edinburgh's](#) focus on mental health and recognise more than ever the need for city partners to get behind a holistic approach to improving mental health and wellbeing.

Covid has shown more clearly than ever the causal link between poverty, ill health and premature death. Its economic impacts are very likely to result in many more people becoming unemployed and living on much reduced incomes. Support and services everywhere will need to respond as we expect to see a rising tide of poverty.

The effects of the virus are likely to be long lasting with or without a second wave in the winter, reflected in a long tail of physical and mental illness for many and the lasting impact of trauma. Some services have been transformed during the pandemic, including through a welcome enhanced recognition of the importance of flexible, holistic community-based services and a greater emphasis on digital service provision. The effects on people in poverty and wider equalities groups of such service transformation needs to be assessed.

The impact of Covid in care homes has posed urgent and fundamental questions about the way in which we look after our old and vulnerable people. We have allowed a fragmented system, which essentially aims to mitigate decline, to fail in shocking measure. We welcome the recent announcement of a review of social care and consideration of a National Care Service. This review needs to be of the same scale and level of ambition as the Independent Care Review if we are to appropriately value old and vulnerable people within our communities.

To end poverty in the city, Edinburgh needs to tackle structural issues impacting on health inequalities and redesign services, support and systems of care to enable wellbeing, from the earliest years through to old age.

## The action needed

Fundamentally **we must address the preceding actions in this report** in order to make a clear and significant impact on the health and wellbeing of low-income citizens and reduce health inequalities.

City of Edinburgh Council, EVOC and local organisations must **continue to fund, co-ordinate and operate services to provide quality fresh food to citizens who experience food insecurity**, avoiding a return to reliance on food banks. Our call to improve income security is key to replacing the need for food provision, combined with action to develop place-based approaches to bring together healthy eating, sustainability and community development.

The Edinburgh Partnership needs to invest and work with local organisations alongside primary care teams in order to provide community-based supports and activities which **enable positive wellbeing and enable people living with long term health conditions to self-manage with peer and specialist support and to live well in their communities**. This could helpfully be linked to the creation of a network of community treatment centres to manage conditions and community health and wellbeing services supporting children and young people, announced in the recent Programme for Government.

The city will need to make a significant and sustained effort to improve mental health, responding both to the impact of recent trauma and the underlying causes of mental health inequalities. **The Edinburgh Partnership and employers must invest in early intervention, first aid and holistic approaches**. Awareness

raising and **basic training can enable citizens to be confident in peer support and first level responding** carrying forward the empathy and reaching out to others they have already shown.

**NHS Lothian should review service transformation to ensure renewal has a sharp focus on addressing health inequalities**, maintaining face to face contact where appropriate to establish the trust needed to identify wider issues beyond immediate presentation and deal with medical complexity.

We welcome the announcement of the Scottish Government review of social care and consideration of a National Care Service. In the city's response to that review **we should ensure that investment to support disabled adults, older people and carers is rooted in organisations which are strongly connected to the communities they serve.**



*Edinburgh Poverty Commission members in discussion  
(December 2019)*

# Achieving real change

## Passing the baton: End Poverty Edinburgh

This report marks the end of the work of this Edinburgh Poverty Commission, but only the beginning of a movement that needs to take root to create an Edinburgh without poverty.

The final act of this commission is to pass on the baton to those who will act to make the changes we have set out in this report, and to those who will hold the city to account for delivering those changes.

The Commission has been working hard to develop a new network provisionally named **End Poverty Edinburgh**, who will carry on the work we have started. This is a group of Edinburgh citizens we have met during our inquiry, who have expressed their desire and commitment to be a part of the change their city needs to make. Some members have experience of living in poverty, others see the impact of poverty directly through their work and others are allies who care and want to see justice for their fellow citizens.

We believe this group, independently funded and working without oversight from any Edinburgh institution, represents the start of a new citizen-led movement to end poverty in Edinburgh, which will build in force as they are joined by allies from all parts of the city. We are passing the baton to them to:

- **Continue to raise awareness and understanding of the experience of poverty in Scotland's capital city – as real, costly, damaging but also something that can be solved**
- **Influence decisions that are made about how the city works and how institutions should co-design and deliver services, and**
- **Hold the city to account for delivering actions to end poverty in Edinburgh.**

### Commitment, starting now

This report describes a big ambition and a large number of discrete actions that need to be delivered in this city. As a Commission we are under no illusions about the scale of the challenge we have set out, and our expectation is not that every action in this report can be delivered in full on day one. We are also clear, though, that the city must now act on the ambition invested in setting up this Commission and that the first year following publication of this report must be one of real commitment and progress

We know and fully recognise that the economic and public health risks facing us bring with them serious financial challenges for all sectors in the city. We are also clear that the next year is a period of change which will to a great degree shape Edinburgh's new ways of working for the next decade.

With these thoughts in mind, we expect:

- **The first twelve months following publication of this report to be a period of implementation and planning** - delivering those actions which can be implemented immediately and planning of those actions which need further development. In particular, we expect:
  - All city partners to make a public commitment to end poverty in Edinburgh by 2030, and to delivery of the four core targets set out in this report.
  - City of Edinburgh Council and Edinburgh Partnership to meet with the new End Poverty Edinburgh citizen group to agree ways of working together and define new opportunities for citizens to co-design and influence change in the city.
  - City of Edinburgh Council and Edinburgh Partnership to publish detailed plans setting out how they intend to respond to all the calls for action in this report.
  - City of Edinburgh Council and Edinburgh Partnership to include annual reporting on progress towards delivery of these actions within the [Local Child Poverty Action Reports](#) they are already required to produce. In line with latest Scottish Government guidance, these reports should focus on actions to end poverty for all ages, and all 7 of the action areas described in this report, not only those focused-on poverty as it is experienced by children.
  - The Scottish Government to commit to work with City of Edinburgh Council and other city partners to agree the additional investment, in particular to drive actions on housing and homelessness, needed in the city. As our second largest and fastest growing city it is clear that Scotland cannot meet its ambitions for tackling poverty without support for additional focused action in Edinburgh.
  - All Edinburgh Partnership member organisations should commit, starting within the next budget cycle, to publish an annual statement on the impact they expect their budget decisions to have on the lives and experiences of people in poverty in Edinburgh.
  - Edinburgh Partnership to use its convening powers to bring together city partners including business, private schools, independent funders and philanthropists in order to marshal all the resources of the city to grow a new End Poverty Edinburgh Fund. The purpose of this fund should be to resource innovation in support of the actions described in this report.
  
- **The period 2022 to 2024 to be one of delivery and acceleration of progress**, in which Edinburgh makes a substantial and evidenced contribution to meeting the Scottish Government’s interim targets for reduction of Child Poverty, as set out in the [Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan](#).
  
- **The period 2025 to 2030 to be one of sustained progress and measurable impact**. It is in this period that we expect to see all the actions set out in this report in place, meeting their objectives, and delivering all four of the targets described earlier in this report. By delivering on these actions we are confident that Edinburgh can be, by 2030, a city in which:



- **No one feels stigmatised, abandoned, or treated with less respect by the city as a result of their income or their wealth**
- **No one has to go without the basic essentials they need to eat, keep clean and stay warm and dry.**
- **Fewer than one in ten children and fewer than one in ten adults are living in relative poverty at any given time, and**
- **No-one lives in persistent poverty.**

# A big thank you

The past 18 months have represented, we think, the largest single inquiry on the experiences, causes, and solutions to poverty ever conducted in any local authority area in Scotland. During the course of this inquiry we have heard from over 1,000 participants, met or heard from over 70 organisations, held over 100 evidence sessions, and published 7 reports or research papers.

None of this could have taken place without the enthusiastic support of the people of Edinburgh who have come together to make this Commission work. In closing this report we want to give **a big thank you** to the many individuals too numerous to count who have by turn inspired, encouraged, disseminated and followed the Commission's journey. Whatever improvements are made in Edinburgh as a response to this report, they will happen because of you and the clarity with which you have articulated the changes you need to see.

We want to offer our thanks to the **City of Edinburgh Council**, and the **Edinburgh Partnership** for convening the Commission and for the resources and support that have made this work possible. In particular we would like to thank elected members from all parties and senior officials from the Council and the Partnership for their openness, honesty, and willingness to engage positively with the challenging questions this Commission has posed.

We would like to thank the **Scottish Government**, and **Joseph Rowntree Foundation** for their support in resourcing the programmes of citizen research and engagement which have been critical to the work of this Commission. Huge thanks also to our partners at **Poverty Alliance** and the **Scottish Poverty and Inequality Research Unit** for their knowledge, creativity and commitment in meeting those research briefs.

And a big thank you too to all our contributors, to all the hosts of our Commission meetings, to all the projects who welcomed us and share their insights with us, and to all the organisations who supported our communications, contributed guest blogs for the Commission's [website](#) and answered the Commission's calls for evidence, including:

Bethany Christian Trust	Link Living
Blackwood Housing	Lothian Deprivation Interest Group
Business in the Community Scotland	Low Income Families Together (LIFT)
Capital City Partnership	Maximise!
Carnegie UK Trust	Mind the Craic
Changeworks	Minority Ethnic Carers of People Project
Citadel Youth Centre	Moredun Multis Residents Group
Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal PMO	Muirhouse Healthy Living Centre
Close the Gap	Multicultural Family Base
Community Help and Advice Initiative (CHAI)	My Gracemount
Community One Stop Shop	National Association of Welfare Rights Advisors

Community Renewal  
Craigenlinny Early Years Centre  
Crewe Medical Centre  
Cyrenians  
DWP  
Edinburgh Association of Community Councils  
Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce  
Edinburgh City Youth Cafe  
Edinburgh College  
  
Edinburgh College Students' Association  
Edinburgh Evening News  
Edinburgh School Uniform Bank  
Edinburgh Trust  
Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations' Council  
Enable Scotland  
Firhill Community Council  
Foundation Scotland  
Foursquare Scotland (Stopover Hostel)  
Fresh Start  
Gilmerton Community Centre  
Granton information Centre  
Grassmarket Community Project  
Hibs Community Cook Club  
Homelink Family Support  
Homestart  
Invisible Edinburgh  
Joined Up 4 Jobs  
Liberton High School

Next Step  
NHS Lothian  
North Edinburgh Arts  
The 1in5 project  
Police Scotland  
Port of Leith Housing Association  
Presence In Action Collective  
Preston Street Primary  
Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal  
Regional Enterprise Council  
Professor Sue Ellis, University of Strathclyde  
Professor Susan McVie, University of Edinburgh  
Save the Children  
Scotcash  
Scottish Federation of Housing Associations  
Shelter Scotland  
Social Bite  
Space and Broomhouse Hub  
Streetwork  
The Junction, young people, health & wellbeing  
The Ripple  
Thistle Foundation  
Tron Kirk Foodbank  
Turn2Us  
Tynecastle High School Equity Improvement Group  
Unite Hospitality  
University of Edinburgh  
University of Edinburgh Students Association  
Working Rite

# Appendix – Meet the Commissioners



**Dr Jim McCormick  
(Chair)**

Associate Director for  
Scotland at the Joseph  
Rowntree Foundation



**Cllr Cammy Day  
(Vice Chair)**

Depute Leader of the City of  
Edinburgh Council



**Mary Alexander**

Deputy Regional Secretary  
of Unite the Union



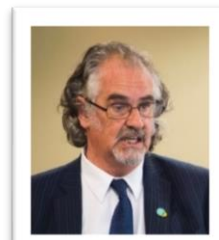
**Diana Noel-Paton**

Former Chief Executive of  
the Thistle Foundation and  
citizen of Edinburgh



**Zoe Ferguson**

Independent analyst and  
citizen of Edinburgh



**Craig Sanderson**

Former Chief Executive of  
Link Housing Association  
and citizen of Edinburgh



**Stephen Kelly**

Headteacher of Liberton  
High School in Edinburgh



**Betty Stevenson**

Convener of Edinburgh  
Tenants Federation and  
citizen of Edinburgh



**Chris Kilkenny**

Community campaigner and  
citizen of Edinburgh



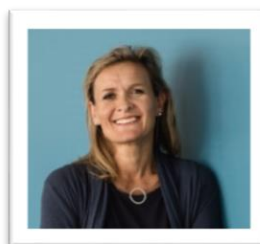
**Prof Carol Tannahill**

Chief Social Policy Adviser to  
the Scottish Government



**Sandy MacDonald**

Head of Corporate  
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**Celia Tennant**

Chief Executive of Inspiring  
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# Edinburgh Poverty Commission

## Contact us



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## THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

### COVID-19 Immediate Support: Alleviating Financial Hardship

#### 1. Executive Summary

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- 1.1 The Scottish Government's initial funding for Covid19 support activities ended in September 2020. On 20 October 2020 the Scottish Government announced that a £30 million package of funding was being made available to local authorities to support people facing financial hardship because of coronavirus. Edinburgh's allocation has been confirmed as £1.36m.
- 1.2 This funding will be primarily used to provide direct financial support through various schemes such as the Scottish Welfare Scheme and other financial support initiatives. It will also be used to reinstate the Council/EVOC coordinated emergency food support pathway that operated efficiently during the first months of the pandemic.
- 1.3 In addition to these immediate support activities and consistent with feedback from the third sector, work is also being planned to engage with partner organisations on future service provision, including tackling food insecurity. This work will align with the Council's response to the Edinburgh Poverty Commission's recent publication.

#### 2. Recommendations

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- 2.1 It is recommended that The Edinburgh Partnership note:
  - the update in this report in relation to the ongoing immediate support activities to address financial hardship associated with COVID-19 and;
  - the Councils intention to engage with the 3<sup>rd</sup> sector on a longer-term strategy to tackle financial hardship in Edinburgh.

#### 3. Main Report

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##### ***Financial Hardship – Immediate Support and Future Actions***

- 3.1 The Scottish Government's initial funding for Covid19 support activities ended in September 2020. On 20 October 2020 the Scottish Government confirmed that a £30 million package of funding was being made available to local authorities to support people facing financial hardship.
- 3.2 Edinburgh's funding was recently confirmed as £1.362m, payable over the period 1 October 2020 to 31 March 2021. This funding is designed to provide support for those in financial crisis or that require immediate food and essentials, relating to Covid and Brexit.
- 3.3 The Scottish Government has emphasised the principles of choice and a cash-first approach, and this is endorsed by Council officers. This approach protects

the dignity of those receiving support and allows for appropriate levels of personal choice and flexibility.

