

# Public Document Pack



**Meeting** Tuesday, 12 December 2023  
**Time** 2.00 pm  
**Venue** Diamond Jubilee Room - City Chambers

## Edinburgh Partnership Board

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1.1 Welcome and Meeting Protocols

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## **5 Future Meetings**

- 5.1** Proposed Dates for Next Meetings
- Tuesday 5 March 2024
  - Tuesday 11 June 2024

## THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Tuesday 5 September 2023 – 2.00pm Meeting held in person in the Diamond Jubilee Room, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh and via Microsoft Teams

### MINUTE

#### Board members present

Bridie Ashrowan (in the Chair)	Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations' Council
Cllr Amy McNeese-Mechan	City of Edinburgh Council
Cllr Alex Staniforth	City of Edinburgh Council
Cllr Iain Whyte	City of Edinburgh Council
Dave McCallum	Skills Development Scotland
Paul Wilson	Volunteer Edinburgh

#### In attendance

Chris Adams	City of Edinburgh Council
Rona Hunter	City of Edinburgh Council
Jamie Macrae	City of Edinburgh Council
Michele Mulvaney	City of Edinburgh Council
Gillie Serevin	City of Edinburgh Council
Dr Deborah Smart	City of Edinburgh Council
Jill Thomson	City of Edinburgh Council
Ian Brooke	EVOC
Kerry Murray	NHS Lothian
Samantha Ainslie	Police Scotland
Neil Whiteside	Police Scotland

Gavin Gray	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Stuart Tooley	University of Edinburgh
Jean Gray	Viewpoint Housing Association

### **Apologies**

Cllr Cammy Day	City of Edinburgh Council
Dona Milne	NHS Lothian
Chief Supt Sean Scott	Police Scotland
Area Commander David Dourlay	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

### **1. Declaration of interests**

None.

### **2. Minute**

#### **Decision**

To agree the minute of the Edinburgh Partnership Board 13 June 2023 as a correct record, subject to the following correction: Decision 3 should refer to the “Children and Young People's Service Plan 2023-2026”, rather than the “NHS Lothian Children and Young People's Plan”.

### **3. Local Outcome Improvement Plan Annual Report 2022/23**

Supt Sam Ainslie spoke to the item.

The plan provided the framework for supporting the delivery of partnership working to improve outcomes for those residents in the city experiencing the greatest inequality. The current plan was approved by the Board in March 2022 and an annual report on progress was provided.

#### **Decision**

- 1) To approve the LOIP annual report.
- 2) To note work was underway to develop an integrated performance framework.
- 3) To note that scoping and proposals the performance framework would be provided at the Partnership meeting in March 2024.

#### **4. Actions to address poverty, homelessness and wider prevention of poor health and wellbeing**

Supt Sam Ainslie introduced the item, with updates provided by Chris Adams on the Annual End Poverty in Edinburgh progress report, Jill Thomson on the Council's homelessness prevention duty and Ian Brooke on the Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership's Developing our Prevention and Early intervention Strategy.

##### **Decision**

- 1) To note the updates on the actions to address poverty, homelessness and wider prevention of poor health and wellbeing.
- 2) To note that the Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership's Prevention and Early intervention Strategy would be submitted to the Partnership in March 2024.

#### **5. Development of an Edinburgh Partnership Transformation and Improvement Programme**

Michele Mulvaney spoke to the item.

Approval was sought to develop a transformation and improvement programme for the Edinburgh Partnership. A programme of this type would enable the Partnership to address current challenges, whilst seeking to strengthen the delivery of the priorities through identifying opportunities for transformation and long-term collaboration.

##### **Decision**

To agree the development of a programme for the Edinburgh Partnership as detailed in the report.

#### **6. Future Meetings**

##### **Decision**

- 1) To agree the proposed dates for next meetings as:
  - Tuesday 12 December
  - Tuesday 5 March
  - Tuesday 11 June

Venues to be confirmed.

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# End Poverty in Edinburgh Annual Progress Report

2023

Page 7

Agenda Item 4.1

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# Foreword

In 2020, the Edinburgh Partnership and City of Edinburgh Council made a commitment to take all the local actions possible to end poverty in this city by 2030.

Building on the framework for action set by the Edinburgh Poverty Commission, this is the third annual report on how city partners are going about meeting that target, the progress made so far, and the challenges ahead.

We are proud of all the hard work that has gone on this year to help families through some of the most difficult circumstances imaginable for household budgets.

As city partners we have taken steps to help put more money directly into the pockets of people who need it most – delivering £20m of financial gains for people using the city’s money and welfare advice services.

We have helped people maximise their earnings from employment, by supporting 4,150 people into work or learning, and encouraging another above target uplift in the number of real living wage accredited businesses in this city.

We have built new social rented homes, helped people stay out of homelessness, seen a narrowing of our poverty related attainment gap, and worked hard to find new and innovative ways to use our resources to help people on low incomes in this city keep their heads above water during the ongoing cost of living crisis.

While doing all this, we are also building the foundations for longer term prevention of poverty, embedding Community Wealth Building principles in

our ways of working, and delivering transformation plans for integrated services that help individuals and families in Edinburgh find the help they need to prevent and alleviate the impacts of poverty on their lives.

These actions described in this report are the right things for us to do, and as the data and case studies included here demonstrate, they represent real progress and real improvements to the lives of people who are struggling to get by in this city. We are proud of those improvements, but we know that they come at a time when the risk of severe poverty in Edinburgh is rising, and when one in five children still grow up in poverty in Scotland’s most affluent city.

We have shown in the last three years that when we come together as a city, we can make a real difference for the people of Edinburgh. And we are committed to carrying on that work and continuing that path of improvement through the priority actions set out in this report. We hope that you will work with us to help deliver our vision of a city where no one’s life needs to be scarred by the experience of long-term poverty.

<b>Councillor Cammy Day</b>  Council Leader, City of Edinburgh Council  &  Chair, Edinburgh Partnership	<b>Dona Milne</b>  Director of Public Health and Health Policy  NHS Lothian
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# Executive Summary

This is the third annual report on the citywide response to the calls to action presented by the Edinburgh Poverty Commission in 2020. It provides an overview of progress made and a refreshed framework for continued work by the City of Edinburgh Council, NHS Lothian, and Edinburgh Partnership to meet the challenge set by the Commission to ‘end poverty in Edinburgh’, including a specific focus on child poverty actions.

In doing so, this report fulfils statutory requirements for the Council and NHS Lothian to co-produce an annual Local Child Poverty Action Report setting out partners’ contributions towards meeting Scottish Government Child poverty targets.

## Poverty in Edinburgh

The latest available data shows that an estimated **17% of people in Edinburgh were living in poverty in the period to 2022, including 20% of all children**. In line with national patterns these data indicate that poverty rates have remained relatively unchanged in recent years, despite the impact of the pandemic and the early months of the cost of living crisis in 2022.

Within these high level averages, analysis carried out by partners in 2023 has further deepened understanding of the higher risk of poverty among women, families with children, minority ethnic groups, and disabled families in the city. Poverty rates for some of these priority groups during 2022 were more than double the average for citizens as a whole.

Analysis provided in this report also demonstrates a long-term trend of increasing risk of very deep poverty across Scotland. Within Edinburgh these trends are demonstrated by evidence showing that some 10,000 Edinburgh families regularly skipped meals because they could not afford enough food during 2022, alongside evidence of a 50% year on year increase in clients seeking support for rent arrears through Citizens Advice Scotland.

Looking ahead, most analyses project a complex future outlook for poverty trends in the UK. On balance of risks, most estimates suggest that living standards and incomes across the UK are likely to decline during the period to 2024/25, with a likely upward pressure on headline poverty rates.

## Actions to end poverty in Edinburgh

For the city to meet the headline 2030 targets set by the Edinburgh Poverty Commission and by Scottish Government will need:

- **All age poverty rates in Edinburgh to fall by 7 percentage points by 2030, and**
- **Child poverty rates to fall by 10 percentage points.**
- **This means lifting almost 36,000 people, including 8,900 children out of poverty over the next eight years.**

In the current context these are extremely challenging targets but, as the analysis in this report demonstrates, the experience and evidence from recent years shows that significant progress can be made on these metrics through effective and well targeted public policy interventions.

The Edinburgh Poverty Commission noted that, although city partners have many levers they can use to alleviate and prevent poverty in Edinburgh, the targets set for the city cannot be met without significant national policy intervention.

Towards this, the report reiterates calls for action by the commission, and a range of other partners for:

- The UK Government to take the steps needed to ensure that UK-wide social security systems provide an effective lifeline for people who are struggling to get by, and
- The Scottish Government to provide sufficient local funding to support delivery of new affordable and social rented homes in Edinburgh.

At the city level, partners in Edinburgh are committed to a refreshed framework of actions designed to respond to all the calls to action from the Edinburgh Poverty Commission. Built around four themes of work, this framework has informed delivery this year, and will continue to guide priorities for partnership working through the next few years:

- **Increase income from work and opportunity to progress:**

This includes actions this year that have:

- Promoted the real Living Wage, with the number of accredited employers in the city rising to **677**, a rate of increase well ahead of annual targets with **390 workers supported to a pay rise this financial year alone so far**
- Launched plans for a new **Edinburgh Fair Work Charter**
- Supported **4,150 people into work and learning, including over 900 young people** through Council funded employability programmes
- Delivered a new focus on priority groups through employability support, including **25 new projects supported through the parental employment fund**
- Recorded an improvement in positive destinations from schools and a reduction in the **poverty related attainment gap**

- **Maximise support from social safety nets:** This includes actions this year that have:

- Helped low income people in Edinburgh achieve **total financial gains of £20.5m** through money and welfare advice services
- Delivered specialist support programmes targeted at priority family types, with **money advice support embedded** and referred through early years' centres, schools, midwives, health visitors, hospitals, and GP practices across the city
- Increased the number of people supported through **Free School Meal and Uniform Grant** programmes by 61% over the past three years through automation of application processes

- Delivered **£193m** for Edinburgh citizens through locally administered benefits such as housing benefit, DHP, and Council Tax Reduction
- Delivered **£2.1m of Scottish Welfare Fund** crisis payments for people in crisis in Edinburgh, alongside **£300k** of Council support for local foodbanks
- Delivered early intervention support to **prevent 386 households from homelessness** in Edinburgh
- Introduced a new **tenant hardship fund**, alongside wider supports like benefits checks, to support Council tenants who are struggling to pay their rent.
- **Reduce the cost of living:** This includes local actions this year that have:
  - **Invested over £119m** in building new affordable homes and improving existing homes and neighbourhoods.
  - Delivered **54 new social rented homes** and **148 homes for mid-market rent** through the Council's LLP
  - Secured **£206k in savings** for Council tenants through Energy Advice Support
  - Provided **subsidised childcare places** for working families in four areas of the city through Edinburgh's Affordable Childcare for Working Parents service
- **Make it easier to find help:** This includes local actions this year to:
  - Established a new **Whole Family Support Project** team, and a new **Integrated Front Door Project** for early intervention and prevention
  - Delivered place based pilot projects for early intervention and integrated support underway in **Craigmillar, Gorgie/Dalry, Liberton, and Craigroyston**
  - Delivered **poverty, income maximisation, and homelessness prevention training** to housing officers, community centre staff, librarians, parent and family support workers, health visitors, police officers, midwives, family nurses and other workers.

# End Poverty in Edinburgh Delivery Plan

- Promote fair work that provides dignity and security
- Help people to access and progress in work
- Improve attainment, achievement, and positive destinations for young people who grow up in poverty

**Increase income from work and opportunity to progress**

**Maximise support from social safety nets**

- Maximise uptake of benefits entitlements and other support
- Deliver well targeted cash first and local crisis support programmes
- Help prevent homelessness

- Deliver decent homes that people can afford to live in
- Provide targeted support for rising energy costs
- Improve access to affordable childcare
- Improve digital inclusion and access to affordable transport

**Reduce the cost of living**

**Make it easier to find help**

- Deliver integrated, 'no wrong door' approaches to service delivery and prevention of poverty
- Provide the support people need, in the places they live and work
- Deliver poverty awareness training programmes that address stigma

## CASE STUDY: DELIVERING JOINED UP SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES EXPERIENCING POVERTY

Some of the most impactful and transformative end poverty actions delivered in Edinburgh in recent years have been those which focus on building sustained trusted relationships with families who are struggling to get by, provide wraparound support that helps maximise access to social security entitlements, reduce living costs, build wellbeing, and help families plan for the future.

The **Maximise!** service - delivered as a partnership between **CHAI** and **Children 1<sup>st</sup>** - is one good example of this approach. Funded by the **Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal** and **City of Edinburgh Council**, the service offers a joined-up model of money advice, employability, and family support. Currently, the project works with families whose children attend Early Years Centres in 10 areas of concentrated poverty and deprivation in the city - Craigmillar, Granton, Greendykes, Fort, Moffat, Calderglen, Hailesland, Gilmerton, Sighthill and Stenhouse.

Case studies on clients such as “B” provide a clear example of this approach working in practice and the profound difference it can make for people’s lives.

When B first started receiving support through the Maximise project, she was a lone parent with a 3-year-old son who was being assessed for autism. She had recently separated from an abusive relationship and was socially isolated with a limited support network. B had stopped working when she had her son and she was feeling anxious, alone, and overwhelmed. She was in arrears on her rent, struggling to manage the rising cost of living, and finding it increasingly difficult to cope with her son’s behaviour.

The **Maximise! money advisor** was able to help B make a successful application for Adult Disability Payment – an application that anxiety and poor mental health had previously made it difficult to complete on her own. This provided **a financial gain of £5,291 per year for the family**. Alongside this, the advisor explored other financial support that B could access to help her buy things like a washing machine, a new bed for her son, and some much-needed sensory toys. Through grant applications to organization such Edinburgh Trust and Vocal, B was able to secure **a total of £1,550** for the items she needed.

Alongside financial support, the Maximise! Team also provided **family wellbeing support** to B to help her and her son. This included working with Early Years support teams to help increase the number of childcare hours available as well as practical support around the home, support to attend medical appointments, help to access disability aids both at home and at nursery as well as support to help B better understand her son’s needs and improve her communication with him.

As a result of this support, B started to feel that she was in a much better place and expressed a wish to do something for herself, such as part time work or a course, and to start to think about her own future. Working with the **Maximise! Employability advisor**, B was able apply for and was accepted on a part-time course at Edinburgh College that will help her take first steps towards building a future career.

These days, B describes feeling like she is going back to her ‘old self’ and is finally moving past the trauma she had experienced. She is now able to do things more independently and is less reliant on others for support. She is more financially secure, has a more organized home and has created a safer space for her child to live and play in. She is getting out more, mixing with other parents and planning the future for herself and her son.

# Introduction

In the Autumn of 2020, the Edinburgh Partnership and City of Edinburgh Council made a commitment to take all the local actions possible to end poverty in this city by 2030.

Building on the framework for action set by the [Edinburgh Poverty Commission](#), this is the third annual report on progress towards meeting that challenge. The report sets out:

- An overview of the latest data and evidence on changing trends in poverty in Edinburgh
- A review of actions delivered in 2023 by the Council, NHS Lothian, and the Edinburgh Partnership across each of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission calls to action, as well as
- Planned priority actions for partners during the next 12 months

In doing so, and in line with the recommendations of the Commission, this report incorporates the statutory duty for all Councils and NHS boards to produce an annual Local Child Poverty Action Report.



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

In making its calls to actions, the Edinburgh Poverty Commission noted that:

*“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 living on a low income is temporary, not a persistent trap, and does mean not 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.”*

Within that context the Council and Edinburgh Partnership adopted four specific local targets for the actions set out in this report. They state that by 2030, Edinburgh should aim to be a city in which:

- **Fewer than 10% of children and fewer than 10% of adults are living in relative poverty at any given time**
- **No-one lives in persistent poverty**
- **No one has to go without the basic essentials they need to eat, keep clean and safe, and stay warm and dry, and**
- **No one feels stigmatised, abandoned, or treated with less respect by the city as a result of their income.**

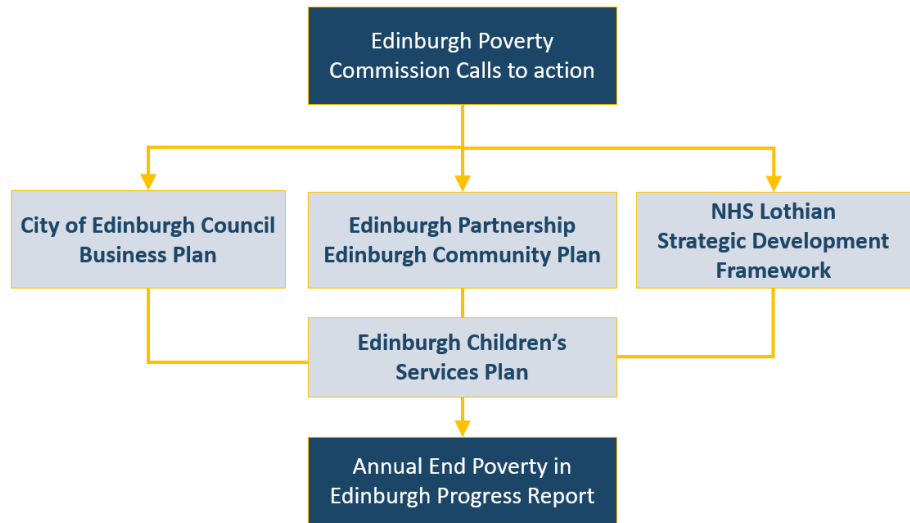
These local targets align with nationwide targets set out in the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 such that:

- Fewer than 10% of children should be living in families in relative poverty by 2030.
- Fewer than 5% of children should be living in families in absolute poverty by 2030.
- Fewer than 5% of children should be living in families living in combined low income and material deprivation by 2030.
- Fewer than 5% of children should be living in families in persistent poverty by 2030.

## Strategic context

These local targets and the actions needed to deliver them are embedded throughout the strategic plans and governance frameworks of the Council, the Edinburgh Partnership, and NHS Lothian. This report draws these end

poverty actions together into a single plan, refreshed, and updated every year. In doing so, the report aims to provide a single, comprehensive view of the steps being taken across the city in response to the challenge and calls to action set by the Edinburgh Poverty Commission.



In March 2023 the **City of Edinburgh Council** approved a refreshed [Council Business Plan](#) to guide its work over the period 2023 to 27. This plan reiterated the target to ‘end poverty by 2030’ as one of three headline priorities to drive budget and service decision making. The plan incorporates priority actions to promote fair work, strengthen approaches to prevent poverty and homelessness, improve access to decent homes people can afford to live in, and improve attainment and achievement rates for children who grow up in poverty.

The [Edinburgh Partnership Community Plan for 2022-28](#) drives partnership-wide actions needed to end poverty, including actions to ensure people have enough money to live on, can access work, learning and training opportunities, and have a good place to live.

In 2023 the **Edinburgh Children’s Partnership** developed a new **Edinburgh Children’s Services Plan for 2023-26**, with a refreshed focus on tackling child poverty and ensuring that all of Edinburgh’s children and young people enjoy their childhood and achieve their potential. The plan includes actions to reduce the costs needed for children, young people, and families to fully participate in the city, ensure all services and staff are aware of, and supported to participate in poverty prevention and awareness training, and make sure future service commissioning is informed by a poverty lens and a rights-based approach.

The [NHS Lothian Strategic Development Framework](#) (LSDF) in 2022 sets out the role the NHS plays as an Anchor Institution in the region as being “central to our contribution towards improving population health and wellbeing and tackling poverty and inequalities”. The LSDF also includes a focus on children and young people, and within this a focus on addressing, with specific actions to improve non-medical family support, and access to mental health support for children, young people, and their families.

**Governance and Co-ordination**

A multi-agency officer working group is responsible for developing, agreeing, and sharing the findings of this report. In doing so, the group, which comprises lead officers from relevant agencies, works to connect and coordinate end poverty actions throughout this planning framework.