- 3.4 Like earlier initiatives requests for support will be coordinated through the Council's Contact Centre where information will be gathered to establish whether direct financial support is available e.g. Isolation Grant, Crisis Grant etc.
- 3.5 The Crisis Grant is currently receiving a significant increase in applications and this additional funding will enable awards to be made to those most in need and mitigate the drivers of financial hardship e.g. food, fuel poverty etc. Experience and insight from key Council services, aligned with the work of the Poverty Commission, highlights that specific groups are potentially falling outside of, or are unable to access, normal benefits/financial support e.g. those with no recourse to public funding. This budget will be used to support the emergency/crisis needs of this group.
- 3.6 Where direct financial support is not available there is the potential for food deliveries. The Council worked successfully with EVOC throughout the first months of the pandemic to deliver food packages across the city. An initial budget of £300k has been ringfenced to allow the Council and EVOC to reinstate the vulnerable food pathway for Council referrals.
- 3.7 This approach will utilise a third sector hub model, supported by local partners. Food deliveries will be made for several weeks, and citizens will be asked to make contact again if further support is required. This activity is also expected to include emergency food provision for clients presenting through the Council's Emergency Social Care Service.
- 3.8 This approach will be communicated to partner agencies to highlight the established support pathway for people experiencing immediate hardship. This will ensure that appropriate support is targeted, whilst avoiding crossover or duplication of effort and support.
- 3.9 The immediate response work has also shown there is a wide range of Council services which interact, commission or have contracts with the third sector in relation to meeting citizen needs. Feedback from the third sector has highlighted a wish for further engagement with the Council around opportunities to become more sustainably involved in a range of future service provision, including tackling food insecurity. As a result, a concurrent piece of work will be undertaken by the Council's Strategy Team, in conjunction with the third sector, to develop a longer term support and intervention strategy. This will form part of the Council's coordinated response to the recent Poverty Commission report

#### 4. Contacts

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## THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

### Local Outcome Improvement Plan – Progress Update

#### 1. Executive Summary

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- 1.1 The Edinburgh Partnership is required under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 to produce a Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP).
- 1.2 A progress report on the current plan, approved in October 2018, was provided in the last cycle of the Board. This report provides an update on progress in the development of the priorities of the plan through the LOIP Delivery Group. It addresses the partners' approach to recovery planning and the findings from the Poverty Commission, together with existing activity across the city, to avoid duplication, and create distinct action that adds value to the overall strategic approach.

#### 2. Recommendations

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- 2.1 The Board is recommended to:
  - i. note, review and discuss the progress made in developing the LOIP, and delivering LOIP priorities, as set out in this report;
  - ii. provide the LOIP Delivery Group with the mandate to progress activity in relation to the review of commissioning, funding and service provision with a view to establishing clear aims and co-ordination of income maximisation services in Edinburgh;
  - iii. agree that a structured workshop is held for the Board to assist in identifying actions in relation to priority 3:
  - iv. agree the approach for the further development of LOIP, and the intention to accelerate delivery of LOIP priorities through a strengthened delivery plan;
  - v. recognise the need for the LOIP to incorporate actions resulting from the Edinburgh Poverty Commission recommendations, after Board consideration of those recommendations.

#### 3. Main Report

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- 3.1 The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 requires the Partnership to publish a Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP). This community plan sets out a shared vision for the city, identifying the priorities that community planning partners, by working together, will seek to deliver.
- 3.2 The Board in approving its approach to the plan, agreed that it should focus on addressing poverty and inequality in the city. This was acknowledged as the

greatest challenge for the city and provided the Partnership with a critical role in ensuring that intractable issues, which could only be addressed through collaboration, could be tackled. In doing this, the role of the LOIP within the existing complex policy and strategy framework of the city was recognised, viewing the plan, not as a duplication or reiteration of this activity, but giving it a distinct yet interconnected place within this wider landscape.

- 3.3 This approach to identifying gaps and opportunities, where the Edinburgh Partnership through its leadership role can make a difference, has informed the work of the LOIP Delivery Group. On that basis, development work has been undertaken across the three priority workstreams of: enough money to live on; access to work, learning and training opportunities; and a good place to live.
- 3.4 In pursuit of this work, the LOIP Delivery Group set up four working groups, one for each priority, together with a fourth to identify the common strategic enablers needed for effective delivery to be realised. Key to the consideration of these groups was gaining an understanding of the current landscape to ensure any proposed actions met the Board's requirements, together with the findings from the Poverty Commission and partners' recovery planning, both of which will shape the landscape in the city moving forwards. This process allowed for the identification of key actions, which could either benefit from additional collaborative intervention, or which are gaps in current provision, and to recognise areas of work that were already underway, and which therefore did not require new intervention or collaboration. Progress on the development of each of the three priority workstreams is summarised below.

- **Priority 1 – Enough money to live on**

- 3.5 The need for the work outlined in the Community Plan is greater now than it was in 2018. The Edinburgh Poverty Commission stressed the importance of income security as an essential component of action to End Poverty in Edinburgh. The Commission estimated that up to £80 million of social security benefits remained unclaimed in 2018. Over 80,000 of Edinburgh's residents live on incomes below the UK poverty threshold. The COVID-19 pandemic has seen unemployment more than double in the city and food banks have never been busier.
- 3.6 A mapping exercise is underway to capture the range of income maximisation services across the city. Although this mapping is ongoing, Appendix 1 is indicative of current provision. It is clear that an extensive range of services are offered but not all services are 'holistic'. There is some access to all the general services listed but this varies depending on location and the service provider working in the neighbourhood or with a particular population group. There are gaps in provision and there is no mechanism for co-ordinating services.
- 3.7 There are excellent examples of collaboration and good practice (e.g. The Action Group Advice Service) and a few agencies have achieved accreditation to



the Scottish National Standards for Information and Advice Providers. The Pupil Equity Fund is funding provision to Maximise! in all city schools. The holistic nature of Maximise! -- intense family support, income maximisation and support to employment or training -- means that it can provide a comprehensive service for families with whom it engages. But services for the general adult population are far less co-ordinated. There is no clear common leadership or direction and different agencies are, effectively, competing with one another or duplicating services. Funding for income maximisation services is often time-limited and public sector budgets are fragmented which makes commission and co-ordination challenging.

- 3.8 A new model for income maximisation services is required. The LOIP Delivery Group believes that a focused programme of service improvement can help achieve this change. Income maximisation services need to be focused on the needs of service users, co-ordinated, equitable, embedded in the places that serve populations in need, holistic, and deliver the highest service standards. This service improvement needs strong support from the Partnership Board and buy-in from all service partners.
- 3.9 The LOIP Delivery Group proposes the following to progress this priority:
- **Public service partners should consider conducting a thorough, systematic review of commissioning, funding and service provision with a view to establishing clear aims and co-ordination of income maximisation services in Edinburgh.** There is no shared aim or plan for income maximisation services provided by or funded by public sector partners. Clear goals and strong leadership are required. A review of funding and commissioning is needed so that services can be organised and established where people need them and the needs of service users the primary focus of service design. A new mandate is required so that those charged with leading this work have the authority across partners to deliver the change that is required. The Edinburgh Partnership Board should provide the clear mandate for this work to progress and ask the LOIP Delivery Group to develop the relevant scope with partners and manage the review process on its behalf.
  - **Service quality.** There should be an expectation of the same access to and quality of service in South Queensferry and Southhouse. The Scottish National Standards for Information and Advice Providers are a benchmark that service providers should be achieving – with appropriate support. Services should be provided proportionate to need but any service user should be getting the same high quality support. There should be lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic: telephone and online services can be part of a blended model of income maximisation service provision but face-to-face support is always going to be necessary for some people.



- **Agreement of Edinburgh principles for income maximisation services.** Holistic services with access to specialist knowledge e.g. DWP appeals, as required, is the best approach. These principles will be agreed with partners (and will build on evidence such as the University of Edinburgh’s review of Maximise!) and will include:
  - Trauma informed services
  - Poverty proofed services
  - Multi-disciplinary teams
  - Relationships with service users based on trust and compassion
  - Embedded in services or communities where need is greatest

3.10 **Other 2021-22 priorities.** Child poverty with a focus on services for pregnant women and parents of children under five years old and in nurseries and schools. It is imperative that uptake of the new Scottish Child Payment<sup>1</sup> is maximised. Work is already underway to ensure that the Financial Inclusion Pathway is embedded in midwives’ and health visitors’ practice. Sustainable funding for Maximise! in schools is also essential.

3.11 In response to Covid 19:

- Income maximisation services for people who have mental health issues is a need that has escalated in recent months. Although two new workers have been funded to work with people across who present to services initially with mental health issues, demand for these services is outstripping supply.
- The number of homeless families in the city has increased markedly during the pandemic. There needs to be a review to ensure these families are receiving appropriate income maximisation support.
- There are insufficient services in the city to support people from ethnic minority communities.

3.12 **Affordable Credit:** Affordable credit is identified by the Edinburgh Poverty Commission as an essential component of an income maximisation strategy. There needs to be a focus on ensuring that affordable credit as part of enough money to live on.

- **Priority 2 – Access to work, learning and training opportunities**

3.12 As part of the Scottish Government’s Economic Strategy, a Fair Work Convention was established with a Fair Work Action Plan launched in 2019. This overarching framework provides much of the infrastructure and direction to employers and services to make Scotland a better place to work and live by

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<sup>1</sup> From the November 2020, low-income families with a child under six are able to apply for £10 per child, per week - equivalent to £520 per year. The payment will commence from February 2021. There are no limits on the number of eligible children supported by Scottish Child Payment.

2025. At the heart of this is the recognition that a successful approach will require more integration and alignment of support and services. This is further echoed in the recently published Edinburgh Poverty Commission report. Edinburgh has worked to adopt and embed this approach with much success already. Overseen by a Job Strategy Group, co-production and co-design are at the centre of service development, together with collaborative working to add value and avoid duplication.

- 3.13 With Universal Credit claimant counts tripling to 18,000 and youth unemployment rapidly increasing due to COVID impacts, there is ever more need for a coordinated response. As illustrated in the mapping diagram (see appendix 2), there is a robust service offer from multiple funders for Edinburgh citizens with an evidence-based focus on client groups when required. It is this approach that allows the confidence to know where there is a need for additional Edinburgh Partnership support.
- 3.14 From careful labour market analysis and integration of [Regional Skills Assessments](#) | [Skills Development Scotland](#) data, and in consultation with stakeholders, the action to deliver LOIP priority 2 is indicated in the recommendations (for approval by the Board) below:

- **Support the depth and breadth of work under the refreshed 'Edinburgh Guarantee for All' (EGFA), with ambassador support and stakeholder commitments**
  - 300 apprenticeship commitment across the Edinburgh Partnership with prioritised groups given an elevated opportunity
  - Adopt and promote EGFA branding in an ambassador role
  - Make use of the 'pledge what you can' approach
  - Ensure co-ordination between providers of newly funded employment and training opportunities for 16-25 years, including programmes like Kickstart, Pre Apprenticeship Programmes, Local Authority Employability Fund, and the Youth Guarantee

- 3.15 Potential success measures will be an improvement of the School Leaver Destination report and Participation Measurement, together with a 50% decrease in Universal Claimant numbers (currently 18,000) by 2023/24. These actions also link to the strategic aim of the Poverty Commission of eradicating poverty by 2030.

- **Improve support and outcomes of Care Experienced young people to be able to access work, learning, and training pathways**
  - Adopt the Police Scotland Care Experienced Charter



- Embed recommendations of the Independent Care Review Promise across Partners
  - Continue to deliver the work of the 'Hub for Success' project to ensure care experienced students can access colleges and universities from schools : [HUB for SUCCESS | Care experience support for higher education](#)
- 3.16 A potential success measure will be a 20% improvement of the number of young people entering education, training or work, measured by Wider Access Participation in FE/HE data, and tracking of contracted and affiliated employability services already in place with links to the Edinburgh Guarantee for All. This activity links to the Poverty Commission findings and the Child Poverty Action Plan outcomes of better access to sustainable opportunities.
- **Improve outcomes for BAME citizens, including better access to employment through leadership, senior visibility, and high-ranking positive role models**
    - Support the development of internship and/or work experience programmes
    - Mentoring programme for visibility, role models and future leaders
    - Champion diversity recruitment training to increase employment outcomes
    - Increase of BAME citizens employed in senior positions in partner organisations
    - Links to Scottish Parliament spotlight on BAME Women in employment, led on by Presiding Officer Linda Fabiana MSP with links to employers tracking data
- 3.17 Success in this area will be measured through a 20% increase in supported BAME citizens to a sustained positive destination, tracked through current contracted and affiliated services.
- **Develop improved coordination of support for prison leavers, bringing together services for a more joined up approach with clearer pathways**
    - Resource for central co-ordinator to partner with Scottish Prison Service to develop pathways for people leaving prison
- 3.18 Potential success measures will be through evidence of employability provision being embedded in Community Sentences and a reduction in reoffending rates due to sustainable employment.
- **Priority 3 – A good place to live**
- 3.19 In terms of 'a good place to live' the partners continue to make progress delivering this priority. Appendix 3 provides some scene setting in terms of the



overall landscape and some of the key areas of progress at a strategic level are as follows:

- **City Plan 2030 and City Mobility** – These projects are now both in their final stages of preparation and are both due to be presented to the Council for consideration early in the new year.
- **Housebuilding Programme** – The Council continues to work with partner providers to deliver on the 20,000 affordable homes over 10 years. The availability and price of land continues to be one of the biggest challenges in this regard and the availability of subsidy to deliver ‘social rented’ housing is also a factor. Notwithstanding these issues the interim target of 10,000 homes by 2022 looks achievable and each year the rate of approvals and completions improves.
- **Place Based Opportunities Board** – The Board continues to meet and discuss public sector land strategy. There are now sites under consideration that are likely to be transferred amongst partners rather than being offered on the open market.
- **Transport Infrastructure** – Following a thorough review of the business case, the Tram project is now back underway, and the Council has restated its commitment to the project. Numerous other transport and active travel projects are also being rolled out across the city.
- **West Edinburgh Strategy** – This project seeks to establish a spatial strategy for inclusive growth in West Edinburgh and is being taken forward by the Scottish Government, the Council, Scottish Enterprise and Scottish Futures Trust with support from Transport Scotland and Skills Development Scotland. The Phase 1 Findings (Socio-Economic Baseline and High-Level Options) have been published and Phase 2 of the project, to develop a new vision for West Edinburgh is now underway with a draft vision due in January 2021.
- **BioQuarter** – The partnership is preparing an outline business case for the project and subject to subsequently receiving approval from each of the partners, will start the procurement process to secure a private sector partner to build and operate the commercial elements of the life sciences led quarter.
- **Mixed-use Development: Granton, Fountainbridge, Meadowbank, Powderhall** – All of the Council’s strategic mixed-use development sites are progressing well through project planning and procurement stages. Fountainbridge is in the final stages of procuring a development partner and the Meadowbank project has recently had a revised masterplan granted planning permission. The Granton Waterfront project is due to report its outline business case for regeneration early next year. The project is



significant in scale and a partnership approach is being taken. It will likely be a key area for further collaboration as the project develops. In all of these projects extra effort is being taken to put the community at the centre of things and to explore community wealth building opportunities.

- 3.20 This is just a high-level view of some of the activity taking place across the city and the landscape is very busy and sometimes confusing. There are still gaps and more work is required to co-ordinate partner activity and collaborate with local communities.
- 3.21 The ask from local communities has been well articulated in work such as 'Mind the Craic' and most recently the work of the Poverty Commission which has now presented its call to action. In this regard, there have also been some very specific pieces of work that have been taken forward recently, that speak more to the local dimension.

- **Portland Street** – The response to the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a concerted drive across the partnership to engage and accommodate the city's homeless, roofless and hard to reach communities utilising hotel accommodation, with residents supported by comprehensive welfare packages and in-reach services. This approach delivered impressive results, ensuring those with multiple complex needs were safeguarded and, in some cases, engaged positively with services for the first time. Building upon these foundations, the Portland Street project is designed to deliver a whole systems approach which will 'lower the bar' to access to treatment and support services, build resilience and support those with multiple complex needs in a holistic manner. Rather than providing yet another temporary accommodation facility, this approach will afford stepping-stone accommodation for people who would otherwise never be capable of having and sustaining their own tenancy
- **Wester Hailes Local Place Plan** – Recent changes in Planning legislation will once enacted allow communities to prepare their own spatial plans for the area which will be material considerations in development Local Development Plans. Wester Hailes is the first community in Edinburgh to start with the preparation of such a plan and an interim report has now been produced

[https://issuu.com/whalearts/docs/v1.0\\_lppwh\\_final\\_230720\\_pages\\_compressed-compressed](https://issuu.com/whalearts/docs/v1.0_lppwh_final_230720_pages_compressed-compressed)

The Place Standard was a useful tool in helping the community to identify the key issues they wanted to see addressed and discussion at the Delivery Group has identified this as a more nuanced approach to understanding local needs compared with a 20 minute neighbourhood approach which, while useful, does not tell the whole story.