The report is developed by the working group with support and contributions from a wide range of colleagues from the Council, NHS Lothian, Third sector and other partners.

Before submission to Scottish Government, in line with the requirements of the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act, the report is scrutinised and approved by City of Edinburgh Council, Edinburgh Partnership Board, and NHS Lothian. Key dates in this approval process include:

- City of Edinburgh Council, Policy and Sustainability Committee, 24 October 2023, and
- Edinburgh Partnership Board, 12 December 2023.



Alongside development of this report, the officer working group also leads on:

- Developing and communicating the evidence base on poverty trends across Edinburgh
- Facilitating and strengthening anti-poverty networks across the city, through a programme of monthly learning and networking sessions (Edinburgh Poverty Network – see case study)
- Supporting and participating in national anti-poverty campaigns, such as Challenge Poverty Week
- Working with the Improvement Service and poverty leads in other local authorities to share experience and learn from others on what works to reduce poverty in Scotland, and
- Developing and facilitating cross partner funding bids to Scottish Government and independent funders for additional resources to support the actions set out in this report.

The group also leads and supports ongoing engagement across the city to improve the city's response to poverty related challenges.

In 2023 this included supporting work carried out with the Improvement Service on an analysis to consider how we could best use the resources available in Edinburgh to reduce child poverty in the city.

Based on this analysis the Improvement Services worked with a range of local partners to organise a workshop held in June 2023 which looked at both the local and national picture of child poverty, before focusing on local actions and priorities,

As a result of the workshop, the Edinburgh Children's Partnership has signed up to a set of commitments focused on enhancing its offer around child poverty work. The workshop also informed the refresh of the end poverty in Edinburgh framework described in this annual report.

### CASE STUDY: EDINBURGH POVERTY NETWORK

The **Edinburgh Poverty Network** is an informal meeting series launched in 2021 and open to all organisations and projects working to end poverty in the city.

Virtual meetings are held monthly and take a themed approach focusing on areas of common challenge, and common interest.

Themes discussed during 2023 have included:

- How to maximise the impact and use of Community Benefits Clauses
- Homelessness prevention in Edinburgh
- The impact of poverty on women and girls
- Best practice in empowering citizen voices in the development and delivery of end poverty actions
- Tackling poverty related stigma
- Small area, place based approaches to poverty prevention
- Problem debt in Edinburgh
- Supporting parents into employment

Meetings include presentations from local partners and Scotland wide specialists, alongside evidence from citizens highlighting lived experience of the issues under discussion. Breakout sessions then give attendees the chance to reflect, discuss, share experiences and challenges, and build connections between the many strands of work progressing in the city toward the shared goal of ending poverty in Edinburgh.

If you would like to join a network session, or would like to suggest a topic for discussion, please contact us at [policyandinsight@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:policyandinsight@edinburgh.gov.uk) using the subject line '**Edinburgh Poverty Network**'



# Poverty in Edinburgh: What the data tells us

The Edinburgh Poverty Commission set the city a challenge to end poverty in Edinburgh by 2030, and identified four specific targets which would define success against this goal. **Appendix 1**, and associated figures provide an overview of current progress towards these (and other Scottish Government) targets, using the most up to date information available.

For most data points, it should be noted that the latest official estimates still relate to the period to Spring 2022 and do not yet give a clear and full picture about the impact on poverty cost of living challenges. In line with Scottish Government guidance, where possible data are presented as three-year rolling averages to maximise reliability.

For this analysis, then, data on headline targets is augmented with information from a range of sources, national and local, to provide an overall picture on progress to date towards meeting Edinburgh Poverty Commission targets, and evidence behind the recommended priorities for action.

## “THE POVERTY THRESHOLD”

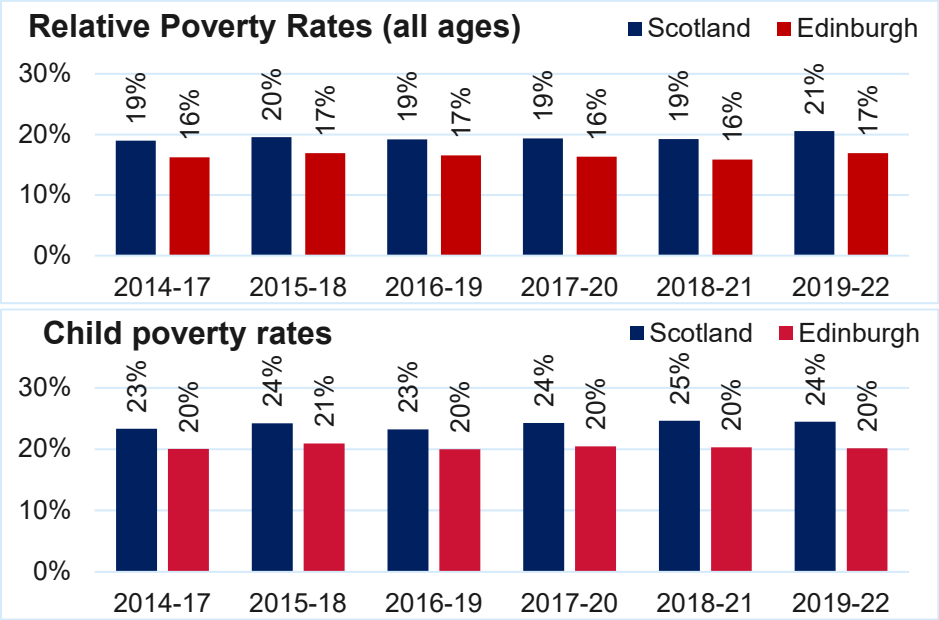
Poverty in Scotland is usually measured in terms of ‘relative poverty after housing costs’. On this definition, people are considered to be ‘in poverty’ if their equivalised net disposable household income is below 60 percent of the UK median after tax and housing costs.

In Scotland in 2022 this meant that a couple with 2 children are in poverty if their household income after tax and housing costs falls below £485 per week (£25,300 per annum), or £174 pw for a single person with no children (£9,100 per annum).

## Trends in headline poverty rates remain unchanged...

An estimated **17% of people** in Edinburgh were living in poverty in the period to spring 2022, accounting for over 80,000 individuals<sup>i</sup>. These included over 17,000 children, **or 20% of all children in the city**. 12% of all Edinburgh residents had been living in poverty for three of the past four years.<sup>ii</sup>

These data indicate little change in poverty rates in recent years, despite the impact of the pandemic and the early months of the cost of living crisis in 2022. Analysis by the Institute for Fiscal Studies and other agencies note that this trend reflects the effectiveness of temporary government interventions to support incomes, including the £20 Universal Credit weekly uplift, cost of living crisis payments, emergency legislation to protect renters, as well as the permanent introduction of the Scottish Child Payment.



Looking ahead, most commentators describe a complex picture for poverty trends across the UK. Inflation remains stubbornly high and is not projected to return to target levels until 2025 at the earliest. The withdrawal of temporary measures mean that support available from the benefits system will fall in the coming year, even if benefit rates are uprated in line with inflation. Local housing allowances, which were raised during the pandemic, are frozen in cash terms as the cost of housing continues to rise.

Taken together, Resolution Foundation estimates suggest that living standards and income for the poorest households across the UK are likely to decline during the period to 2024/25, with consequent upward pressure on headline poverty rates<sup>iii</sup>.

### ...but the experience of poverty is becoming more severe over time...

Research published by Joseph Rowntree Foundation in 2023<sup>iv</sup> demonstrated a long-term increase in the proportion of low-income households who are experiencing very deep poverty. Using an income-based definition, the researchers showed that **46% of low-income households were living in 'very deep poverty' in 2020**, compared to 27% in 1997.

This long-term trend shows that headline poverty data can mask significant changes in the experience of poverty in people's lives. In Edinburgh over recent years this has been demonstrated by increasing evidence pointing to more severe forms of poverty, including increasing numbers of citizens regularly going without basic essentials such as food and shelter.

In 2022, Scottish Government data estimated that **11% of households in poverty were experiencing 'very low' food security** – meaning that meals were skipped, or food intake reduced because the family could not afford enough food<sup>v</sup>. In Edinburgh, this rate would be the equivalent of almost **10,000 people**.

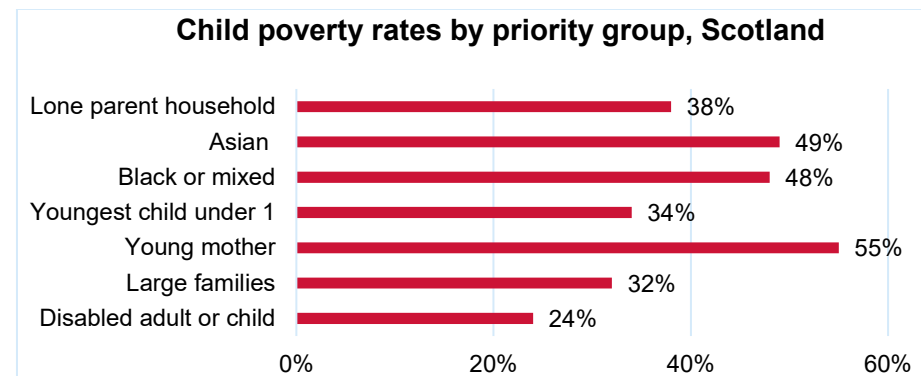
Evidence from local advice providers shows an increasing prevalence of people seeking advice for severe hardship and financial distress. Citizen's Advice Scotland data shows a **50% increase in the number of people**

**seeking support for rent arrears, with an 11% increase in people seeking foodbank referrals in the past year** across Scotland<sup>vi</sup>.

Advice providers also report an increasing trend in people seeking support for problem debt. The total amount of debt owed by clients seeking advice from Citizen's Advice Edinburgh each year is, on average, **£3.5 million, or some £4,000 per client**<sup>vii</sup>.

### Women and families in priority groups are at most risk of poverty in Edinburgh...

More than 80% of all children in poverty in Scotland come from households in Scottish Government identified priority groups. Such families are at a far higher risk of poverty than the population at large – with poverty rates in some cases more than double the average for all household types.



Building on these statistics, analysis carried out in Edinburgh in 2023 points to the **higher risk of poverty faced by women**. The analysis shows that women's poverty is closely linked to child poverty, given the greater role women play as primary caregivers for children and also results from inequalities in the workplace and in earnings from work. Overall, the data show that women are more likely to be poor – particularly when they are lone parents or young mothers, more likely to experience 'very deep' poverty and food insecurity because of a lack of money, more likely to be in low paid, part

time or insecure work, and more likely to reduce paid work to allow for caring responsibilities.

Partner agencies in Edinburgh have also carried out new analysis in 2023 on the impact of poverty on **people with disabilities** and on people from [Black and Minority Ethnic communities](#). These analyses found evidence that:

- Disabled people experience additional barriers to employment and fair work, as well as a pay gap, challenges in education that make it harder to gain the same skills and qualifications as nondisabled people, as well as higher living costs (arising from specialist equipment, transport costs, and energy costs).
- On average families with a disabled adult or child need **an additional £1,100 per month** to have the same standard of living as a non-disabled household.
- Black and minority ethnic people in Scotland fare worse in the labour market than white counterparts in terms of pay, employment, in-work poverty, and income security. Minority ethnic households also have higher housing costs due to being disproportionately represented in the private rented sector.
- **More than 25%** of Black and Minority Ethnic working adults spend over a third of their income on housing compared to just over 10% of white workers.

### ...and spatial inequalities in poverty risk and life chances Edinburgh are wide.

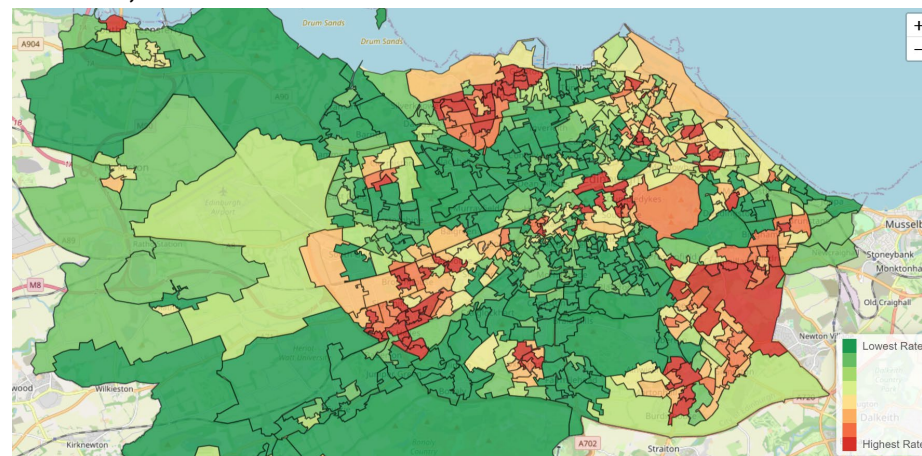
Data published in 2023 by [DWP](#) illustrates the wide inequalities in child poverty risk across small areas in Edinburgh. At electoral ward level, children who live in areas such as Sighthill/Gorgie or Liberton/Gilmerton are **five times more likely** to grow up in poverty than children who grow up in Morningside.

These local variations in poverty risk are apparent even at micro geographies in the city, with many datazones where poverty rates of 30% or above are recorded (marked in red in the chart below), sharing boundaries and

neighbourhoods where average poverty rates are below 10% (marked in deep green).

Notably, the data show that evidence of poverty, often severe poverty, is found in all four of the cities' localities, and in every electoral ward in the city. This evidence confirms at the local level findings across Scotland that show that even in the most affluent areas of Scotland, an average of 1 in 10 households experience poverty.

### Child Poverty rates (before housing costs), City of Edinburgh by datazone, 2021/22



### CASE STUDY: CONNECTED COMMUNITIES EDINBURGH

Launched in October 2023, the **Connected Communities Edinburgh Grants Programme** is a 3-year funding programme with a budget of **£3.5m per annum**.

Drawing together funding from City of Edinburgh Council, NHS Lothian, and Police Scotland, the programme aims to fund projects across Edinburgh which can deliver:

- Positive learning outcomes for disadvantaged children, young people, and families in Edinburgh
- Positive health & wellbeing outcomes for children, young people & families in Edinburgh, and
- Youth and children's work which can deliver positive educational, wellbeing, employment, and other outcomes for young people in Edinburgh.

The programme has been designed to support local, community-based organisations whose services are informed by local knowledge and intelligence. Within this framework, the programme aims to encourage a wide variety of proposals offering community led solutions towards a collective goal of reducing the outcome gap for those who experience the greatest inequality in this city.

In doing so, all applicants will be required to demonstrate the impact that their project can make towards the Council, and the city's, aim to **End poverty in Edinburgh**, as well as an assessment of the project's likely impact on people with priority and protected characteristics.

The programme has been developed by the Council in partnership with EVOC and Lothian Association of Youth Clubs (LAYC).

### CASE STUDY: UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is a UK Government programme designed to foster growth and development in local communities across the United Kingdom.

Managed by **City of Edinburgh Council** and **Capital City Partnership**, Edinburgh's approach to implementing the UKSPF has a focus on inclusion and transparency, aligning to our end poverty plan, and reaching out to Edinburgh's increasingly diverse population.

By harnessing **£12.4m of UKSPF** funding to address local needs and aspirations over **3 years**, the programme is investing in the people and the places that make our communities thrive. A total of 41 projects have been awarded funding across the city, with a significant focus on community cohesion, skills infrastructure, and wellbeing. Where projects support individuals, the programme management office will be able to track and report on their impacts in terms of poverty alleviation, income maximization and job entry.

Examples of projects funded by the UKSPF in Edinburgh include:

- **The MacMillan Skills Hub**: helps people to access to training, career advice and job opportunities
- **Making Work Work**: supports women returning to the labour market
- **Works4Women**: an employability programme that supports women who have experienced domestic abuse
- **Cyrenians - Good Food Programme**: a food redistribution project providing surplus food from the food industry to around 20,000 families a week, alongside a Cook School, and community pantries.

# Actions to End Poverty in Edinburgh

*“Poverty in Edinburgh is real, damaging and costly – but 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.”*

**Dr Jim McCormick, Chair of Edinburgh Poverty Commission**

Against the context of falling incomes, rising costs of living and other challenges described above, the challenge of meeting Edinburgh’s poverty goals is clear.

For the city to be on track to meet the 2030 target levels set by the Edinburgh Poverty Commission and by Scottish Government will need:

- **All age poverty rates in Edinburgh to fall by 7 percentage points by 2030, and**
- **Child poverty rates to fall by 10 percentage points**
- **This means lifting almost 36,000 people, including 8,900 children out of poverty over the next eight years.**

These are sobering targets, but evidence and evaluation of policy interventions demonstrates that effective and well targeted public policy can make significant steps towards meeting them.

## Calls to action for national governments

The Scottish Government’s evaluation of the cumulative impact of its own Bright Starts Better Futures Plan, for instance, shows that the combined effects of all delivery actions (including delivery of local actions such as those included in this report) are expected to reduce **child poverty across Scotland to 19% by 2023/24**. This estimate is above the Government’s own interim targets for its plan but is an estimated reduction of 5.5 percentage

points from current levels and now incorporates an assessment of the impact of deteriorating macro-economic conditions in recent years.

If replicated evenly across Scotland, and all other things being equal, this trend would reduce child poverty rates in Edinburgh to 16% in 2023/24 (currently 20%) **and lift an estimated 4,000 children out of poverty in this city**, almost half of the total required by 2030.

These findings, alongside the evident impact of social security and other temporary policy introductions during the pandemic and cost of living crisis demonstrate the powerful impact that policy levers held by national governments can have on poverty levels across the country.

It is for that reason that the Edinburgh Poverty Commission noted that, although city partners have many levers they can use to alleviate and prevent poverty in Edinburgh, the headline targets set for the city cannot be met without significant national policy intervention.

In particular, the Commission made a call to action, reiterated in this report, and reiterated in the past year by a range of national partners, for:

- **The UK Government** to ensure that UK-wide social security systems provide an effective lifeline for people who are struggling to get by. This means actions such as ensuring Local Housing Allowances are set at levels that reflect the cost of housing in Edinburgh, and removal of UK social security features such as the five-week wait, the two-child cap, and the benefit cap, and
- **Scottish Government** funding to support delivery of new affordable and social rented homes in Edinburgh. Almost one in three families in Edinburgh in poverty are pulled below the water line solely due to their housing costs. Helping to solve the city’s housing crisis will go a



long way to delivering on the government's own affordable housing ambitions for the country as a whole.

The delivery of these actions would have a profound impact on the targets noted above and provide a strong platform for local actions to concentrate on improving the life chances of people and communities in Edinburgh.

## A framework for local delivery

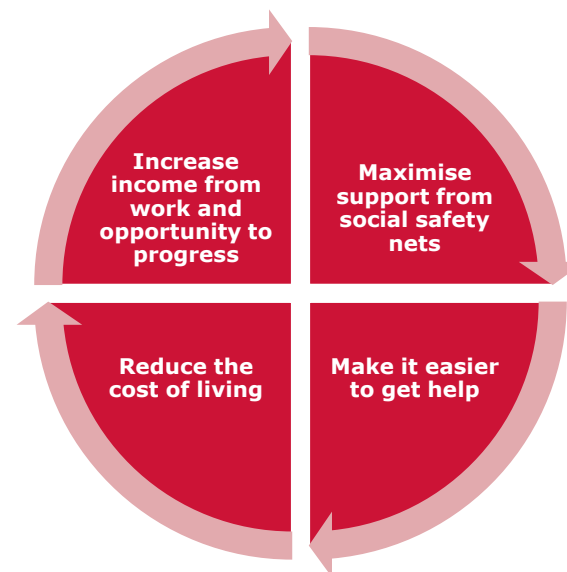
*"To end poverty in the city, the pre-condition and the single biggest transformation Edinburgh could achieve would be to make the experience of seeking help less painful and confusing more humane, and more compassionate."* **Edinburgh Poverty Commission**

Partners in Edinburgh are committed to a framework of actions designed to respond to all the calls to action from the Edinburgh Poverty Commission. Across all the plans and strategies noted earlier in this report, the actions of city partners are focused on four core themes:

- **Increase income from work and opportunity to progress** - this includes actions to:
  - Promote fair work that provides dignity and security
  - Help people to access and progress in work, and
  - Improve attainment, achievement, and positive destinations for young people who grow up in poverty.
- **Maximise support from social safety nets** - this includes actions to:
  - Maximise uptake of benefits entitlements and other support
  - Deliver well targeted cash first and local crisis support programmes, and
  - Help prevent homelessness
- **Reduce the cost of living** - this includes local actions to:
  - Deliver decent homes that people can afford to live in

- Provide targeted support for rising energy costs
- Improve access to affordable childcare, and
- Improve digital inclusion and access to affordable transport

- **Make it easier to find help** - this includes local actions to:
  - Deliver integrated, 'no wrong door' approaches to service delivery and prevention of poverty
  - Provide the support people need, in the places they live and work, and
  - Deliver poverty awareness training programmes that addresses stigma and supports public sector workers public to put prevention of poverty at the heart of everything they do.