- **Maximise** – Maximise is also included under this priority measure given its holistic and cross cutting approach (see Appendix 4).

3.22 There are clearly top-down and ground-up approaches being taken in this priority area. While there is a lot of activity in this area, these two elements are not necessarily meeting in the middle and there may be a role for the Partnership in this regard. While there are no specific asks of the Board at this stage the Delivery Group have agreed that a structured workshop would be helpful in identifying the role of the Partnership in relation to this priority. This would involve Board members and would focus on identifying where most value can be added.

### **Next Steps**

3.23 Whilst noting that each priority workstream is at a different stage of development and delivery, the ambition of the next phase of LOIP delivery is to accelerate progress, especially in light of the Covid 19 Pandemic impacts on the city region economy, and the findings of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission. In this regard, partner engagement and responsibility for delivery will be expanded through three LOIP delivery sub groups and strengthened delivery plans, building on original commitments within the LOIP. New actions will also be accompanied by new performance measures, building on the 10 year measures agreed in the LOIP. In delivering this, the concerns identified in the Best Value Assurance report, covered separately on this agenda, will be addressed.

3.24 In addition to the existing and new the LOIP priority actions, as noted above, work is ongoing to identify a range of important strategic enablers, to assist with accelerated delivery ambitions. The Board is asked to note this activity and to expect further action to progress work in the report in March 2020. The enablers will relate to the Board's ambition to change the way of working, through leadership, collaboration, prevention, and joint resourcing.

## **4. Contact**

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**OFFICIAL**

### North West

Welfare Advice in General Practices  
Mental Health Hubs  
Recovery Hubs  
Maximise! School Maximise!  
Employability  
CEC Housing  
CEC Advice Shop

### South West

Welfare Advice in General Practices  
Mental Health Hubs  
Recovery Hubs  
Maximise! School Maximise!  
Employability  
CEC Housing  
Prospect  
South West  
Employability  
Project  
CEC Advice Shoo

### North East

Welfare Advice in General Practices  
Mental Health Hubs  
Ripple/Leith CTC – GIC  
Recovery Hubs  
Mental Health Hubs  
Maximise! School  
CEC Housing  
POLHA  
GIC

### South East

Welfare Advice in General Practices  
Mental Health Hubs  
Recovery Hubs  
Mental Health Hubs  
Maximise! School Maximise!  
Employability  
CEC Housing  
CEC Advice Shop



Organisations in italics provide a holistic service. CEC – City of Edinburgh Council, PEF – Pupil Equity Fund, IRES – Integrated Regional Employability and Skills in City Region Deal, IFSS – Intensive Family Support Service as part of IRES, NHS – NHS Lothian, HSCP – Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership, SG CPF – Scottish Government Child Poverty Funding)



Funder listed in brackets

NOLB – No One Left Behind Scot Govt. DWP – Department of Work and Pensions, SDS – Skills Development Scotland, CEC – City of Edinburgh Council, PEF – Pupil Equity Fund, IR – Integrated Regional Employability and Skills in City Region Deal, IFSS – Intensive Family Support Service as part of IRES, NHS – National Health Service

**Job Portals**

- Covid 19 Jobs Portal
- SDS Jobs Hub + My WoW
- DYW Guarantee Jobs Portal
- FUSE Jobs Portal
- Fort Kinnaird Jobs Portal
- Joined up for Jobs website
- Goodmoves
- MyJob Scotland
- S1 Jobs



Appendix 4

**Edinburgh Partnership - Maximise!**

An example of the Edinburgh Partnership coming together is the additional support and development of Maximise!, which addressed many cross-cutting and individual LOIP priorities.

Maximise! is a Family Advice and Support Project delivered in partnership by Children 1st and CHAI (Community Help and Advice Initiative), supported by NHS Lothian, the City of Edinburgh Council and Capital City Partnership. Developed as a grass roots approach, it has grown into an umbrella strategy that can accommodate several complementing strands.

It is rooted in the localities model, building on a place-based approach with community engagement and building community assets at the heart of its success. Achievements include:

- For every £1 invested an additional £39 in social and economic benefits secured
- New funding secured for a Maximise! Early Years' service in localities
- Get Hired project developed to support 20 young people with care experience into work
- Partnership with Maison Bleue and Choices for Change Project with 100 high needs families identified and 7,200 meals provided free between June - August 2020
- £668,000 of overall financial gains for families worked with and supported
- 153 large families (3+ children) supported
- 97 Black and Minority ethnic families supported
- 197 Lone parent families supported
- 77 families supported with housing and tenancy support



## THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

### Locality Improvement Plans

#### 1. Executive Summary

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- 1.1 This report presents the city's four revised Locality Improvements Plans for approval and a summary of next steps.

#### 2. Recommendations

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- 2.1 The Board is recommended to:

- i. Note the delay to present the plans for approval in Summer 2020 due to the COVID-19 global pandemic
- ii. Approve the four revised plans as presented in Appendices 1-4
- iii. Note the work to develop detailed action plans is ongoing and includes alignment of local performance indicators with citywide measures to strengthen the approach to performance monitoring
- iv. Note the work to identify where actions that are no longer in the plans will go is underway and expected to be completed early 2021
- v. Agree to receive a report on the outcome of review of the operational arrangements at a future Board meeting in 2021.

#### 3. Main Report

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##### **Background**

- 3.1 Locality improvement plans are a legislative requirement of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. Edinburgh has 4 plans – South West, South East, North West and North East. The first plans, agreed by the Board in 2017, were produced following an extensive period of community consultation and engagement over two phases.
- 3.2 The plans set out how outcomes will be improved over a five-year period (2017-22) informed by community needs, circumstances and aspirations. Each plan has high-level actions that are set around five priority themes:
- Placemaking
  - Children, young people and families
  - Economy/employability

- Health and wellbeing
  - Community safety
- 3.3 The plans also contain small area plans – these are areas within each locality where communities experience a higher level of poverty and inequality.
- 3.4 Following the Edinburgh Partnership’s review of governance and community planning arrangements in 2018, a new governance framework was agreed. This framework established locality community planning partnerships as the body with responsibility for planning, oversight and accountability of the plans. In each partnership, working arrangements vary with the plans being delivered through a combination of small area working groups, project and/or thematic partnerships.
- 3.5 The first annual progress report of the plans was considered in December 2018. The Board noted that whilst progress had been made, there were a range of challenges associated with the delivery of the plans. A significant key challenge was the need to focus on actions that will tackle poverty and inequality through partnership working. On that basis, the Board remitted the locality community planning partnerships to review the plans, specifically that they be reframed in a way that addresses poverty and inequality.
- 3.6 At their first meetings, the locality community planning partnerships were presented with a stocktake of the existing plans and agreed that refreshed locality profiles be developed to inform a review of the plans. The stocktake identified areas for improvement as follows:
- The size of the existing plans were unwieldy and included actions that were business as usual, which hindered joint working and did not place focus on reducing poverty and inequality
  - Changes to individuals within the working groups presented a challenge to the pace of progress
  - Working groups were not linked up, leading to silo working and the opportunities to address cross-cutting themes were not always identified and progressed
  - There was a need to improve links to other plans and groups to ensure a joined-up approach and reduce duplication
  - The identification of impact measures and attribution presented challenges

### **Revised plans**

- 3.7 In December 2019, the Board agreed the process for reviewing the plans and their operational arrangements, as proposed by the locality community planning partnerships.
- 3.8 The principles for reviewing the plans were that the priorities should:
- Only be able to be addressed through partnership working



- Be thorny issues
- Tackle poverty and inequality

This provided the foundation for the review, with the flexibility to apply a tailored approach based on local circumstances.

- 3.9 The review of the plans started December 2019 and it was intended that the revised plans were presented to the Board in June 2020. Due to the unexpected COVID-19 global pandemic, partners were redeployed to focus on emergency activity, and the review was interrupted. Locality community planning partnerships were reconvened in September 2020, where discussions recommenced on the plans. To ensure that the revised priorities were truly reflective of the current situation, the findings from the Poverty Commission and data modelling the negative impact of COVID-19 have also been used to inform the new plans.
- 3.10 The new plans (appendices 1-4) are now streamlined and focused, with the original circa 500 actions in total reduced to 71 actions. The local thematic priorities are aligned to the priorities in the city's local outcome improvement plan (2018-28) which strengthens the linkages between the community planning strategic planning framework. The plans have combined the small area plans with the locality wide actions, which responds to the needs and aspirations of communities of interest and identity as well as place.

#### **Next steps**

- 3.11 The plans currently contain indicative high-level performance measures which are being aligned to the citywide performance framework (agreed by the Board in 2018). Further work is underway with workstream leads to develop more detailed action plans to support the delivery of the local priorities. These will contain measures that are SMART (Specific, Measurable, Actionable, Relevant, Time-bound) and this will help to illustrate how local delivery is improving citywide outcomes, by demonstrating the cumulative impact of partnership working to tackle poverty and reduce inequalities.
- 3.12 A key concern previously raised by the locality community planning partnerships is what happens to the actions that are no longer included once the plans are reviewed. Where actions are complete, they are not included in the new plans. For the actions that are not complete, some are business as usual and are included in partner service plans. Actions that require partnership activity are being collated across all the previous plans, and these will then be referred to other partner groupings in the city, for inclusion in their own strategic and/or local plans. It is expected that this work will be complete early 2021.
- 3.13 As agreed by the Board in December 2018, there was also to be a review of the operational arrangements. It is proposed that the Board receive a report on the outcome of this at a future date in 2021 when the review is complete.

#### 4. Contact

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# South West Edinburgh Locality Improvement Plan 2017-2022

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## Introduction

### Welcome from the South West Locality Community Planning Partnership

The South West Locality Improvement Plan sets out the rationale for community planning arrangements in South West Edinburgh: who we are, how we work together, the key priorities and why they are important.

This revised plan builds on the current successes of the first edition launched in 2017. The plan will help to achieve better outcomes for our communities by addressing local priorities. It focuses on people's needs and promotes our work to reduce social and economic inequalities.

This plan is an agreement between the communities of the South West and local service providers that sets out how we work together to target our resources in the most effective way and highlights how we will review and report on progress, allowing us to realign priorities as needed.

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 early 2020, we decided 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. The plan was streamlined to focus on less priorities and only those that will truly tackle poverty and inequality, identified as thorny issues in our communities and can only be achieved through partnership working.

During that time of revision, the world was faced with a global pandemic. COVID-19 has negatively impacted all communities in different ways, through loss of income and jobs, lack of opportunities for young people, increased health inequalities and exacerbated the poverty gap that was already apparent in South West Edinburgh.

The priorities in this plan have now been considered alongside what we now so far about how this pandemic has affected our communities. We have taken data

from partners which shows what the city's recovery must be focussed on and aligned our priorities to where we feel we can truly achieve better outcomes for the citizens of South West Edinburgh.

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

Members of the South West Locality Community Planning Partnership are:

- The City of Edinburgh Council
- Police Scotland
- NHS Lothian
- Health and Social Care Partnership
- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
- Skills Development Scotland
- Third Sector
- Armed Forces
- Edinburgh College
- Neighbourhood Network (one representative from each Network)



## Context

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 revised priorities in this plan are aligned to these three

themes and shown in the later sections of this document.

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.

The priorities have then been reconsidered against the backdrop of COVID-19. Data has been used to understand what the short, medium- and long-term negative impacts of this pandemic will be, and how this will affect the lives of people living in South West Edinburgh. We know that COVID-19 has intensified health inequalities i.e. those living in poverty are more likely to be at risk due to disproportionate numbers living with conditions such as type 2 diabetes, COPD and obesity. There are many people who have a severe drop or loss of income, and those in low paid jobs have been impacted most. We also know that opportunities for work, learning and upskilling for young people will be harder to realise as we move to economic recovery.

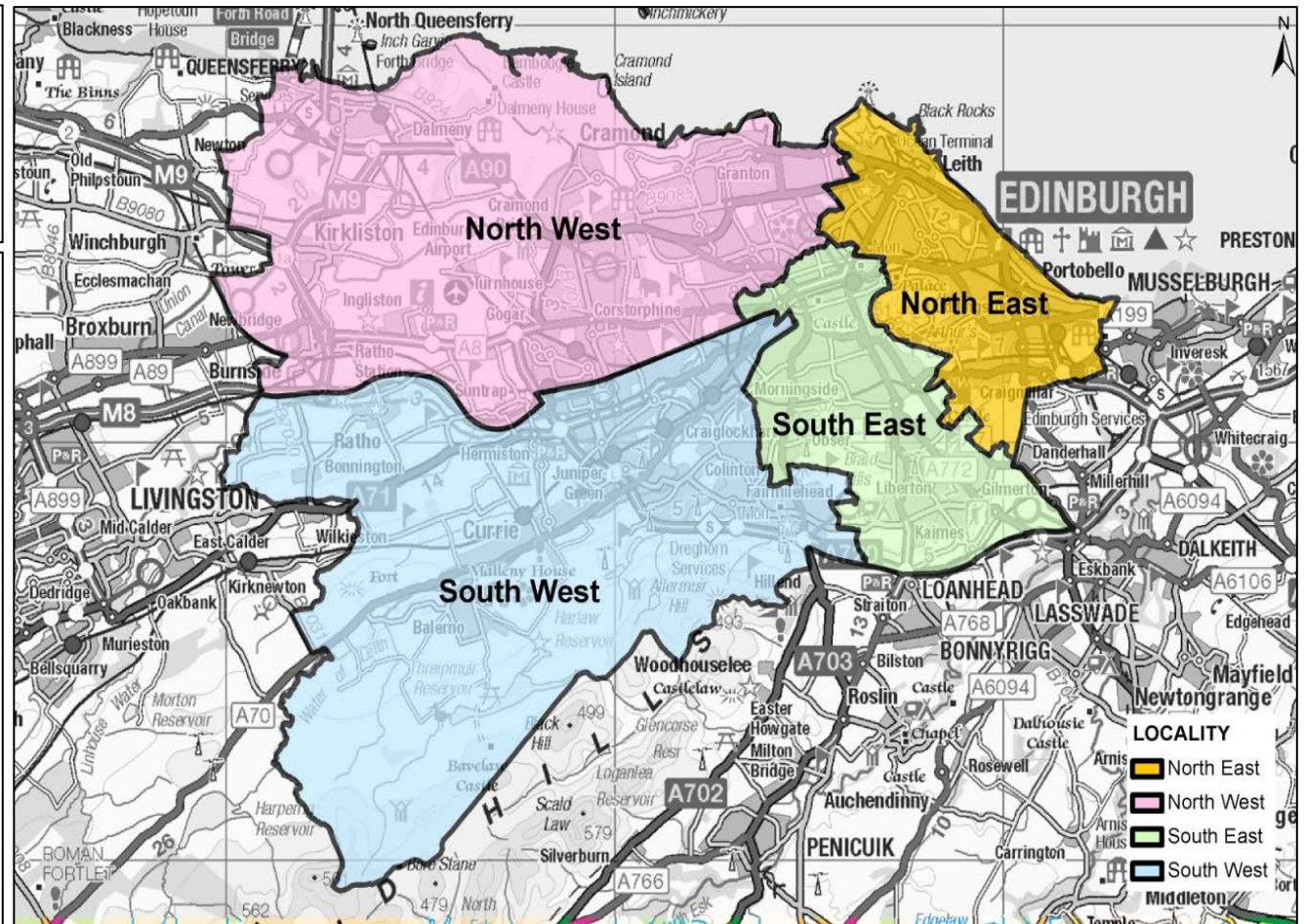
## South West locality

### Wards

Sighthill/Gorgie  
Colinton/Fairmilehead  
Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart  
Pentland Hills