The next chapter in this report provides an overview of progress against delivery of actions in this framework during the 12 months to the end September 2023. Appendix 2 provides a full assessment of progress against each of the calls to action made by Edinburgh Poverty Commission.

## CASE STUDY: END POVERTY EDINBURGH CITIZEN GROUP

**End Poverty Edinburgh** is a group of citizens with real experience of poverty in this city. The group was formed in 2020 during the latter stages of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission as a legacy group, tasked with holding the baton in the long-term movement to end poverty in Edinburgh, continuing to raise awareness of poverty, influence decision-making, and hold the city to account for the commitments it has made.

The group is supported by the Poverty Alliance and with funding secured through independent funders and Edinburgh's UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan.

During the past year End Poverty Edinburgh members have contributed to over 40 meetings, including regular meetings with **elected officials** – local and national, addressing meetings of the **Edinburgh Partnership**, engaging in collaborations with organisations such as **Turn2Us**, **Edinburgh Community Food** and **Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations Council**, as well as monthly planning and co-ordination meetings.

End Poverty Edinburgh have provided media interviews on television and radio, contributed to written pieces online, and presented at various events to spread awareness and increase their reach. In doing so, the group have added two new members and will continue to expand membership going forward.

Key highlights for the group during the year have included:

- Campaigning alongside third sector organisation **Dad's Rock**, highlighting the living conditions experienced by some citizens in their social housing
- Supporting and being a core member of development groups for community sector led city projects such as the **Collaboration Against Poverty in Edinburgh** (CAPE) and the **Regenerative Futures Fund** (see case study)
- Attending First Ministers Questions and meeting **MSPs Anas Sarwar & Pam Duncan-Glancy**
- Attending and addressing participants at the **First Ministers anti-poverty summit in May 2023**
- Hosting the groups' first bespoke event to bring together anti-poverty groups across Edinburgh as well as a **citizen led Conference** held during **Challenge Poverty Week 2023** which highlighted critical issues related to poverty identified and shared by those with lived experience themselves, as well as suggest potential solutions and interventions.

For regular updates on End Poverty Edinburgh activity, please visit them at their [website](#), or follow them on [social media](#).



# Progress and Priorities

## A: Increasing incomes from work and opportunities to progress

Action	Progress in 2023 and priorities for 2024
Promoting fair work that provides dignity and security	<p>Edinburgh's economy in 2023 provides strong growth in jobs and very low rates of unemployment. Within this context, however, an estimated 28,000 people still work in jobs that pay below a real Living Wage, 13,000 residents are in work but still reliant on Universal Credit, and an estimated 12,000 Edinburgh workers are employed through zero hours contracts.</p> <p>Within this context, the <b>Edinburgh Living Wage Action Group</b> in 2023 have continued their work to promote fair work and the take up of Living Wage Accreditation among city employers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As of September 2023, a total of <b>677 Edinburgh businesses</b> are real Living Wage employers, including <b>City of Edinburgh Council, NHS Lothian</b> and all other members of the <b>Edinburgh Partnership</b></li> <li>During the first five months of financial year 2023/24, the city has recorded <b>60 new living wage accreditations</b>, well ahead of the city's target of 100 new accreditations per annum. As a direct result of these new accreditations a total 390 workers have received a pay rise this financial year alone so far</li> <li>In November 2022, the group received the <b>Outstanding Leadership Award</b> at the Living Wage Scotland annual awards</li> <li>In May 2023, the group hosted representatives from across the UK at the first <b>national Living Wage Places conference</b></li> <li>In November 2023, the group will be celebrating <b>Living Wage Week 2023</b> with an event to support third sector employers in Edinburgh overcome challenges to embed Fair Work practices in their sector.</li> </ul> <p>In support of this work, in 2023 the City of Edinburgh Council also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduced a new mandate to ensure that all new Council suppliers for regulated contracts were committed to paying a real Living Wage. As of September 2023, some <b>82% of all regulated suppliers pay a real Living Wage</b>.</li> <li>Launched plans for a new <b>Edinburgh Fair Work Charter</b> to provide guidance and support for employers and policy makers in the city. This charter will be further developed through consultation and engagement during 2024</li> <li>Supported Edinburgh Trades Unions in development of a local hub for employment rights and advocacy advice in Craigmillar</li> <li>Supported the work of the <b>Living Hours campaign</b> and begun analysis to consider the potential steps needed for the City of Edinburgh Council to become a Living Hours employer. Further work on all these actions will continue in 2024.</li> </ul> <p>During 2024 a key priority for the Council and Edinburgh Partnership will be the further development of <b>Community Wealth Building</b> in Edinburgh, including actions to further promote fair work and just labour markets.</p>



Action	Progress in 2023 and priorities for 2024
<p><b>Helping people to access and progress in work</b></p>	<p>Over the last year Council funded programmes provided employability and skills support for <b>4,150 people, including 903 young people</b> through the <b>No One Left Behind</b> programme. In addition to these, NHS Lothian's Partnership and Place team also promote and support NHS employability programmes using local networks to raise awareness.</p> <p>Using additional Scottish Government investment, <b>parental employment support</b> in the city has been extended, with twenty-five projects now operating with a range of specialisms including services for new Scots, parents from ethnic minority backgrounds and young parents.</p> <p>The <b>Promising Young People programme</b> offers a six-month placement paid at living wage to up to 20 care experienced. young people.</p> <p><b>Capital City Partnership</b> and <b>Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership</b> are working together to connect people to jobs in Health and Social Care. The approach focuses on local community engagement, supported through bi-monthly neighbourhood recruitment fairs to highlight the quality vacancies and benefits on offer as well as additional employability guidance and advice tailored to the roles to increase candidate confidence and outcomes.</p> <p>Employability provision across all programmes is tasked with securing fair work for their clients. For procured all age services where data is available <b>74% of job entries recorded in 2022/23 were sustained for 6 months and 82% paid the real living wage.</b></p> <p>Programmes in the past year have delivered a clear focus on support for <b>parents and families from priority groups</b>, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting <b>696 lone parents, 87 families with a mother under 25; 46 families with a child aged under one year; 157 large families; 1,085 families with a disabled parent; and 1,206 minority ethnic families.</b></li> <li>• Investing £280,350 on projects which primarily work with people from <b>Ethnic Minorities or New Scots</b> (compared with £52,492 in 2017/18).</li> <li>• <b>Maximise Early Years</b> is working in partnership with ten Early Years Centres in the City and in 22-23 supported <b>102 families with 199 children</b>, this resulted in overall financial gains of £159,434 alongside employability support and family wellbeing support.</li> </ul> <p>Alongside these, the <b>Whole Family Equality Project</b> recognises that ethnically-diverse families may be disadvantaged in the labour market and less likely to be in higher paid employment. The project takes a holistic, person-centred approach, blending income maximization, family support and employability support. The Citizens' Panel associated with the project has influenced Council spend, commented on the Council's Equality and Diversity policy and will this year be part of the Scottish Government's budget scrutiny panel.</p> <p>Over the next 12 months, priorities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reaching over 800 parents to support them into work or to progress within work</li> <li>• Building on the work of End Poverty Edinburgh and the Whole Family Equality Project's Citizens' Panel to increase meaningful participation of people with lived experience in employability service design and evaluation</li> <li>• Developing a charter for employers, providers and delivery partners with principles and guidelines aimed at reducing the negative attitudes, stereotypes, and discrimination that people living in poverty can face when accessing employability services.</li> </ul>

**Improve attainment, achievement, and positive destinations for young people who grow up in poverty**

**Edinburgh Learns for Life strategy** aims to raise attainment and achievement for everyone by providing learning that matches each persons' interests and aspirations and closing the poverty related attainment gap to give every young person the chance to have opportunities to progress. Key to delivering this ambition are actions to build an education workforce which is knowledgeable and skilled in addressing the adverse impacts of poverty and inequalities, from early years onwards.

Data gathered during 2022-23 shows that:

- Attendance levels at school remain challenging: 11% of pupils in primary schools and 20% of secondary pupils had low levels of attendance (less than 85%)
- The attainment gap is reducing - the difference between the most and least deprived areas in the city is at the lowest level in 5 years across most attainment gap measures
- Positive destinations from school: at 96.1% rates are above the Scottish average, and the gap between the most and least deprived areas has reduced from 5.1% to 3.2%

Actions over this year have continued to build the foundations needed to shift the entrenched, adverse impacts of poverty by changing culture, building knowledge, understanding and effective practice, and reshaping the way that services are delivered. Actions include:

- Providing **early years support** to make sure that children get the best start in life, ensuring that supply meets demand, and relaunching Terrific Twos, for eligible two-year olds
- Building professional knowledge and skills for continued improvement of school attendance and attainment through our **Edinburgh Teachers' Charter** and **Leadership for Equity** courses. 29% of school leaders have now participated in the Leadership for Equity Programme, against a target for 2023 of 20%. During 2024 the goal is to raise this to 40% of school leaders
- Building a network of expert Head Teacher Associates to shape the strategy for closing the poverty-related attainment gap
- Supporting **care experienced children and young people** through the We Matters team, Place2Think provisions set up in 4 High Schools, and the 'Key to Potential' partnership work with Cyrenians, supporting 14 care experienced young people across 6 high schools to enter and sustain positive destinations.
- Establishing the **Wider Achievement and Lifelong Learning Service** with a focus on reducing poverty and inequality. It spans all ages, with services including Youth and Children's Work and Adult and Family Learning, Outdoor Learning and Adventure Education and Parent/Carer Support and Family Wellbeing.
- Continuing free/low cost outdoor learning/adventure opportunities for all young people, and established **Edinburgh Youth Action** (EYA) so that young people from all backgrounds can influence policy
- Continuing to deliver the flagship **Discover programme** offering families support during school holidays, and helping young people to re-engage with school when the new term starts. The process for schools to recommend families to has been reviewed to make it as easy as possible; and work is ongoing to increase the proportion of families who take up Discover.
- Delivering ongoing liaison with schools to provide weekly updates and support for pupils whose families are experiencing homelessness and who have moved into **temporary accommodation** (between 20 and 40 children per week)

Action	Progress in 2023 and priorities for 2024
<p><b>Improve attainment, achievement, and positive destinations for young people who grow up in poverty</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Through Edinburgh's UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan, funding was secured for the <b>CHAI Advice In Schools Project</b> offering income maximization, housing, and employability advice to families with school age children at 16 schools across Edinburgh.</li> </ul> <p>Priorities for 2024 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continuing to develop staff skills and professional learning, targeting groups including early years staff, pupil support assistants and newly qualified teachers</li> <li>Implementing the Wider Achievement Framework for schools and developing city wide youth and children's work opportunities based on need</li> <li>Using data more effectively to track attainment, attendance and achievement and respond effectively to any gaps highlighted</li> <li><b>Discover More!</b> – securing new funding to widen the opportunities and engagement to term time for parents and carers who are at work and cannot attend the holiday programmes. Funding applications to the <b>Scottish Governments Child Poverty Accelerator Fund</b> were made during Autumn 2023 to seek additional resources to support a test of change for this project.</li> <li>Develop <b>Multiply</b> (UK Shared Prosperity Funded programme) offering numeracy and literacies for adult learners targeting people on low income or not in work</li> </ul>

## B: Maximising support from social safety nets

Action	Progress in 2023 and priorities for 2024
Maximise uptake of benefits entitlements and other income support	<p>During 2022/23, advice providers in Edinburgh helped people achieve a <b>total financial gain of over £20.5m</b>. This included a number of key specialist support programmes targeted at families in priority groups, and/or embedded and referred through health, school, and early year support services. Examples of outcomes delivered by key income maximization and money advice projects in Edinburgh include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The Edinburgh Consortium</b> (funded by EIJB grants) supported 11,710 people resulting in over <b>£7.6m</b> in financial gains</li> <li>• The <b>Council's Advice Shop</b> supported <b>3,100 clients to a total financial gain of £6.7m</b></li> <li>• <b>Granton Information Centre's</b> Family Friendly Advice Project supported 139 families referred from midwives creating <b>£99,400</b> financial gains</li> <li>• The <b>Growing Families</b> project, for families supported by Health Visitors, supported 72 families leading to financial gains of <b>£140,800</b></li> <li>• <b>Maximise!</b> Edinburgh's <b>Intensive Family Support Service</b> continued across the city, offering family support, and giving parents/carers the opportunity to access money advice, training, and employability in early years centres and schools. The Early Years service supported <b>102 families with 199 children</b>, resulting in overall financial gains of £159,434. The schools service supported 211 families with a result of <b>£638,994</b> financial gains, moving to welfare rights and debt advice only from March 2023.</li> <li>• <b>FAIR, The Action Group, LCiL Grapevine Service</b> and <b>VOCAL</b> combine expertise on informal carer and welfare benefits and connect people a range of support and resources for disabilities. The Action Group's Black and Ethnic Minority Advice Service (BEMAS) is dedicated to BAME carers with disabled children. Together, these services generated <b>£2.9m</b> for <b>2,003</b> households.</li> <li>• During 2022-23, through its Anchors programme, the <b>NHS Lothian Charity</b> committed more than <b>£200,000</b> per annum over five years to fund hospital-based income maximisation services at six hospitals across Lothian. In the first nine months of the service, <b>583</b> people were seen by welfare advisers at the Edinburgh hospitals who secured guaranteed <b>client financial gain of £388,026</b> with a further £198,570 awaiting assessment.</li> </ul> <p>Partnership work during 2023 has concentrated on securing and coordinating resources for money, debt and welfare advice across Edinburgh. This has included securing funding through Edinburgh's UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment plan to increase capacity in welfare rights and debt advice services in recovery hubs, community mental health, schools and the financial inclusion service that works with families alongside health visitors.</p> <p>Priorities for 2024 focus on continuing to respond to the recommendations of the review of welfare rights and debt advice services in Edinburgh, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Setting up the Joined up for Advice Network, to share resources and training, and develop a charter</li> <li>• Further developing the city's cash first approach through collaboration between all money and welfare advice – during Autumn 2023 an application to support this priority was made to the Scottish Government's Tackling Child Poverty <b>Cash First Fund</b>.</li> </ul>

Action	Progress in 2023 and priorities for 2024
Maximise uptake of benefits entitlements and other income support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reviewing the city's preventing problem debt action plan</li> <li>• Developing a commissioning specification for Edinburgh Integration Joint Board grants, which fund around a third of advice service provision</li> <li>• Continuing improvement programme for Council money and welfare advice services</li> <li>• Delivering a targeted outreach programme of communication and support activities to promote uptake of benefits entitlements.</li> </ul>
Deliver well targeted cash first and local crisis support programmes	<p>The Council delivers direct cash and crisis support to low-income families in need in a range of ways and administers one-off funding from the Government to support people through the cost of living crisis.</p> <p>During 2023 the Council has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued to make it easier for people to access support by automating entitlements for <b>free school meals and clothing grant awards</b>. Over recent years these improvements have seen a significant increase in access to this support, with over 9,000 free school meal payments made in 2022/23, a 61% increase over the number of payments made in 2019/20.</li> <li>• Delivered £162m in <b>housing benefit</b>, £24m in <b>Council Tax Reduction</b> and £7.5m in <b>Discretionary Housing Payment</b> funding to low income families in Edinburgh</li> <li>• Administered the <b>Scottish Welfare Fund</b> in Edinburgh, including 31,647 <b>Crisis Grant</b> applications to a total value of £2.1m, and 8,380 <b>Community Care Grants</b>, to a value of £2.096m</li> <li>• Administered the Central Government <b>Energy Fund</b> with payments totalling £23,600 for 590 claimants and £9,200 alternative Fuel Payments across 46 claimants</li> <li>• Provided <b>funding to Foodbanks</b> including £96k to distribute energy payments and £209k for food crisis support.</li> </ul> <p>During 2024 the Council will deliver take up campaigns for national and Scottish Social Security Agency benefits and payments, and undertake targeted promotion of Scottish Welfare Fund and other Council administered benefits and support schemes.</p> <p>Alongside this work, The Edinburgh Partnership approved the <b>Ending Poverty Related Hunger in Edinburgh strategy in March 2023</b>. The aim of the strategy is that no one in Edinburgh needs to go hungry due to a lack of money, and when people do fall into food crisis, Edinburgh networks aim to give a cash first approach to providing support. Where emergency food provision is needed, people can also access wider support in ways that are safe, dignified, respectful, and prevent future need. A steering group has been set up to implement the strategy, which is underway and will continue throughout 2024.</p>
Help people to prevent homelessness and other crises	<p>Edinburgh has a significant housing and homelessness crisis. Over the last year, 3,287 households were assessed as homeless, a 37% increase on 2021-22 levels and on 31 March 2023, 4,431 were in temporary accommodation, 25.7% of which was unsuitable. During the year, 860 households with a child under 17 moved into temporary accommodation. This major disruption can have a huge impact on children's education, with longer distances to get to school, not having a place to study or access to digital devices, or regular meals because there are no cooking facilities.</p>

Action	Progress in 2023 and priorities for 2024
<p><b>Help people to prevent homelessness and other crises</b></p>	<p>The Council's <b>Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan</b> sets out our approach to preventing homelessness where possible, and for those people who become homeless, helping them to move into settled accommodation quickly. Key actions are to identify people at risk at an earlier stage and provide support, including income maximisation and managing debt.</p> <p>During the past year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council's Partnership and Prevention Officer has continued to develop training for internal and external staff to use their conversations with people to identify people at risk of homelessness, delivering 32 training sessions to 354 people</li> <li>• The Income Maximisation Capacity Building Officer trained 751 front line staff on welfare benefits, so that they can promote income maximisation with their clients</li> <li>• We have introduced a tenant hardship fund, alongside wider supports like benefits checks, to support Council tenants who are struggling to pay their rent</li> <li>• We have implemented new software to improve the management of rent arrears, enabling housing officers to contact and support tenants who are struggling with rent payments more quickly</li> <li>• Improved support for first-time and new tenants to sustain a tenancy: review of Tenant Information Pack underway to make sure that tenants get the information they need from the start; visits to new tenants re-introduced to identify and address any issues early.</li> </ul> <p>As a result of this work, homelessness was prevented for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 302 households by our Private Rented Sector (PRS) Team, and</li> <li>• 84 households in Council tenancies by our Multi-Disciplinary Team (85% of households who engaged with the team); however, with engagement levels at 56%, this is an area for improvement</li> </ul> <p>Schools and health visitors are alerted to all under 5's and school aged children in temporary accommodation with their family, to make sure that the family are linked into services and that young people are supported with their wellbeing and education.</p> <p>We have increased the amount of suitable temporary accommodation (which meets specified standards) by increasing the use of Private Sector Leasing (PSL), Homeshare accommodation and commissioning additional long term supported accommodation service for men over the age of 35 with a history of homelessness and long-term alcohol misuse.</p> <p>Priorities for 2024 include continued delivery of the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan, with an increase in the level of engagement of households with the multi-disciplinary team (currently 56%) alongside ongoing work with partners to prepare for potential forthcoming homelessness prevention duties for public sector bodies.</p>