### Community council areas

Ratho and District  
Balerno  
Currie  
Sighthill, Broomhouse and Parkhead  
Colinton  
Juniper Green  
Longstone  
Fairmilehead  
Firrhill  
Craiglockhart  
Merchiston  
Gorgie/Dalry  
Hutchison/Chesser  
Stenhouse, Saughton Mains and  
Whitson  
Wester Hailes



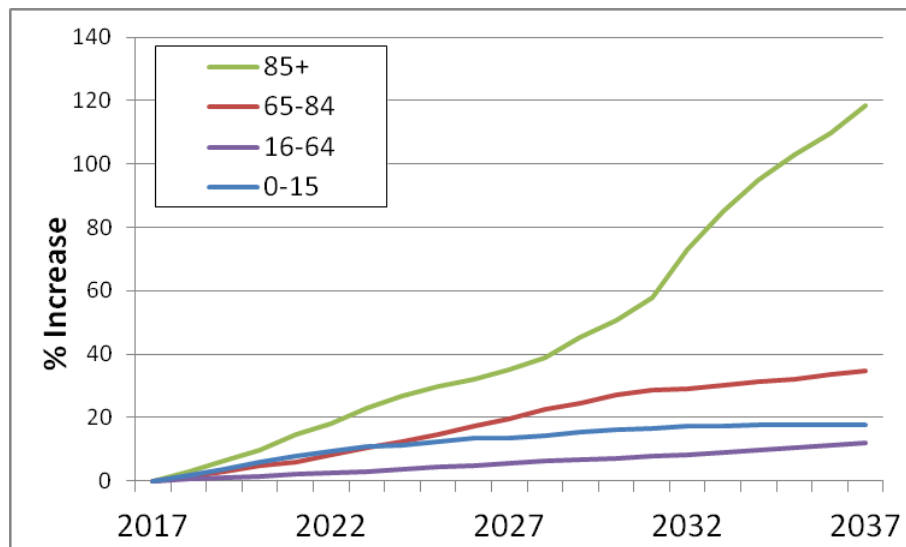


## Population 113,492

The South West accounts for 22% of Edinburgh’s overall population. It is a very diverse area, comprising a range of housing types and a mixture of commercial, industrial, retail and leisure facilities and green spaces.

South West has areas with high levels of affluence as well as areas which are amongst the most economically and socially disadvantaged in the city.

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Around 95% of residents in South West Edinburgh are satisfied with their neighbourhood as a place to live, which is slightly higher than the city average.

The South West has a high proportion of council tenants and the second lowest rate of private sector renting compared to the other three localities. Owner occupancy rates remain similar to the city average, though they vary across the locality.

South West Edinburgh also has some of the densest and most sparsely populated areas within Edinburgh.

In 2015 the Pentland Hills Ward had less than 400 people per km<sup>2</sup>, mostly concentrated in the villages of Balerno, Currie, Ratho and Juniper Green. By comparison Sighthill/Gorgie had a population density of over 4500 people per km<sup>2</sup>, much of it concentrated in flats closer to the city centre.

### Challenges

In the next 20 years, South West Edinburgh is expected to see the number of older people grow, larger than Edinburgh as a whole. The population is set to increase by 18% by 2037 (+21,000 people), lower than the Edinburgh-wide rate (+22%).

In particular, the number of people aged over 85 is expected to increase by almost 120% in the next twenty years. This equates to a rise from roughly 2,300 in 2017 to a projected 5,000 in 2037.

Left: South West population projection – age groups % increase





The level of economic deprivation also provides a challenge. The South West has a slightly higher rate of income deprivation than Edinburgh as a whole, with 11.9% of people in the South West deemed income deprived according to the 2016 Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD).

Amongst areas of the highest deprivation<sup>1</sup> in the South West, the rate of income deprivation is 19.8%, compared to 5.2% of the South West population that do not live in one of these areas. Child poverty in South West Edinburgh is joint second highest (with South East) of all four localities in Edinburgh, with one in five children living in low income households.

The proportion of people claiming work related benefits varies between the four South West wards, from a low of 4.9% of working age residents in Colinton/ Fairmilehead to a high of 12.0% in Sighthill/Gorgie. The overall rate for the locality is 8.1%, which is the second highest amongst the four localities and compares to a city rate of 7.7%.

### COVID-19 implications

Based on initial research into the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are expecting significant pressures across the city in the following key areas: jobs and income; housing and homelessness; food, the cost of living and social isolation.

<sup>1</sup> \* Oxfgangs, Wester Hailes, Broomhouse/Saughton, Daly/Fountainbridge NB Information for wards relates to pre-2017 boundaries.

Following initial disruptions caused by restrictions, furloughs, and working patterns there has been significant loss of income to individuals and businesses across the economy, with many expecting to struggle in meeting their financial commitments. In the long term this will be exacerbated by structural changes in the labour market, with significant changes in the jobs available and in the skills expected by employers.

Immediate responses to housing problems have seen emergency accommodation provided for rough sleepers alongside bans on eviction. However, the expected accumulation of debt alongside loss of income will have a serious impact across private and rented sectors. Longer term this may lead to increased default on rent and mortgage payments, and an overall slowing of the housing market combined with an upward pressure on rents.

There have been some increases to cost of living caused by reduced shopping options, felt most acutely by families on the lowest incomes. To control the spread of the virus isolation has either been encouraged or become the default for many, and this is expected to have long term negative impacts on the mental health of individuals across the community. Despite this however there has been an increase in volunteering and positive neighbourly connections.



## 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 West 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 two neighbourhood networks in the South West: Pentlands and South West.

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 [southwest.locality@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:southwest.locality@edinburgh.gov.uk)

## The revised priorities

Under each theme, we have set out the outcomes, high level 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).

### Theme 1 – Understand and take steps to address the causes and motivation of Hate Crimes.

Community safety partners have spoken with communities across the South West and identified a range of issues. Of these, hate crime is possibly the most intractable resulting in severe distress and negative outcomes among its victims.

The Hate Crime definition is set by Scottish Government and there are specific ‘strands that are protected.

- Race
- Religion
- Sexual Orientation
- Disability
- Transgender

As a Locality Partnership we are committed to promoting an inclusive and cohesive society, where every person can feel they have equal access to community services, groups and employment opportunities.

We recognise hate crime is underreported, and many incidents are the result of an existing conflict. As a result, we need to combine quantitative measurement with qualitative recording of community confidence and perceptions to ensure accurate monitoring of improvements.

To fully address Hate Crime and its causation requires to understand where the underlying prejudices arise and are formed. To this end a partnership approach to look not only at supporting victims but engaging with the perpetrators at an appropriate post-conviction stage, through a restorative and educational process would go some way to achieve this.

This approach may help to address the motivation and promote a more inclusive and understanding community.

#### COVID-19

Along with the society-wide impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic that have hampered most public services, it initially brought some instances of incidents against East Asian and Southeast Asian communities across the country. This sort of incident can lead to increased pressure on victims feeling of isolation and reduced confidence, and lead to greater inequality.

We believe we challenge this through a greater focus on intercultural projects to overcome social barriers. Through this we will seek to increase and improve engagement to understand concerns and issues in the short and long term.

**Lead** – Police Scotland

**Partners include** – All partners involved in the Community Planning Partnership.



Outcome	High level actions	Measure	LOIP priority
Ensure victims are supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve engagement with victims to understand concerns and issues</li> </ul>	Reported hate crime Confidence in reporting offences across different communities Referral service in place and number of referrals Develop further measures with partners using community surveys and feedback, and set targets thereafter	A good place to live
Raise awareness of Hate Crime and encourage reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve methods of reporting hate crime</li> <li>• Focus on intercultural projects to overcome social barriers</li> </ul>		
Educate young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve engagement with schools to promote an inclusive society</li> </ul>		
Perpetrator engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop an intervention and referral service to address perpetrator behaviour</li> </ul>		

## Theme 2 – Increased community involvement in food growing

Food poverty has been recognised as a priority within the initial findings of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission, particularly concerning the price of fresh fruit and vegetables for those individuals on low incomes. This in turn has a negative effect on the health of those unable to afford healthy food. Providing the infrastructure for individuals to grow their own produce and understand how to use it healthily will help address this issue.

This will involve work organised at a local level to identify sites, assist with construction, planting, growing, harvesting and networking to ensure community food growing can be a key part of healthy living provision in South West Edinburgh.

There are a range of activities that can be organised locally, involving a range of partners, and crossing over to adjacent workstreams related to healthy living and the management of public spaces ie. health and social care, and safer communities.

### COVID-19

The impact of COVID-19 has changed a range of behaviours across the community and is expected to have a lasting impact over the life of this plan. Lockdowns impede access to communal sites impacting planting and harvesting, while there has been a significant increase in demand for private allotments. Partners in the South West need to ensure services are sufficiently resilient to cope with this uncertainty.

**Lead** – City of Edinburgh Council

**Partners include** – Council Parks and Greenspace Service, Council Housing Service, Council Discover Programme, Primary and Secondary Schools. Third sector bodies: Edible Estates, Edinburgh Community Food, Wester Hailes Health Agency, Edinburgh & Lothians Green Space Trust, Friends of Parks Groups, Tenants and Residents Associations and Community Councils

Outcome	High level actions	Measure	LOIP priority
Fewer people living in food poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the amount of land available for local food production</li> <li>• Increase the number of growing site users through the development of a promotional programme and of support and skills training for new growers</li> </ul>	<p>Increase the number of formal/informal growing sites from (figure used in SW LC report in November 2018) by a total of 6 by 2022</p>	A good place to live
Integrate growing activity with health and wellbeing activity across the Partnership.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop an effective working arrangement linking the Social Capital approach outlined in the Reduce social isolation and loneliness workstream to SW community growing sites</li> </ul>	<p>Increase number of users by target of 20% from baseline figure gathered by 2022</p> <p>Develop a baseline with partners in 2021 and set targets thereafter</p>	



### Theme 3 – Reducing loneliness & social isolation

The impact of either being lonely or having feelings of being isolated socially can have a significant impact on a person's physical and mental health.

Loneliness is defined as “subjectively experienced by someone who feels the lack of intimate, supporting, or nurturing relationships with others”. Whilst feeling socially isolated is caused by the “lack of social structures and social interaction/contact with other people”.

Evidence informs us that these issues can occur throughout the life course with a range of social risks of:

- Being a mother (aged 18-24years old) of young children
- Moving into retirement/ old age
- Being an informal carer
- Being financially insecure/ becoming unemployed
- Experiencing poor physical and mental health including having a disability
- Living alone, widowed or separated.

It is a complex topic and hence requires for all partners to continue working together on this. Taking a ‘social capital’ approach i.e. that social connections can contribute to people's quality of life, health, safety, economy and wellbeing in the neighbourhoods where they live. Social capital is categorised as:

- Social networks – The quality of friendships, relationships, and contacts; the help that people provide and receive

from neighbours; and how connected and supported people perceive themselves to be.

- Community cohesion – The features of neighbourhoods and communities including safety, trust and kindness; the places and spaces for people to meet; and to meet people from different backgrounds.
- Social participation – The time given up supporting local clubs, groups, organisations, or improve the local environment.
- Community empowerment – The control that people have, and feel they have, over their circumstances; their influence on local decision-making; and their actions to improve the local community.

#### COVID-19

With people having to self-isolated if infected and certain vulnerable groups ‘shielding’, this obviously had an impact on everyone's health, in terms of feeling lonely and isolated.

There have also been some positive implications, such as increased volunteering, the use of local greenspace and the strengthening of neighbourly and community relationships. In the long term we need to focus on prevention of mental health and people experiencing being lonely or isolated

**Lead** – Edinburgh Integration Joint Board

**Partners include** – All public sector services, general practice and community organisations working together through development of existing forums and direct engagement.



Outcome	High level actions	Measure	LOIP priority
Social isolation and loneliness are reduced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to raise the profile and our conversation regarding social isolation and loneliness</li> <li>• Continue to map community resources for health and wellbeing and implement a communications strategy, in order to inform people who live, work and play within the locality</li> <li>• Continue to share our learning and experiences through a variety of techniques such as data, stories, action learning and co-design</li> <li>• Vulnerable adults are continued to be supported by befriending services or/ and Community Link Workers programme</li> </ul>	Feedback from the community through people's stories, community participatory activity	A good place to live
Social networks are maintained across the locality			
Active and inclusive community participation is supported across the locality			



#### Theme 4 – Improved quality, level and continued participation of all young people in education, employment or training.

Through application of the already successful Edinburgh Guarantee, Developing Young Workforce and other local and national strategies such as Kickstart and the Youth Guarantee, it is important that all partners work together to help plan a clear career pathway for every school leaver.

This includes providing information and support to schools about opportunities in future growth sectors to help inspire and inform students. It is important to support young people in developing their career management skills, building knowledge and resilience, and arming them with the information and resources they need to progress to, and sustain, positive destinations.

Poorly managed transition from school to further education, training or employment can have a long-term impact on future economic outcomes for individuals. A period of economic inactivity post-school is more likely to lead to long term unemployment than similar periods of inactivity later in life. Ensuring that young people leaving school are engaged in positive activity, whether through intermediate labour market opportunities or other training activities is important to supporting sustained employment later in life.

#### COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused significant disruption to learn and employment across the country. Whilst support through council funded employability provision and the third sector has continued online, this has highlighted additional problems where access to equipment and online resources are limited or digital literacy is low.

As the least experienced participants in the labour market, evidence suggests that young people will have reduced access to jobs as unemployment rises across all age groups and there is more competition for entry level jobs. In addition to the health implications of the pandemic, many young people will face increased pressure due to additional caring responsibilities, and this is likely to affect those in low income households most.

**Lead** – City of Edinburgh Council

**Partners include** – City of Edinburgh Council (including Business Growth and Inclusion, Schools, and Lifelong Learning), Edinburgh College, Skills Development Scotland.



Outcome	High level actions	Measure	LOIP priority
Every school leaver has the relevant support they need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure all relevant support and employability organisations are linked to in-school 16+ meetings.</li> <li>• Through the No One Left Behind Team, identify relevant pathways for leavers at all stage of the Strategic Skills Pipeline.</li> </ul>	More employers involved in curriculum planning	Access to work, learning, and training
Schools have relevant information about industries to inspire and inform students about career opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build on the Developing Young Workforce model to ensure that each school is linked to industry across all sectors.</li> <li>• Encourage school staff to take part in Industry Awareness and Learning days offered through DYW.</li> <li>• Introduce industry into classroom-based learning and planning as early as possible.</li> </ul>	Improved SLDR and sustained destinations	
Appropriate training and support are available to every young person who has left school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with partners to identify local and citywide gaps in training and access to services to ensure that new services meet the needs of the community.</li> <li>• Through NOLB funding, every school leaver without a positive destination will be allocated a key worker to support progression.</li> </ul>	Better parental support and understanding	
Young people are supported in developing their career management skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SDS continue to support young people in school and through links with youth groups.</li> <li>• SDS to promote training for organisations and youth work provision to build staff capacity around CMS.</li> </ul>	Better sustained placements and progressions	
Support is available for those furthest from the labour market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Align funding to ensure that health and well-being support is available alongside employability provision to support an enhanced pathway for those with the most barrier to employment.</li> </ul>	More resilient young people securing employment	
		Increase in appropriate referrals	
		More sustained destinations	

## Theme 5 – Families that experience unsafe environments are supported to reach their full potential

Domestic abuse remains the largest category of child protection concern in City of Edinburgh. Domestic abuse perpetration has multiple pathways to harm for child and family functioning. These both cause poverty and inequality or exacerbate pre-existing issues. Women experiencing domestic abuse often become single parents with limited capacity to earn independently and are more likely to report both financial difficulties and ongoing financial abuse from abusive former partners.

By applying a multi-agency approach, we need to ensure we understand how mental, physical health problems and substance misuse can be caused or exacerbated by domestic abuse, how perpetrators can prevent victims from healing from these issues, and how the issue affects different communities across the locality.

### COVID-19

As a result of lockdown and the effects on families the pandemic has seen increased pressure on services supporting mental health and domestic abuse, alongside reduced access to support for families. It is expected these pressures will continue during the life of this plan as the economic impact leads to loss of income, employment, and household resources.

In the long-term, depending on changes in service demand partners need to continually review how we work together, including use of a Safe and Together strategy across South West multi-agency operational groups.

**Lead** – City of Edinburgh Council

**Partners include** – Children and families social work, Education, Health, Third Sector, Police, Housing, Lifelong Learning, Family and Household Support, Community Justice Social Work, and other relevant agencies as work develops.



Outcome	High level actions	Measure	LOIP priority
Keep children “Safe & Together” with the non-offending parent as the most effective way to promote safety, stability, maintain attachments and to heal from trauma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the knowledge of “Safe and Together” principles;               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• keeping child safe and together with non - offending parent</li> <li>• partnering with non-offending parent as default position</li> <li>• intervening with perpetrator to reduce risk and harm to child</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Encourage trained workers to provide partner agencies and the third sector with briefings, consultations and mappings to inform better assessments and plans for children</li> </ul>	<p>Increase in use of Safe and Together principles</p> <p>Increase shared knowledge and understanding of how to work with families impacted by Domestic Abuse</p>	All children and young people reach their potential and are kept safe
Hold the perpetrator accountable, for his or her behaviour and as a parent, including working with the perpetrator to help change their behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage workers to use the principles which will hold the perpetrator to account.</li> <li>• Continue to increase knowledge of effective services for perpetrators</li> <li>• Capitalise on opportunities for joint assessment and interventions with Community Justice colleagues to reduce the perpetrators risk and plan safe interventions, including safety planning with the non-abusive parent and children</li> </ul>	<p>Increase joint working with Community Justice Domestic Abuse Service for statutory and non-court mandated resources</p> <p>Improved use of tools and accessibility to trained staff</p>	
Ensure children get the support they deserve and strengths-based approaches through restorative practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve engagement with the community to promote knowledge of services and supports for children and young people.</li> <li>• Developing a forum to connect resources and consider other virtual opportunities for consultation.</li> </ul>	<p>Develop and measure outputs from a working group connecting Safe and Together trained staff</p>	



## Case study examples

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### Health and Wellbeing

The South West Physical Activity Alliance was launched at Napier University in August 2018, with a networking event held in Tynecastle Stadium in 2019. Both events were organised by a multi sector planning group led by NHS Health Promotion Service. The networking event in June was focussed on two themes: inclusion and addressing equalities. Issues identified from the event were partnership, networking, support for people to access physical activity and targeting excluded groups. These formed the focus of the work in the locality moving forwards and was also shared with the citywide group that are developing Edinburgh's physical activity strategy. In addition, an interactive GPS map of physical activity in the city is being developed.

During 2019, five local community health and wellbeing events were delivered, one in each of the smaller areas of the locality (Oxgangs, Wester Hailes, Broomhouse/Saughton and Dalry/Fountainbridge) and a fifth in Pentland Villages, led by voluntary sector partners. The aim of the community events was to:

- Celebrate local success
- Facilitate community engagement
- Offer a range of fun activities that were inclusive to appeal to a range of age groups
- Promote local services, activities and support (such as advice services, smoking cessation and voluntary organisations in the area)
- Have a healthy food offering

There was extremely positive feedback from all that participated and attended, and options are being explored to make this an annual occurrence.

### **Oxgangs small area plan**

Through the NHS Lothian Health Improvement Fund, three local organisations successfully received funding to deliver projects in Oxgangs which responded to priorities identified by the community in the small area plan.

Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust (ELGT) engaged 270 participants in a variety of physical activities and cooking programmes located in different venues across the Oxgangs area – community centres, schools and local parks. Following this, participants gave the following feedback:

- 100% said they felt more aware of their local greenspace and felt more comfortable using them;
- 88% were using greenspace more often;
- 98% were more aware of physical activity; and
- 95% were more physically active than they used to be.

Due to this success, ELGT has secured further funding to enable the work to be sustained, meeting the identified need for the community.

Community Help and Advice Initiative (CHAI) received a grant to employ a part time advice worker to deliver a Family Support and Advice Service in Oxgangs Primary School. The initiative helped people access employability support, reduced levels of stress and mental health issues, improve health and wellbeing, reducing the risk of homelessness and increase child school attainment. 55 individuals received tailored support and advice from this, resulting in a financial gain for clients totalling £10,459.

Oxgangs Neighbourhood Centre used their grant award to devise a growing and health eating project called 'Plough to Plate'. The project included a 'garden gang' and cook school, engaging people of different ages and backgrounds. Feedback shows that people benefited from the social interaction through the different activities, welcomed the opportunity to learn and try new recipes and enjoyed working in the garden.

## How we will measure success

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**  
Partners' progress towards achieving 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 detailed plans relating to the outcomes and associated actions allows monitoring of partner activity and progress towards achieving shared goals.
- 2 Regular performance reports**  
These detail progress towards achieving outcomes for the Locality Leadership Team. They can include actions, key performance indicators, case studies and customer research to give a balanced view on progress. These reports form the basis for the Annual Progress Report.
- 3 Annual Progress Report**  
Progress in achieving 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 West locality team:

- email [southwest.locality@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:southwest.locality@edinburgh.gov.uk)
- telephone 0131 529 3111 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: [southwest.locality@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:southwest.locality@edinburgh.gov.uk)



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# South East Edinburgh Locality Improvement Plan 2017-2022

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## Introduction

### 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

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

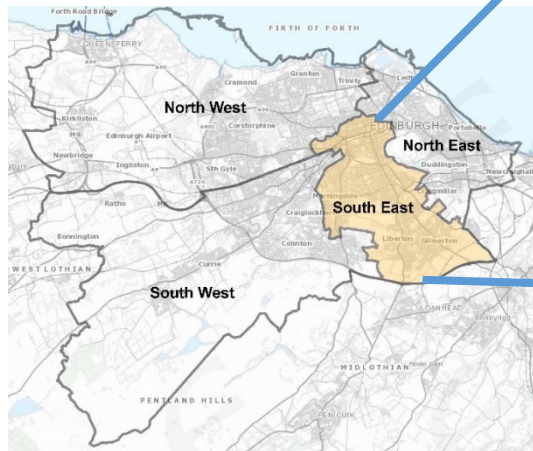
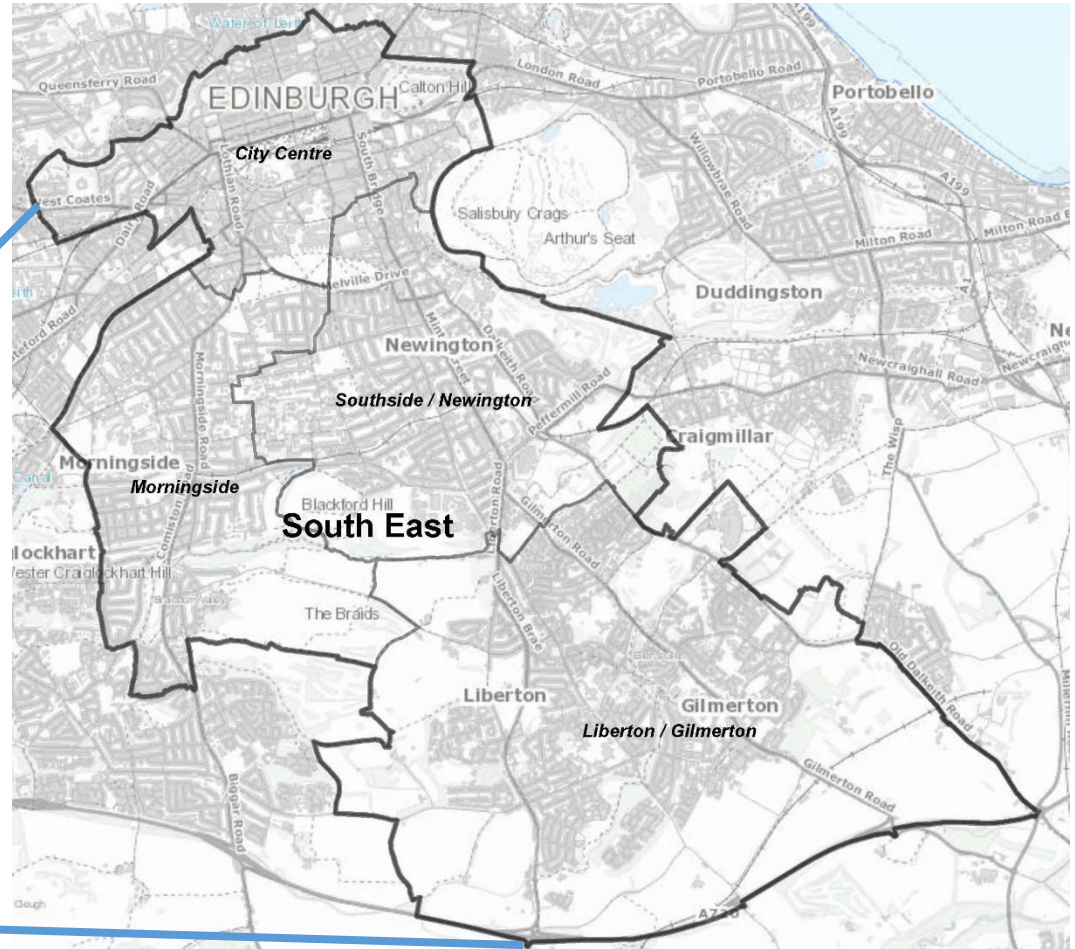
### South East locality map

**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.



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.

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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%.





## 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>

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**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>

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## 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

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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# North West Edinburgh Locality Improvement Plan 2017-2022

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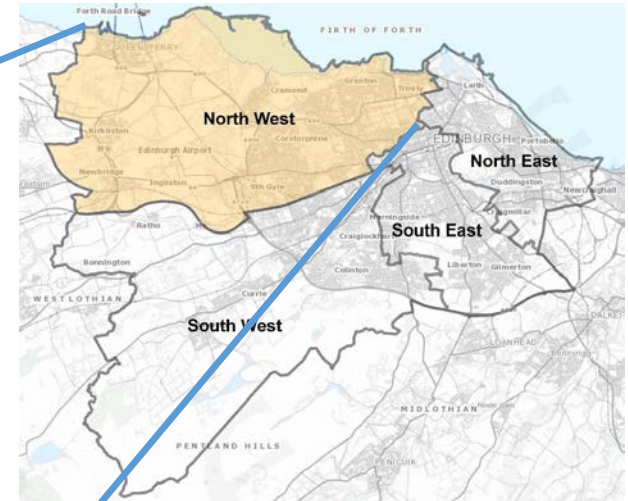
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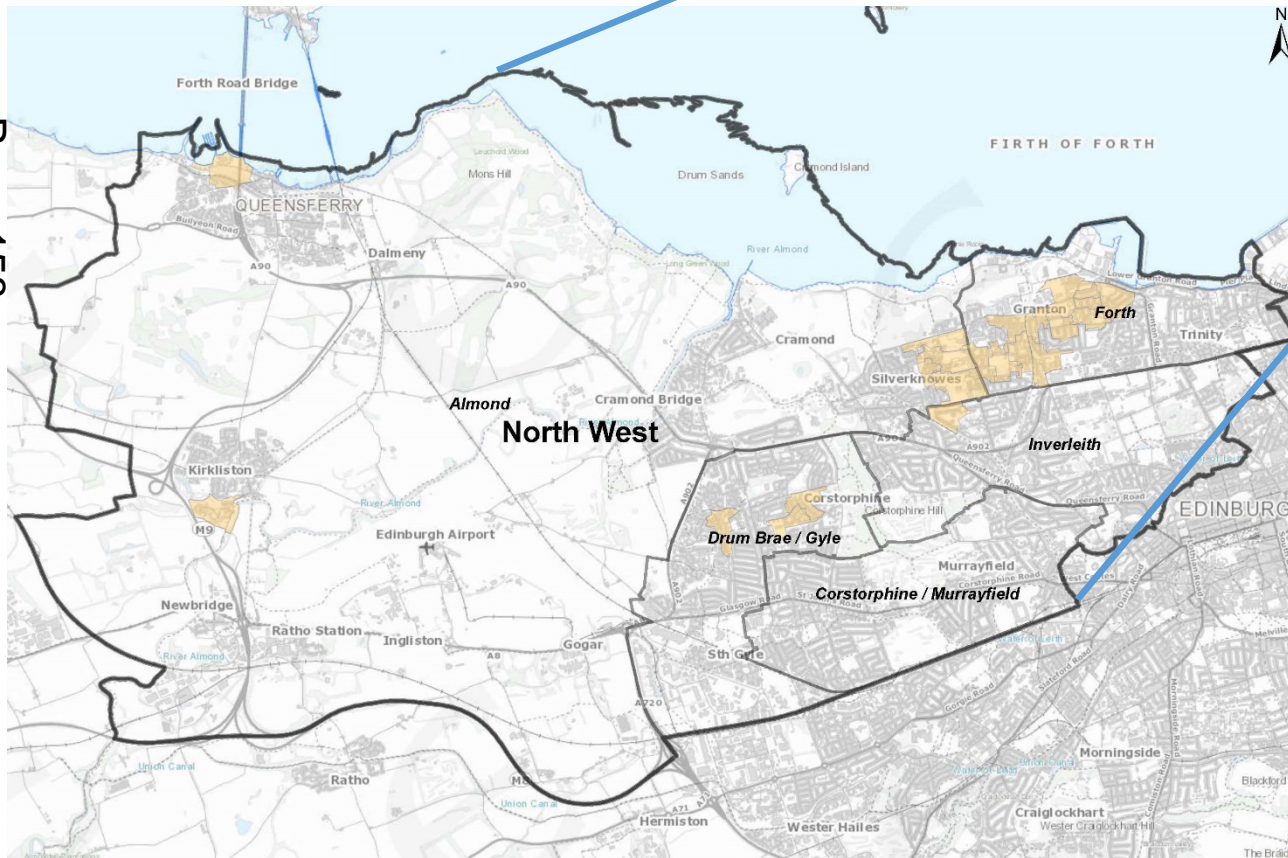


### North West locality map

- Wards**
- Almond
  - Drum Brae/Gyle
  - Corstorphine/Murrayfield
  - Forth
  - Inverleith



© Crown Copyright



- Community Council Areas**
- Leith Harbour and Newhaven
  - Trinity
  - Granton and District
  - Muirhouse Salveson
  - Silverknowes
  - Cramond and Barnton
  - Queensferry and District
  - Kirkliston
  - Ratho and District
  - Corstorphine
  - Drum Brae
  - Murrayfield
  - Craigeith/Blackhall
  - Stockbridge/Inverleith
  - Drylaw Telford
  - West Pilton West Granton

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## Introduction

We are delighted to present the revised North West Locality Improvement Plan 2017 - 2022. This builds on the successes of the first edition of the Locality Improvement Plan launched in 2017.