## C: Reducing the Cost of Living

Action	Progress in 2023 and priorities for 2024
Deliver decent homes that people can afford to live in	<p>The Council is the largest affordable housing developer in the city and is planning to invest around <b>£1.7 billion over the next 10 years</b> to improve existing homes and estates and deliver the Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing. Progress in 2023 has included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Increasing the supply of affordable housing</b> – the Council increased its ambition to reach 25,000 new affordable homes; by 31 March 2023, 8,301 homes had been approved for site start and 6,911 affordable homes had completed (since 2017). During 2022/23 the Council Invested over <b>£119m</b> in building new affordable homes and improving existing homes and neighbourhoods. In 2022/23 <b>54 new social rented homes and 148 homes for mid-market rent</b> completed through the Council's LLP and a further 1,000 were in design or pre-construction</li> <li>• <b>Securing additional funding for affordable homes</b> – an additional £10 million was spent in the Affordable Housing Supply Programme in 2022/23, the highest allocation the Council has received in a single year. The 2023/24 capital investment programme for affordable housing is the largest ever approved capital budget (£173m), and an additional £10m has also been requested for 2023/24.</li> <li>• A 3% Council rent increase was approved by Full Council in February with the potential to support the delivery of <b>2,400 new council social rented homes</b> and bring 86% of existing homes up to statutory energy efficiency standards, and a <b>Tenant Hardship fund</b> was introduced for council tenants struggling to meet housing costs'</li> <li>• <b>Regulating short term lets</b> – the scale of short term lets in the city, involving an estimated 14,000 properties, adds pressure to the supply of affordable properties. During this year, the Council continued to prepare for the implementation of Scotland's short-term licensing scheme, a legal requirement for short term let operations from 1 October 2023.</li> <li>• <b>Rent control</b> – The Council continues to engage with Scottish Government to inform the approach taken to introducing national rent control and local measures, including participating in the Scottish Government's rent control working group</li> <li>• <b>Delivering the Council's Housing Service Improvement Plan</b> - continued investment in digital technology to improve tenant experience, by improving online reporting for repairs which is now available 24/7, freeing up capacity for tenants who choose to use telephone or face to face</li> <li>• <b>Affordable Housing Contributions:</b> Edinburgh's City Plan 2030 outlines proposals for new minimum affordable housing contributions for new developments in Edinburgh. The proposal to increase from 25% to 35% is being considered by the Scottish Government with earliest potential full adoption in the first half of 2024</li> </ul> <p>Priorities for 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue dialogue with Scottish Government to reinforce the need for additional funding and to inform the approach taken to introducing rent control</li> <li>• Improve processes to make empty homes available to new tenants more quickly.</li> <li>• Consult with Council tenants on investment priorities and rent options to support the development of the 2024/25 Council budget (Oct - Dec 23)</li> </ul>



Action	Progress in 2023 and priorities for 2024
Provide targeted support for rising energy costs	<p>Rising energy costs in recent years have increased the urgency for additional support to help households on low incomes in Edinburgh avoid having to face the impossible choice of whether to heat their homes or feed their families. In the short term this has meant providing support with fuel costs. Over the longer term it means taking the steps needed to make properties more fuel efficient.</p> <p>Actions during the past year have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Improving housing quality</b>, prioritising investment in the most deprived and socially disadvantaged areas, for property retrofit to help those most at risk of fuel poverty and properties most in need of investment due to their existing fabric and energy performance. Work on all ten blocks within the <b>Whole House Retrofit</b> pilot programme will start 2023/24.</li> <li>• <b>Energy Advice Service</b> secured savings for Council tenants of more than £206,000 in 2022/23 - around £428 for each household engaged</li> <li>• Home Energy Scotland delivered energy advice at NHS vaccination sites to 3,027 people, who received and completed their <b>'Keeping Warm for Less this Winter' Prescription</b>, which includes top tips, advice, and signposts; and 188 further referrals made including 70 referrals to Warmer Homes Scotland.</li> <li>• The Council's <b>warm and welcoming</b> initiative was developed to support people through the winter months with a wide range of opportunities for local people to visit, connect with others and take part; easily accessible advice and information was available to provide additional support where needed.</li> </ul> <p>Work on all these initiatives will continue during 2024 with the Warm and welcoming approached reviewed to make it more accessible and more relevant all year round.</p>
Improve access to affordable childcare	<p>The cost of childcare is rising and is one of the main barriers for parents, particularly women and lone parents, who want to work. As such, childcare costs are a key barrier to allowing families to escape from poverty and progress.</p> <p>Actions to address this issue during the past year, and for continued delivery in 2024, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued delivery of the Council's <b>Early Years Expansion Plan</b>, working towards ensuring that support is flexible enough to meet the needs of families, and that there are enough places across providers to meet the demand</li> <li>• Delivery of Edinburgh's <b>Affordable Childcare for Working Parents</b> service, supporting low-income working parents with subsidised childcare in four areas of deprivation in Edinburgh. We have reviewed this service and developed a model for next year so that parents who want to access the service will get support from the Council's advice service teams to obtain Universal Credit funding towards childcare costs, and to make sure they are maximising all financial support that could be available to them, and if appropriate, refer them for Council-funded subsidy and employability support.</li> <li>• Funding provision of <b>creche places</b> for parents engaged in training for employment</li> </ul>



Action	Progress in 2023 and priorities for 2024
Improve access to affordable childcare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding the development of an <b>interactive map of childcare services for parents</b> along with an investigation into a flexible childcare booking system – in response to findings from parents that an often confusing landscape when trying to find childcare provision was a factor adding to the stress of entering employment.</li> </ul>
Improve digital inclusion and access to affordable transport	<p>A lack of digital skills and access can have a huge negative impact on a person's life, affecting their ability to learn, apply for jobs, access training opportunities, and engage with many public services. The Council and partners offer a range of supports for people to get access and to develop the skills needed. Key actions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued delivery of the Council's <b>Digital and Smart City Strategy</b>, and its implementation actions under the themes of digital skills and inclusion</li> <li>Establishing an Edinburgh Partnership subgroup with core principles and terms of reference agreed to underpin a charter on digital inclusion to ensure equity of access for workforces and the public across Edinburgh. As a part of this work, <b>People Know How</b> are organising a conference which will be held on 6 December 2023.</li> <li>Upgrading the People's Network Service across all libraries with 155 computers, with improved connectivity and more reliable access available. Continued improvement to library service offering will be explored during 2024.</li> <li>Providing the <b>Get Online Digital Skills Programme</b> with volunteers supporting people to improve their digital skills on a 1-2-1 basis</li> <li>Delivering the <b>Empowered Learning</b> programme completed the delivery of over 44,000 devices to learners across the city</li> </ul> <p>The cost and ease of transport across the city can also be a barrier to people's ability to hold down jobs and access educational opportunities. Towards addressing this, through delivery of the City Mobility Plan, the Council continues to implement actions to support sustainable, affordable travel, with a governance board being created to oversee key implementation decisions; and group of lead officers created to oversee co-ordination and implementation of action plans. Overall, the City Mobility Plan aims to deliver a public transport network in Edinburgh that provides high quality infrastructure to deliver competitive journey times to the right areas of the city as well as transport options that are accessible and affordable for those that wish to use it when they want to use it.</p> <p>Towards this, in 2024 work will include finalising the <b>Public Transport Action Plan</b> and the City Mobility Plan review to identify any further actions to support affordable travel choices.</p> <p>New Scottish Government schemes now allow people under 22 to travel for free on bus services across Scotland. Whilst this scheme is welcomed, at present it does not extend to the tram network. The Council will continue to work with the Scottish Government on the Fair Fares Review to extend this scheme to include Light Rail.</p> <p>Work is also underway to assess Council employee postcode data for home and workplace to find out if there are any gaps in public transport, taking account of shift times. Findings will be shared Lothian buses to consider options to address gaps.</p>

## D: Making it easier to find help

Action	Progress in 2023 and priorities for 2024
Deliver integrated, 'no wrong door' approaches to service delivery and prevention of poverty	<p>A key call to action from the Edinburgh Poverty Commission was for <i>"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"</i>. Towards this long-term challenge, actions delivered during this year have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of the <b>Whole Family Support</b> programme and appointment of a team to deliver it. The project will transform supports to children and families in Edinburgh in line with the ambition to #KeepThePromise, so that there will be no wrong door for support, and effective, early identification of children and young people who are at risk, with more consistent use of GIRFEC by all stakeholders</li> <li>• Establishment of a new <b>Integrated Front Door</b> service for adult and children's social care. This project represents the first phase of a longer term programme to deliver a fully integrated cross council poverty prevention approach with a single point of contact for all support services including family and household support, housing and homelessness support, employability support, income maximisation, welfare and money advice services.</li> <li>• Building on the work of the Edinburgh Wellbeing Pact and Thrive Edinburgh, Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership have begun work on a new <b>Prevention and Early intervention Strategy</b> to improve health and wellbeing in Edinburgh</li> <li>• Approval of plans for a new <b>Edinburgh Partnership transformation and improvement programme</b>.</li> <li>• Development of a new <b>Edinburgh Children's Partnership Plan</b> that commits to informing service commissioning with a rights-based approach and a poverty lens, and ensuring that new commissioned work with children, young people and families should seek to establish systems for the collection of data relating to the Scottish Government's six priority family groups: (lone parent families; families with a disabled adult or child; larger families (with 3 or more children); minority ethnic families; families with children under the age of 1; and families with mothers under the age of 25), in order to provide better information on how well our services are reaching families most likely to be living in poverty</li> </ul> <p>This work represents a portfolio of actions needed to drive significant public sector reform in Edinburgh. Over the long term, these projects provide an important framework to ensure systems of support in Edinburgh are genuinely integrated in ways that allow for early identification of families in need of support, and effective interventions that prevent harm and support improved outcomes for people and services.</p>