The key aim of this plan is to achieve better outcomes for communities and individuals in North West Edinburgh and to reduce the gap for those experiencing the greatest inequality of outcome.

The plan sets out:

- the priorities until 2022 (and potentially beyond)
- high level actions that will be carried out against the revised outcomes

In developing the first edition of the plan, we carried out a programme of community engagement in 2016/17. We spoke with communities across the locality, asking what would make the area better and looked at ways that we can strengthen the communities' voice in the decisions that matter across the locality.

By speaking with local people, we identified outcomes that will make a real difference to the lives of the people in our communities.

In 2020, it was felt that the original plans were too big and unlikely to succeed therefore the Edinburgh Partnership decided to revise the plan.

As a result, the revised plan has been reviewed and streamlined to focus on fewer priorities that will be more likely to tackle issues linked to poverty and inequality. These are identified as thorny issues and can only be achieved through partnership working.

The plan brings our communities even closer together with our local service providers, to plan and deliver better services which meet the needs of the people who use them.

This plan is a commitment to communities within the North West locality of how we will work with you in the most effective way

across the length and breadth of the locality to address the known inequalities amongst our communities.

We will continue to take on board your views and concerns over the lifetime of the plan, review and report on progress annually, and realign priorities as needed.

The Locality Community Planning Partnership introduced in December 2019 has responsibility for the development and delivery of this plan.

Members of the North West Locality Community Planning Partnership are:

- The City of Edinburgh Council
- Police Scotland
- NHS Lothian
- Health and Social Care Partnership
- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
- Skills Development Scotland
- Third Sector
- Edinburgh College
- 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 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 [\(Edinburgh\) Local Outcome Improvement Plan or Community 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 North West 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 were significant challenges that needed to be addressed including:

- The breadth of outcomes in the plan resulted in an extensive range and number of actions
- Many of the actions were 'business as usual' activity and not additional or collaborative
- There was 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, leading 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 North West Edinburgh Locality Improvement Plan 2017-22 was undertaken in 2020, looking at the outcomes contained in the plan, 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 the three themes in the Community Plan 2018-28 and shown in later sections of this document.



## North West locality

### The locality – geography and people

The locality stretches east from South Queensferry along the shoreline through Cramond, Barnton, Granton and Trinity and moves south to Warriston, then west along the northern reaches of the new town including Stockbridge, and continues through Roseburn, Murrayfield, Corstorphine and past the Airport to Ratho Station and onto Kirkliston (and all communities in between).



**Population**  
**145,450**

Across the locality, there are areas of high affluence as well as, primarily in the Forth ward, those which are amongst the most deprived in the city.

The North West locality faces a number of key challenges in the coming years. It is expected to see the largest population growth in Edinburgh by 2022 by as much

as 10% (around 14,000). This will put additional pressure on primary and secondary schools as well as housing and other key services such as NHS primary care.

Alongside wider housing developments, the North West will see the greatest level of social and affordable housing investment across the city, with around 870 expected to be completed during the life of the LIP.

Health services also face significant challenges with an ageing population. The North West has more people aged over 65 years than any other locality. Lifestyle choices also place increasing demands on all services. We know that almost 42% of people in the North West have not engaged in any exercise when surveyed. This alone will impact longer term on services.

The North West has the highest percentage of under 16s compared to the other three localities. The Forth Ward has the second highest rate of child poverty at 34% compared to the rest of the city.



**25,147**  
**people over 65**



**26,457**  
**children**  
**under 16**

The areas of Muirhouse, Wester Drylaw, West Pilton, Granton, Royston and Wardieburn (collectively known as the North small area) also have significant social and economic challenges. The North small area has the second lowest average household income in Edinburgh, 30% of children live in households in relative poverty. Of those deemed 'economically inactive' across the locality, 26% live here and Muirhouse is currently ranked as one of the top ten most-deprived areas in Scotland. It also has the highest concentrations of benefits dependency.



## Involving our communities

The recent global Coronavirus pandemic has provided a clear picture of how quickly there was a move to supporting our most vulnerable members of our communities.

Whilst the virus itself did not discriminate, those who might normally experience inequality and/or poverty appeared most likely to suffer the lockdown conditions and lack of access to basic needs. These people immediately became the focus of attention for those communities and groups around them.

This plan must build on that experience, it's our communities that can help identify the solutions and quickly help put action in place.

The NW Locality Community Planning Partnership therefore recognises that no single organisation or group has 'ownership' of poverty and inequality, no single entity will help alleviate these issues, it must be a united approach.

All of the partners involved with the NW Locality Community Planning Partnership are fully committed to **putting people at the heart** of the overall process and we will:

- **work together** with the community and partners
- **involve** everyone in ways that meets the needs of all
- **listen** to and **act** on needs, issues and ideas
- **develop** new and better ways of doing things, especially to grow opportunities for more people to engage and influence outcomes.

It is recognised that people from all backgrounds engage with community life through community councils, school parent/teacher associations, community centres, volunteering, carers, uniformed children and young people's services, tenants' groups, residents' groups, friends of parks, organisation committees and boards, even those simply attending events or activities or taking the time to

get involved with surveys or online feedback. It is vital that we build on this and find more ways to engage with more people throughout the life of the plan to help shape the future of the locality.

In 2019, the Edinburgh Partnership established 13 Neighbourhood Networks across the City, bringing those communities and organisations together to promote 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. Each Network has a place at the Locality Community Planning Partnership.

There are 4 Neighbourhood Networks in the North West: Almond, Forth, Inverleith and Western Edinburgh.

For information on how to get involved, or to find out how to join a community group please get in touch with us at [northwest.locality@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:northwest.locality@edinburgh.gov.uk)



## The revised outcomes

Under each theme, we have set out the outcomes, high level actions and possible ways to measure progress. Each of the outcomes is also aligned to the three priority areas of the Community Plan.

### Theme 1 – Social Isolation

Many residents across the NW locality suffer from complete or near-complete lack of contact with services and society. Similarly, there are people suffering from loneliness, reflecting a temporary and involuntary lack of contact with other people. Both can greatly impact on health and wellbeing and can affect people of all ages.

By understanding specific needs and putting in place improved networks and social interactions we hope to minimise the numbers of people requiring professional healthcare, freeing up valuable resources and improving the quality of life for those individuals.

### Lead Partners include:

Health & Social Care Partnership, Neighbourhood Networks, Voluntary Sector Forums, Voluntary Organisations, Council Wider Achievement Service, Council Community Engagement & Empowerment Service

Outcome	High level actions	Measure	Community Plan Priority
Vulnerable members of our communities will feel less isolated and more engaged with community life and key organisations, helping improve mental and physical wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify vulnerable people building in work done during Covid pandemic supplemented by a local survey</li> <li>Build on the recent Covid community resilience activity, rather than statutory/clinical interventions or services</li> <li>Develop and promote a wide range of activities promoting mental and physical health and wellbeing targeted to those most at risk of social isolation</li> </ul>	<p>Increase in social contact from baseline (established by survey/Covid activity)</p> <p>Reduction in relevant Health &amp; Social Care</p>	A good place to live Enough money to live on

Outcome	High level actions	Measure	Community Plan Priority
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support vulnerable people to access available benefits and entitlements</li> </ul>	Partnership caseloads  Reduction in hospital admissions  Activity data from community / vol orgs  Increase in benefit take up	



## Theme 2 – Employment & Skills

Transition from school to further education or employment can be challenging for many young people. However, for some, this transition may be traumatic based on life experience to date.

Young people might not engage with formal education or informal learning for a number of reasons e.g. Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), negative external influences, mental or physical health issues. Therefore a range of barriers must be overcome before there is any likelihood of achieving a positive destination.

Creative approaches can help develop key life skills, supporting access to education, training and employment.

These approaches can be adapted to help improve people of all age groups access education, training and employment.

## Lead Partners include

Head teachers, MCR Pathways co-ordinator, Edinburgh College, Business Growth & Inclusion, Skills Development Scotland, No One Left Behind Hub, Community Renewal, DYW (Developing Young Workforce), Council Business Growth & Inclusion, Adult Education/Youth Work/Libraries services

Outcome	High level actions	Measure	Community Plan Priority
Work with key partners to ensure that pupils and students (especially those most likely to experience negative destinations) and the wider community are equipped with suitable life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support schools to develop life skills/similar programmes suitable for each cluster</li> <li>Develop flexible training/taster sessions with employers for young people and wider community</li> </ul>	PEF spend  MCR programme outcomes  Local employers employing local people/school leavers	Access to work, learning and training opportunities

Outcome	High level actions	Measure	Community Plan Priority
<p>skills, to make informed choices about their futures and be better prepared for existing and emerging labour markets.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop suite of options for school leavers – including Edinburgh College, volunteering etc</li> <li>• Develop partnership approach to supporting pupils placed on reduced timetables</li> <li>• Develop North Edinburgh comms app as community database for available jobs/training/volunteering</li> <li>• Maximise local employment opportunities e.g. Waterfront, including social enterprise space/community benefits</li> <li>• Develop local “Jobs Fairs”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Range of relevant education indicators comparing NW to city averages</li> <li>• Employment rates/workless households</li> </ul>	



**Theme 3 – North Edinburgh**

Within the North West locality, North Edinburgh is recognised as the area where numbers of people experiencing poverty and greater inequality of outcome exceeds that of other areas.

Communities and organisations can build on recent experiences of joint working to identify robust plans that can help tackle existing poverty levels. Similarly, communities must be afforded access to service provision and experiences that will help alleviate inequality.

The communities and organisation in North must be at the heart of the development of these plans and initiatives.

North Edinburgh includes: - West Pilton, Granton, Royston/Wardieburn, Wester Drylaw & Muirhouse and parts of Drylaw

**Lead Partners include**

Council Community Engagement and Empowerment staff, Forth & Almond Neighbourhood Networks, Drylaw/Telford Community Council, Emerging North Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations’ collective/Forth & Inverleith Voluntary Sector Forum, Edinburgh College, Edinburgh Poverty Commission

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Outcome	High level actions	Measure	Community Plan Priority
Develop a robust mechanism for engaging with the community to articulate and develop plans to combat poverty and inequality in North Edinburgh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish representational sub group of Forth and Almond NNs and key service partners</li> <li>• Away-day to agree broad priorities/action plan in line with Edinburgh Partnership agreed criteria</li> <li>• Wherever possible, link agreed priorities and actions to recommendations from the Edinburgh Poverty Commission.</li> </ul>	Local satisfaction and engagement surveys (to be developed)  SIMD ranking	All three



Outcome	High level actions	Measure	Community Plan Priority
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver North Edinburgh comms platform in conjunction with Edinburgh college and link with Edinburgh Partnership’s emerging Community Engagement and Communications Strategies</li> </ul>	Reduction of % in poverty  Reduction in child poverty  Attainment levels  Employment rates/workless households  Life expectancy	





## How we will measure success

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The revised outcomes include a description of high-level actions and possible measures. This will be supported by workplans which set out detailed actions, timescales and the key measures that will demonstrate how change is taking place across each outcome.

Regular progress reports will be presented to the NW Locality Community Planning Partnership for further scrutiny and approval. An Annual Progress Report will be produced for the Edinburgh Partnership and partners' governance bodies indicating progress on delivering the outcomes in the plan.

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

### 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 Regular progress reports

Reports will provide detail of 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.

#### 2 Annual Progress Report

Progress in achieving the outcomes will be reported annually to Council Committee and partner governance bodies.

#### 3 Workplans

Working documents developed by the partners to assist delivery of the outcomes.

## Further information and contacts

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### Key contacts

Further information about this plan is available by contacting the North West locality team:

- email [northwest.locality@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:northwest.locality@edinburgh.gov.uk)
- telephone 0131 529 5050 and ask to speak to the Locality Manager or the Lifelong Learning Service Manager.

### Links to strategies and plans

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

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#### Edinburgh Partnership

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- [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

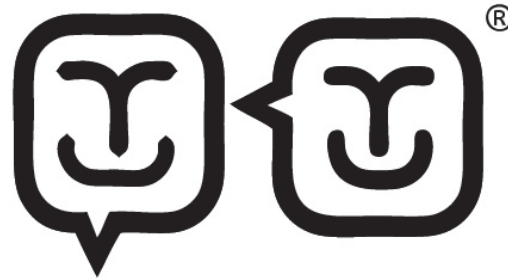
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## Equalities statement

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: [northwest.locality@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:northwest.locality@edinburgh.gov.uk)



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# North East Edinburgh Locality Improvement Plan 2017-2022

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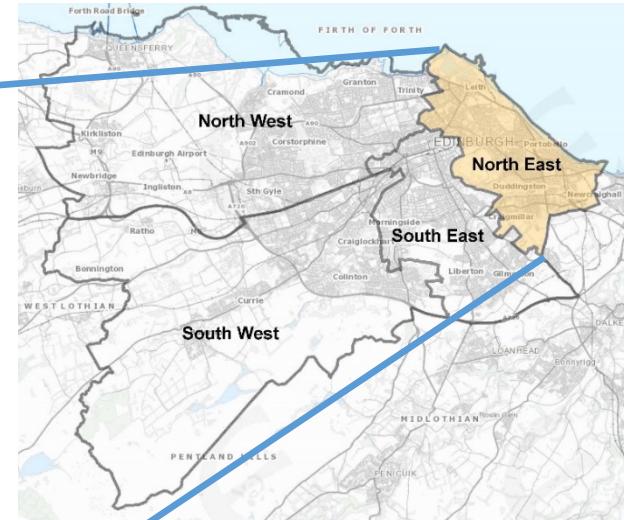
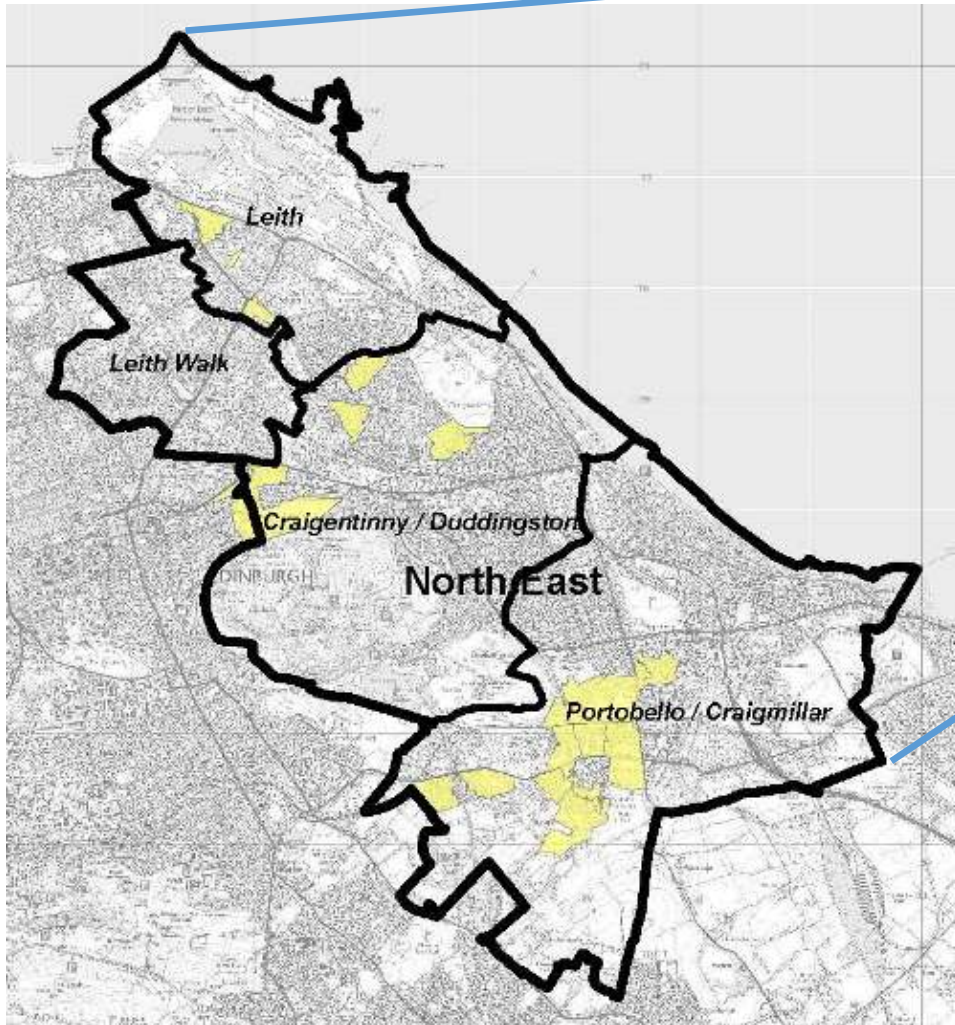
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### North East locality map



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- Community Council Areas**
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  - Leith Links
  - Leith Central
  - New Town and Broughton
  - Craigentenny/Meadowbank
  - Northfield Willowbrae
  - Craigmillar
  - Portobello
  - Old Town

- Wards**
- Leith
  - Leith Walk
  - Craigentenny/Duddingston
  - Portobello/Craigmillar

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## Introduction

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

We are delighted to present the revised North 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 how we can help prevent issues or get involved to help resolve them.

It sets out:

- the priorities for improving the area until 2022
- high level 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 early 2020, we decided 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. The plan was streamlined to focus on less priorities and only on those that will truly tackle poverty and inequality, those that have been identified as thorny issues in our communities and can only be achieved through partnership working.

During that time of revision, the world was faced with a global pandemic. COVID-19 has negatively impacted all communities in different ways, through loss of income and jobs, lack of opportunities for young people, increased health inequalities and exacerbated the poverty gap that was already apparent in North East Edinburgh.

The priorities in this plan have now been considered alongside what we know so far about how this pandemic has affected our communities. We have taken data from partners showing where focus is required for the city's recovery and aligned our priorities to where we feel we can truly achieve better outcomes for the citizens of North East Edinburgh.

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

Members of the North East Locality Community Planning Partnership are:

- The City of Edinburgh Council
- Police Scotland
- NHS Lothian
- Health and Social Care Partnership
- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
- University of Edinburgh
- Skills Development Scotland
- Third Sector
- Neighbourhood Networks





## Context

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 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 North 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 were significant challenges that need to be addressed including:

- The breadth of outcomes in the plan had resulted in an extensive range and number of actions
- Many of the actions were 'business as usual' activity and not additional or collaborative
- There was 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 led to dilution of impact and ineffective targeting of resources
- Structuring the priorities around five themes and multiple small areas had led to a lack of addressing the needs of those experiencing greatest inequality and was difficult to manage operationally and administratively.

Considering this, a review of the current North 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.

The priorities have then been reconsidered against the backdrop of COVID-19. Data and local intelligence have been used to understand what the short, medium- and long-term negative impacts of this pandemic will be, and how this will affect the lives of people living in North East Edinburgh.

A revised set of priorities have been identified which will provide partners with a focus for delivery for the remaining lifetime of the Plan. These priorities have sought to reframe the outstanding commitments included in the first edition of the Plan to ensure a more targeted approach, whilst recognising the challenges presented by the pandemic.

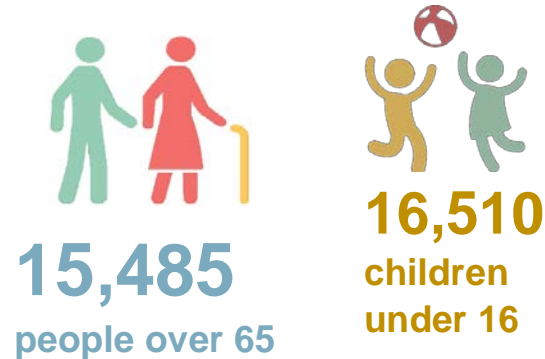


## North East locality

The North East locality is an extremely diverse community of different age groups, ethnic backgrounds, housing and living standards and varying levels of employment, health and income.



undertake no exercise on a weekly basis.



The North East locality will face a number of opportunities and challenges in the coming years.

### Opportunities

- major regeneration projects, including the St James Quarter, the Waterfront, and Edinburgh BioQuarter
- large student housing growth
- extension of the trams to Newhaven
- new models of collaborative working e.g. Community Renewal: Lifting Neighbourhoods Together project

### Challenges

- large numbers of adults without qualifications, leading to higher levels of unemployment
- projected to be the second fastest growing locality with 9% growth by 2022 mainly focussed in Leith and Craigmillar
- lowest rate of owner-occupation (53%) combined with a high rate of tenement properties (75%)
- highest percentage of people with long-term health problems that limit day-to-day activity

The challenges experienced across the locality have been 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.



## Involving our communities

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

To inform the first version of the plan, we listened to a wide range of people, taking the conversations to where people were in the locality and recognising the importance of continuing to engage with people as we moved forwards to deliver the priorities.

The COVID-19 pandemic has seen an unprecedented response from neighbours, organisations and services, both nationally and locally, in support of the most vulnerable members in our communities.

There has been an increase in volunteering and collaboration across services and networks, forging new connections and involving local people to meet emerging need borne out of the crisis.

This plan seeks to build on those gains, to lock them in and harness the energy, partnership working and local involvement in order to maximise future benefits for our communities.

Partners in the North East Locality are committed to continuing to involve local people and to have meaningful conversations with the diverse communities and groups in our communities about the services that are important to them.

It is clear when we talk with local people that they are also having conversations about what is important to them and what they want 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 this 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 three neighbourhood networks in the North East: Craightinny/Duddingston, Leith and Portobello/Craigmillar.

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 [northeast.locality@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:northeast.locality@edinburgh.gov.uk)

## The revised priorities

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Under each theme, we have set out the outcomes, high level 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).

### **Theme 1 – Provide targeted support and early interventions for young people and their families who are most in need in order to improve their access to opportunities which lead to positive destinations and help to maximise income**

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought further challenges to an already complicated jigsaw of income for many families due to low pay, insecure work, the gig economy and changes to the benefit system. Young people have been particularly hard hit by the pandemic with those under 25 more likely to be furloughed or to lose their job.

It has been proven that young people who suffer from a period of inactivity after leaving school go on to suffer from longer periods of unemployment and poorer mental health in later years. This has a direct impact on services such as

social work, health, criminal justice and the benefit system in future years.

Through the realignment of priorities and actions in the updated North East Locality Improvement Plan, partners will be encouraged to work together to ensure that residents and families are signposted and supported to access the relevant information, advice and provision to allow them to make informed choices and work towards more positive employment and lifestyle outcomes.

There is additional focus on interventions for young people, and through making the most of current Scottish Government

strategies such as Developing Young Workforce, No One Left Behind and Every Child, Every Chance, services will be developed in partnership with the community to ensure that they are relevant and effective, especially as a result of the inequalities highlighted by the covid-19 pandemic.

**Lead** – City of Edinburgh Council  
Business Growth & Inclusion

**Partners** include – Skills Development Scotland, other Council Service areas, Developing Young Workforce, NHS Lothian, third sector employability and support organisations.

Outcome	High level actions	Measure	LOIP priority
Young people and their families who are most in need feel supported to access opportunities leading to positive destinations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver capacity building sessions for frontline staff to allow them to be able to signpost vulnerable people to relevant support and early intervention services</li> <li>• Identify barriers that prevent young people from participating fully in their communities through a themed Youth Talk approach and work with partners and service providers to remove or reduce those barriers in order to provide additional support and early intervention</li> <li>• Develop a programme of virtual or actual Jobs and Opportunity Events to increase awareness of local organisations, training and employment opportunities</li> <li>• Employability and sector-based training will be offered locally</li> </ul>	<p>Improve the confidence of frontline staff in signposting families to relevant services</p> <p>Increase in young people accessing post school employment &amp; training opportunities</p>	<p>Enough money to live on</p> <p>Access to work, learning &amp; training opportunities</p>
Increased positive destinations for every school leaver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide locally accessible and targeted employability support in areas of most need</li> <li>• Every school leaver will have the pathway to progress to a positive destination</li> </ul>	<p>Increase the number of young people securing positive destinations</p>	<p>Enough money to live on</p> <p>Access to work, learning &amp; training opportunities</p>



## Theme 2 - *Enable access to health and wellbeing opportunities, activities & social networks for people who are vulnerable and in poverty in order to restore, maintain or improve their quality of life and social connectedness*

Our priority outcomes for improving health and wellbeing in the North East locality will help make sure that everyone living and working here can benefit from a broad range of activities and support to improve their physical and mental health and wellbeing and prevent poor health in the future.

We know that social isolation and loneliness have a very significant impact on health.<sup>1</sup> The COVID-19 pandemic has

shown us more than ever the importance of connection and community. We also know that not everybody is able to benefit equitably from available health and wellbeing support.

Together with people who live and work in the area, we will continue to build on activities, services and networks that promote social connectedness, recognising that these social connections contribute to people's quality of life, health, safety, economy and wellbeing in the neighbourhoods where they live.

We will learn from the diverse experience of local people, and our collective response to the COVID19 pandemic, in order to reduce barriers to health and wellbeing support for people who are vulnerable.

**Lead** – Health & Social Care Partnership

**Partners** include – All public sector services, general practice and particularly community and third sector organisations and networks.

<sup>1</sup> Scottish Public Health Network, 2017. *Social Isolation & Loneliness: What is the scope for Public*

*Health Action?* Available at <https://www.scotphn.net/wp->

[content/uploads/2017/05/2017\\_05\\_16-Loneliness-Scoping-Note-Final-formatted.pdf](content/uploads/2017/05/2017_05_16-Loneliness-Scoping-Note-Final-formatted.pdf)



Outcome	High level actions	Measure	LOIP priority
<p>Reduced loneliness and social isolation</p> <p>Improved access to health and wellbeing support</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Map community resources for health and wellbeing and implement a strategy for keeping that information, including information on community assets, up-to-date and accessible, in order to inform people who live and work in the area about them</li> <li>• Work with local people, and statutory and non-statutory partners to identify the needs of vulnerable groups and those barriers which may prevent them from accessing support, and put in place potential solutions that build on what's already available</li> <li>• Partner with local people to better understand their experiences of using existing support services through a variety of techniques such as data, stories, action learning and co-design.</li> </ul>	<p>Feedback from the community through people's stories, community participatory activity</p>	<p>A good place to live</p>



### **Theme 3 – Support and strengthen communities where poverty is highest to improve and maintain inclusive, safe and welcoming places to live.**

The places where people live, their connections with others within those local communities and the extent to which they can influence the decisions that shape those spaces, all have a significant impact on their health, wellbeing and quality of life. Community participation is at the heart of this and almost ten years on from the Christie Commission findings, there is potentially a greater opportunity than previously felt to work in partnership with our communities to create good places to live. To build on the collaboration, local action and involvement that has seen neighbours, organisations and partners respond so positively to the challenges posed from coronavirus.

Partners have identified the importance of delivering improvements where engagement activities have already been undertaken with local residents to identify key areas for change and these actions have been reflected in this priority.

There is also recognition of the importance of keeping people safe, both at an individual level and community level, and the impact that this has on poverty, equality and life chances. Tackling hate crime and domestic abuse have been prioritised as key concerns which lead to poor mental health and physical harm, reduced income and poverty for families. The pandemic has

further potential to increase the pressure already felt by victims from isolation and reduced confidence, leading to greater inequality.

**Lead-** Council Housing Service/ Police Scotland

**Partners include-** Neighbourhood Networks, North East Voluntary Sector Forum, Community Councils, Health & Social Care Partnership, Council Community Engagement & Empowerment staff, community and third sector organisations





Outcome	High level actions	Measure	LOIP priority
<p>People living in targeted areas of higher need feel that they have a say on local issues and that developments better reflect their needs</p> <p>More sustainable local communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and deliver environmental and quality of life improvements and opportunities for residents living in North Cairntow working jointly with members of the gypsy travelling community</li> <li>Develop and deliver a range of environmental improvements in Northfield through engaging with local stakeholders and residents to improve the area as an inclusive, safe and welcoming place to live</li> <li>Deliver identified improvements in Magdalene as described in the Magdalene Matters Action Plan</li> <li>Support partnership approaches to community growing initiatives across the locality</li> </ul>	<p>Increase in positive feedback from the local residents of North Cairntow, Northfield and Magdalene</p> <p>Increase the number of formal/ informal growing sites</p>	<p>A good place to live</p>
<p>People feel safer living in their local community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deliver domestic abuse &amp; coercive control awareness training to targeted groups of staff</li> <li>Work with community groups, registered social landlord's, Community Councils and third sector organisations to divert people away from anti-social behaviour and use all available legislation to tackle the most persistent offenders</li> <li>Work together to tackle hate crime and intolerance through building stronger relationships across communities to encourage reporting of hate crime and support/ promote cultural diversity.</li> </ul>	<p>Improve on the number of reported ASB incidents</p> <p>Improve on the rate of hate crime reporting</p>	<p>A good place to live</p>

## Case study examples

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### **Magdalene Matters**

Magdalene Matters is a community-led environmental improvement initiative which began with an estate walkabout with local people to raise issues and concerns. In March 2018, 80 residents, community organisations and stakeholders gathered at a public engagement event to identify their key priorities and to work together with partners and elected members to agree solutions to tackle the issues.

A Magdalene Matters Improvement Plan was developed as a result, with key actions addressing concerns of community safety, housing and environment improvements and community identity. Partners have taken forward a range of improvement actions over the last 18 months including:

- housing drop-in sessions for tenants and owners to help shape a housing improvement feasibility study for Magdalene Drive and Gardens
- structural survey on the properties
- Week of Action in Magdalene and Bingham with partners and the community
- Environmental Visual Audit to identify required environmental improvements
- bespoke litter, flytipping and dog fouling campaign
- community benefit projects such as wildflower meadow planting
- increased flytipping removal by concierge officers
- community litter picks
- community safety survey by police with warrants executed
- Police Scotland initiative with local primary schoolchildren to design and issue mock parking tickets to those parking inconsiderately in the school vicinity
- updates provided to stakeholders and local community through Portobello & Craigmillar Neighbourhood Partnership meetings
- Magdalene Matters Newsletter
- local drop-in surgeries held by Neighbourhood Alliance
- development of a local community-led group to oversee the improvements- the Magdalene Matters Action Group

## North Cairntow

Officers and partners have worked closely with the local gypsy travelling community at the North Cairntow site in Craigmillar to improve the quality of life for local residents. A wide range of actions have been developed with the full involvement of local residents through a newly established Tenants and Residents Group. Housing improvements are currently being actioned following the completion of a feasibility study with the commissioning of an architect to support the community to co-design the site modernisation work. A business case for future Capital Investment has also been presented to cover the cost of the planned programme of improvement works.

In response to identified community need, an on-site hub was developed with an events programme that includes literacy, art and income maximisation workshops. One of the initiatives involved the Lifelong Learning Service working in partnership with MECOPP (Minority Ethnic Carers of People Project) who have developed strong links with the gypsy traveller's community on site to deliver a tinsmithing art project. Several workshops were held at the hub attracting younger and older members of the community who produced artwork using traditional skills whilst connecting across the generations.

Other developments have included the provision of health screening for residents and support for an NHS immunisation programme through the provision of alternative accommodation.

## YouthTalk -Craigentiny & Duddingston

YouthTalk is a youth engagement model which enables local young people to give their views on local facilities, activities and services. The initiative has been developed in partnership with the Council, NHS Lothian, Police Scotland and with local youth work organisations, and was first established in the North East Locality in Leith with a group of young people leading the way. The most recent work has been delivered in the Craigentiny & Duddingston Ward, where Lifelong Learning staff, supported by schools and partner organisations, engaged with more than 300 young people during Autumn-Winter 2019/20 asking them what would make their neighbourhood a better place to live.

These conversations with young people identified the following ambitions for their local neighbourhoods:

- A cleaner community
- More places to hang out and play
- A safer community
- Improved parks and green spaces
- Less traffic and more public transport
- Better housing and opportunities
- More information about what's on

The planned Gathering event with "decision-makers", which was scheduled for May 2020 had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, however, Lifelong Learning staff are using a combination of streetwork and internet technology to continue the engagement with young people – focusing on the streets closest to Craigentiny Community Centre and Lochend Park. It is anticipated that future Gathering events will take place online and will be themed to enable young people to attend online events with community decision makers based upon the issues which are most important to them.

## £eith Chooses Participatory Budgeting

£eith Chooses (£C) is the current iteration of a participatory budgeting (PB) process which started 10 years ago in Leith.

The Leith Neighbourhood Partnership chose to allocate their Community Grant funding through a more democratic process which involved the wider community to reach decisions on funding allocations, moving away from a previously used panel-based assessment. The process has evolved over the past 10 years into a successful community-led process which unites local voluntary organisations and residents for a high-profile local event which attracts a high number of local participants annually.

The £eith Chooses Steering Group is made up of representatives from the three local community councils, local elected members, voluntary organisations and council officers. The Steering Group meets weekly to shape the process which distributes community grant funding of £44,624. The last annual event took place on 1 February 2020, with twenty organisations presenting their projects in a market place in Leith Community Centre.

Over 900 people who live, work, study or volunteer in Leith attended to vote for their preferred projects. They cast 2186 votes in total.

### Removing barriers to participation- an evolving PB process

The Steering Group ensure that the process evolves and adapts every year in response to feedback received from community organisations, key stakeholders and participants. For the 2020 event, £eith Chooses created a 'gentle registration area' which was a quieter space with supportive volunteers. This was in response to suggestions made by parents with (adult) autistic children who found the high energy of the previous public event overwhelming and from some older people who found the registration queueing tiring. The 'gentle registration' was designed to be an alternative space where those with more visible mobility needs (wheelchairs, buggies) and those with invisible needs (anxiety, literacy, Asperger's) could prepare to vote.

Another new addition to the 2020 event was the children's vote for the best dressed stall. Traditionally young people 8 years and over can vote in £C, so the introduction of an age and stage appropriate alternative vote was a fun, educational way to promote democratic engagement for those under 8 years of age.

Following the previous year's pilot of a 'boost vote', four groups received a 'boost vote' in 2020. Previously, BAME groups were regularly unsuccessful in the PB process in Leith, so following feedback, in 2019 this was introduced to recognise the efforts of those groups that support working with ethnic minorities in Leith. A total of 616 boost votes were cast and all four projects received funding.

The Scottish Community Development Centre kindly offered an evaluation process on the event day and presented an overview in the following article: <https://pbscotland.scot/blog/2020/2/7/leith-chooses-a-treasure-trove-of-good-practicenbsp>

## How we will measure success

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:

### 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 North East locality team:

- email [northeast.locality@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:northeast.locality@edinburgh.gov.uk)
- telephone 0131 529 3111 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](#)

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For further information or to view a copy of the assessments please contact:

[northeast.locality@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:northeast.locality@edinburgh.gov.uk)



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## THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

### Edinburgh Community Learning and Development Plan 2018-21

#### 1. Executive Summary

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Led by the Council Lifelong Learning service, the Community Learning and Development Partnership (CLDP) produced an [Edinburgh CLD plan](#) for 2018-2021.

The plan focuses on key areas of activity which is intended to add *value* to community learning and development delivery by identifying where the partnership can bring fresh thinking and collaborative effort to make a difference and improve outcomes.

The CLDP wishes to update the EP Board on progress 2019/20 and point to a revised approach to the plan for 2020 to 2021.

#### 2. Recommendations

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2.1 The Board is recommended to:

- i. Note progress and the revised approach

#### 3. Main Report

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3.1 Under the powers of the 1980 Education (Scotland) Act, the Council has a duty to fulfil the Requirements for Community Learning and Development (Scotland) Regulations 2013.

3.2 Local authorities are expected to: identify individuals and groups and their needs regarding community learning and development; assess the degree to which these needs are being met; identify barriers to the adequate and efficient provision of community learning and development; publish a three-year CLD plan.

3.3 Community Learning and Development supports primarily disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and individuals to engage in learning, personal development and active citizenship, bringing about changes in their lives and communities.

3.4 The plan aims to be dynamic and adaptable, never more so perhaps than in this year of an unprecedented, world Coronavirus pandemic, which has had an impact on citizens and groups who are disadvantaged. The CLDP has responded by reviewing and updating the plan in a collective effort to 'make a difference' and positively impact on people's lives through collaboration and partnership.

- 1.1. One example of how the CLDP has responded to the pandemic is outlined in Appendix 1.

### **Governance**

- 3.5 The revised CLDP terms of reference and restructure, to develop a Board and Delivery Group model, is yielding improvements in terms of clarity of roles, accountability, resources and identification of opportunities, challenges and risks to delivery of plan actions.
- 3.6 However, Coronavirus has brought with it an unplanned requirement for an immediate response from all partners in specific and immediate support responses from their organisation and this (understandable) reactive approach has at times mitigated against the full potential of partnership working to address some Coronavirus impacts. The Board has been looking at how we might identify areas for further collaboration such as food security, isolation, loss of learning for adult learners, health and wellbeing support.

### **Learning**

- 3.7 The focus of individual organisations as outlined in 1.6 has put pressure on partners to react as individual organisations, particularly as for some their staff have been redeployed into other roles. The important thing is that this is recognised and now that we as a City are further on in the year, it is time to look at some specific collaborations to address need in a more coherent way.
- 3.8 The reality of capacity limitations strengthens the case for concerted collaboration and partnership, to maximise the effectiveness of resources by sharing and directing these to help those most in need.
- 3.9 Partners including the Council, Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations Council and Lothian Association of Youth Clubs have met with Management Committees of Council owned community centres across the city to explore how all parties can collaborate to adapt and renew services within the Scottish Government guidance and resources challenge.

### **Next steps**

- 3.10 The CLDP will offer the revised plan (Appendix 2) to Education Scotland for publication.
- 3.11 The CLDP will begin planning for the new CLDP plan 2021 to 2024.

## **4. Contact**

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## **Appendix 1**

### **Granton Recovery Programme**

#### **Identified need and opportunity for partnership**

Following Covid19 restrictions in March 2020, members of the CLD Partnership came together to discuss how we might respond to the emerging needs of communities across Edinburgh. We agreed to pilot this approach in NW Granton area in the first instance. Key partners included teams from NW Lifelong Learning and Adult Education Programme, Edinburgh College (EC), Skills development Scotland (SDS) and a variety of local voluntary partners including Stepping Stones, Fresh Start and Health in Mind.

NW Lifelong Learning team conducted a survey to capture local emerging needs with statutory and voluntary providers and consequently identified adult themes relating to Health & Wellbeing and Employability. The aim was to provide a blended learning programme for adults and families to include online and face to face learning within Edinburgh College's Granton campus. The Granton Recovery Programme was pulled together relatively quickly and was due to start at the end of September 2020.

Considerable efforts were made to try and accommodate the Granton Recovery Programme on EC's Granton Campus following various meetings with college staff and partners on Health & Safety requirements and additional measures for accommodation with separate entrances.

Unfortunately, due to the emerging situation within colleges and the resurgence of the virus, face to face delivery for adult learners was suspended and the programme had to be reduced to online classes only.

In addition, some technical issues with the Council's TEAMS platform resulted in delays. In the intervening period, the Strategic Adult Learning team were able to organise further training for 60 tutors, 10 Lifelong Learning and Development Officer and 15 Business Support staff with the help of Digital Skills staff.

The final Granton Recovery Programme was launched on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020 and classes commenced on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2020. Some partners have had to pause their participation until face to face learning can be reinstated.

To date we have over 300 adults engaged in the online learning programme.

#### **Improvements and strength of partnership formed**

The benefit or success of this programme lies in how the current circumstances has galvanised partners to come together, to re-examine and refocus delivery around the specific needs of the local community in a dedicated, co-ordinated and responsive manner. To utilise the resources at their disposal around a common goal to the benefit of local people.

Conversations are beginning in other areas of the city and we hope to have similar partnership programmes, online and face to face within college campuses operational in the new year

## **ESOL online courses and delivery**

### **Identified need and opportunity for partnership**

During the months prior to Covid19 the Workers' Educational Association (WEA) had been preparing to deliver a range of face to face ESOL for Workplace and ESOL for Employability classes at a variety of workplaces and venues across the city. The majority of these ESOL courses and classes were to have been delivered to Hospitality staff working in several hotels across the capital, and NHS staff (UNISON members) employed across the city. The pandemic started to take hold at the very point these face-to-face classes were scheduled to commence. Unfortunately, WEA along with everyone else had to cancel face to face delivery and look to meet learner, partner and funder requirements in different ways.

The decision was taken very quickly to deliver these courses online. WEA had been utilising online platforms such as Zoom and Canvas Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) for some time but as part of a blended approach to learning. In a very short space of time online delivery became key and we had to ramp up our resources and training to cope with the sudden unexpected increase in demand.

Following discussions with Edinburgh College and ECLDP partners we decided to concentrate on ESOL for Workplace and Employability, and ESOL for Health and Wellbeing courses. ESOL for Workplace would have been a central theme of this deliver anyway but we changed the approach to consider the fast-changing circumstances of many staff (Hospitality sector in particular) who had been placed on furlough on in many cases lost their jobs.

Colleagues from across the ECLD partnership assisted in advertising and marketing these courses and making their contacts, and potential and existing learners aware of these high-quality free learning opportunities. This close partnership approach enabled WEA and the partnership to engage with additional learners across the city, referred from a wide range of partners and projects.

Between May and July 2020 WEA delivered four highly successful ESOL courses online using Zoom and Canvas VLE. Forty-six learners attended across the four courses and all were able to benefit from the synchronous and asynchronous learning made possible through live interaction and 'face to face' online classroom (Zoom) and additional time spent learning online in their own time (Canvas VLE).

Learners attending the courses were made aware of potential progression routes and future ESOL opportunities across the partnership.

### **Improvements and strength of partnership formed**

This process has helped the partners in the ECLDP to gain a better understanding of the benefits of online delivery and the way in which it provides flexibility and continuity of offer and most importantly how it meets the needs of many learners at this most challenging of times.

The online solutions used by various partners across the city has already led to productive discussions and sharing of experience and practice within the Edinburgh ESOL Partnership which will in turn be useful to the wider partnership and learners within the city.

This recent partnership work helped facilitate engagement with a wide range of ESOL learners across the city who reported they had greatly benefitted from these online courses and connections made with other learners at such a critical time.

Communities are able to benefit from different routes into learning opportunities

<b>How we will co-ordinate and integrate access to formal and informal learning opportunities</b>			
<p>1. Improve access and cross referral for adults into adult learning opportunities across key providers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Re-introduction of Big Plus 0800 number, partners will share information/guidance and cross refer to most-appropriate provision.</li> </ul> <p>2. Pilot in one or more areas, a range of provision with partners, that responds to needs of learners arising from pandemic. Provision will be a mix of face to face and online provision. Through Skills Development Scotland link in with opportunities offered through Fuse and PACE.</p>			
<b>How will we know?</b> (that we have co-ordinated and integrated access to formal and informal learning opportunities.			
<i>Taking each action in turn, how will you know you have done it?</i>	<b>KPIs</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Lead</b>
1) Re-introduce and publicise 0800 number in all partner publicity		June 2020	CEC/Edinburgh College (EC)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor number of calls to the number and cross referrals made</li> </ul>			
2)			CEC/EC/Vol Sector Partners /SDS
a) Map out CLD provision in Granton and wider area (pilot area) for adults who are likely to experience greater inequality as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic includes:	Provision by partners in NW mapped	Aug 2020	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the needs of learners arising from pandemic</li> <li>• identify common themes to plan CLD community based and campus based adult learning provision and partner delivery across a range of platforms</li> <li>• Work with Edinburgh College and SDS to map out learner journeys and additional support</li> </ul>	Have identified programme of on-line provision based on needs analysis.	Sep 2020	
	There is a significant level of uptake of places from people in areas of greatest inequality.	Nov 2020	
	There is positive evaluation of impact of provision	Dec 2020	

<b>How we will develop training based on gathered evidence</b>			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Offer youth workers and relevant interested parties a learning pathway that is accredited and/or adheres to nationally recognised occupational standards</li> <li>2. Offer an up-to-date needs-led programme of topical training that is reviewed annually. Offer an up-to-date programme of training that is reviewed annually and based on evidence</li> </ol>			
<b>How will we know?</b> (that we have developed training based on gathered evidence)			
b) Through SDS link in with PACE (Partnership Action for Continuing Employment) and FUSE Hospitality Academy to identify employment opportunities and support for learners		June 2021	

**Youth Workers are able to access training to better support young people**

**Laurene Edgar and John Heywood**

	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Lead</b>
<i>Taking each action in turn, how will you know you have done it? (max 2 measures for each action)</i>		
1) 50% of participants who have attended training report and demonstrate increase in skills, knowledge and confidence	Annual	CEC/LAYC
2) At least three CLD partners take part in, and report benefit from, the training programme	Annual	CEC/LAYC

**1. Communities, especially the hardly reached/seldom heard, are able to feel they are equal partners in identifying and addressing issues of local concern**

<b>How we will engage with seldom heard communities:</b>		
The partnership will share best practice on participation with seldom heard communities by showcasing a range of new and existing participation methodologies and their findings. (e.g. Youth talk, Place Standard and hearing from community members experiencing barriers)		
<b>How will we know</b> (that we have engaged with seldom heard communities?)		
<i>Taking each action in turn, how will you know you have done it? (max 2 measures for each action)</i>	Timescale	Lead
1. We will have hosted an event to share best practice - measured by a report on the event and a you said we did feedback to participants.	March 2021	Subgroup formed of ECLDP delivery group members
2. An evaluation of the event will have been completed	May 2021	As above

**2. Communities feel supported to influence decisions affecting them.**

<b>How we will support communities to influence decisions affecting them:</b>		
- The partnership will review the Community Activists training pack with the view to develop a resource fit for purpose which can be used with partners.		
<b>How will we know</b> (that we have supported communities to influence decisions affecting them)		
<i>Taking each action in turn, how will you know you have done it? (max 2 measures for each action)</i>	Timescale	Lead
1. A refreshed “active citizen” resource will have been developed	May 2021	Subgroup formed of ECLDP delivery group members

2. We will have identified community group(s) to take part in a pilot of the resource.	October 2021	As above
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