Action	Progress in 2023 and priorities for 2024
Provide the support people need, in the places they live and work	<p>Actions carried out in 2023, and for further development in 2024, towards building a city in which people in all parts of Edinburgh have local, safe, welcoming community spaces within walking or pram-pushing distance where they access the right support for them include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reviewing and updating the Council's <b>20-Minute Neighbourhood Strategy</b> to build on existing good work and identify new opportunities to support inclusive, safe, resilient, and connected neighbourhoods across Edinburgh</li> <li>• Delivering an ongoing work programme within <b>Liberton</b> focused on improving the outcomes of the most vulnerable children, young people, and their families. Local workshops, developed and delivered in partnership with Council and LAYC/EVOC, clearly identified priority areas of work, and an action plan will be developed moving forward, with further community engagement planned.</li> <li>• Development of a whole systems approach in <b>Craigmillar</b>, working in partnership with Public Health, the Council's 20 Minute Neighbourhood Team, Education, Children and Families and A Place in Childhood. This piece of work will focus on all the areas crucial to ensuring somewhere is a good place to live whether that be physical or social. This is a collaborative piece of work involving a range of partners and is a good example of joining up agendas to increase capacity and make best use of shared resource across teams. This work is being taken forward through the Edinburgh Partnership board and commenced in September 2023.</li> <li>• Development of <b>Teams Around the Learning Community pilots in Liberton and Craigroyston High Schools</b>. Incorporated within Edinburgh Partnership local tests of change, the project aims to identify children and families in need of support at an early stage and provide easy access to holistic support (e.g. family support, income maximisation, employability and housing), tailor learning to the needs and interests of the young person, and develop more effective and collaborative ways to use Pupil Equity Funding</li> <li>• In <b>Gorgie/Dalry</b> a new <b>Citizen Space Pilot</b> was established in January 2023, with a team of four customer advisers supported by an advisor from Citizens Advice Edinburgh, providing easy access to support on housing, neighbours, benefits and council tax; the team take on actions and follow them up, rather than referring the person on to another team or service</li> </ul>
Deliver poverty awareness training programmes that addresses stigma, and supports public sector workers public to put prevention of poverty at the heart of everything they do	<p>Building on the successful <b>1 in 5</b> child poverty awareness programme developed in Edinburgh schools, during the past year work has progressed on new wider programmes of training and support to help workers across a wide range of public sector roles to be empowered and enabled to prevent poverty in Edinburgh.</p> <p>This work has included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of <b>poverty prevention</b> and <b>Money Counts Training</b> for Council and partner agencies. These sessions aim to raise awareness of the scale, causes and impact of poverty in Edinburgh, and to help workers across a range of services to build the skills needed to ask customers about money worries and how to help citizens who are struggling to get by.</li> <li>• Delivery of this programme during 2023 included work with housing officers, community centre business support staff, librarians, parent &amp; family support workers, OTs and carers, Health visitors, midwives and family nurses and other workers across the Council, NHS Lothian and Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 90% of participants in training reported they were more aware of the causes and impact of poverty in Edinburgh</li> <li>○ 75% were more confident to have a conversation with people about their money worries</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Action	Progress in 2023 and priorities for 2024
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 91% were to feel more informed about where to access information and support around money worries.</li> <li>● Developing a new <b>Edinburgh Children's Partnership Plan</b> that commits members to ensuring <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ all services and staff are aware of, and supported to participate in 'Money Counts' training, or equivalent, ensuring a baseline level of knowledge and awareness and increasing staff confidence in engaging with service users around this subject</li> <li>○ all services and staff are aware of, and know how to signpost and / or refer their patients or clients into income maximisation services available across the city, and</li> <li>○ Reducing the costs for children, young people and families to fully participate in the city - for example through increasing uptake of free under-22 bus travel, free library membership, free Active Schools and Edinburgh Leisure programmes, and the free culture and nature offers provided by Edinburgh's museums, galleries and green &amp; blue spaces</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>During the next 12 months further development of this work will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Reviewing and updating training materials, including improvement of online training resources</li> <li>● Prioritising training to support key frontline workers to support early intervention and prevention of poverty</li> <li>● Explore opportunities for sharing resources and training capacity between the Council, NHS, Health and Social Care Partnership and third sector</li> <li>● Aligning poverty awareness training with wider programmes to ensure public sector workers are prepared and supported to deliver expected new requirements through upcoming Homelessness Prevention duties</li> <li>● Aligning development of the programme with the update of Edinburgh's Pupil Equity Framework and the 1in5 programme in schools.</li> </ul>

## CASE STUDY: POLICE SCOTLAND

As a member of the Edinburgh Partnership, **Police Scotland** are committed to leading actions needed to meet the city's end poverty goals.

During 2023 these actions have included:

- Continued commitment to being an accredited real **Living Wage employer**
- Delivering **Poverty Awareness, Trauma informed and Anti-Stigma** training for officers to raise understanding around the underlying causes of vulnerabilities and behaviours and how these may impact on life chances
- Providing funding to support community based initiatives focused on supporting the most vulnerable. Examples include **The Beat Hunger Campaign**, where officers worked with partners to provide food crisis support alongside accessible income maximisation, health, and educational support
- Providing **targeted opportunities** for career support and guidance for care experienced young people interested in joining the Police
- Active involvement in supporting **local youth work** activities aiming to address inter-generational inequalities and support positive life trajectories and outcomes.

Delivering our **Public Health Policing Approach** acknowledging the impact of poverty on behaviours and life choices. This includes outreach programmes working alongside peer-mentors with lived experience of the criminal justice system, improving access to income maximisation advice, and supporting people's sustainable transition into education, training, and work.

## CASE STUDY: REGENERATIVE FUTURES FUND

The **Regenerative Futures Fund** is a project led by EVOC during 2023 with the aim of developing of a **new £15m pooled fund** to provide long term sustainable resources for anchor community organisations in Edinburgh.

The fund is being set up to resource collectives, communities, and organisations over a ten-year period. This longer-term funding is designed to enable the deep work needed to address the root causes of poverty in a sustainable way and to create spaces for people to collectively imagine and build towards a regenerative and just future for Edinburgh.

In doing so, the project recognizes the potential of Edinburgh's social sector to play a leading role in long term transformational change in the city and aims to address some of the core structural challenges that act as barriers to success. These include short term funding programmes that drive short term thinking, the challenges marginalized groups face in accessing funding, and funding that tackles symptoms but not root causes.

During 2023 diverse community voices have shaped the fund design through a collaborative process. The collaboration has included local residents, community organisations, activists, funders, local and national government.

Regarding fund raising, the aim of the programme is to raise 'new' money where possible, while also encouraging partners to use existing funds differently to leverage in support from independent funders, public money, philanthropy, and private sector.

On current timelines, the fund is planned for a formal launch during the first half of 2024.

# Appendix 1: Progress measures

Table A1 Progress against headline Edinburgh Poverty Commission and Scottish Government Targets			
Edinburgh Poverty Commission Targets <sup>viii</sup>	Baseline	Latest data	Change
1.Fewer than one in ten children and fewer than one in ten adults are living in relative poverty at any given time	2018-21 16% (all ages); 20% (children)	2019-22 17% (all ages); 20% (children)	+1% (all ages); Stable (children)
2.No one has to go without the basic essentials they need to eat, keep clean and safe, and stay warm and dry	2020 4% (all ages); 5% (children)	Not yet available <sup>ix</sup>	NA
3.No-one lives in persistent poverty.	2016-20 (Scotland data only) 12% (all ages) 16% (children)	2017-21 (Scotland data only) 12% (all ages) 18% (children)	Stable (all ages) +2% (children)
4.No one feels stigmatised, abandoned, or treated with less respect by the city as a result of their income.	No data yet available	No data yet available	No data yet available
<b>Scottish Government Child Poverty 2030 Targets<sup>x</sup></b>			
Fewer than 5% of children should live in absolute poverty	2016-19 21% (Scotland data only)	2019-22 21% (Scotland data only)	Stable
Fewer than 5% of children should live in combined low income and material deprivation	2016-20 13% (Scotland data only)	2019-22 11% (Scotland data only)	-2%

<b>Table A2: Progress measures by EPC call to action<sup>xi</sup></b>				
<b>Fair Work that provides enough to live on</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
Unemployed Edinburgh citizens <sup>xii</sup>	6,900	12,500	9,000	7,100
Universal Credit claimants <sup>xiii</sup>	14,425	37,935	32,423	34,538
No. Living wage accredited employers in Edinburgh <sup>xiv</sup>	334	422	526	640
Edinburgh Employers Recruitment Incentive – uptake of places (all ages)	28	43	144	104
No One Left Behind Funding: number of young people who were supported	168	161	266	903
Number of people supported by City of Edinburgh Council funded employability programme	3,719	3,761	3,842	4,148
% of Council suppliers of new regulated tendered contracts that are committed to paying real living wage in delivering Council services	70%	79%	82%	82%
<b>A decent home we can afford to live in</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
Total number of applicants on EdIndex register	23,998	20,564	21,013	23,550
Demand for social housing – number of active bidders	7,099	7,213	6,339	11,150
Average bid per property	203	201	140	185
Number of affordable homes approved	1,930	1,285	1,251	734
Number of affordable homes completed	1,443	1,087	1,041	1,215

Homes for social rent completed - total		252	247	451
Homes for social rent completed – local authority		92	70	54
Number of households assessed as homeless	3,355	1,929	2,399	3,287
Number of households who seek housing advice who do not go on to present as homeless	1,708	1,521	1,288	1,143
The number of households in temporary accommodation (at 31 March)	3,570	4,431	4,722	4,431
Percentage of households in unsuitable temporary accommodation (as at 31 March)	22%	25.1%	25.3%	25.7%
<b>income security that provides a real lifeline</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
Council Advice Shop – number of individual welfare rights clients in year	3,800	5,752	3,720	3,075
Council Advice Shop - total financial gain	£ 11,497,227	£ 8,524,682	£ 6,971,968	£ 6,725,935
Council tax reduction scheme – average caseload per year	32,467	35,282	32,946	31,327
Discretionary housing payments	7,427	8,205	7,806	7,766
Number of free school meals payments in school year	5,950	8,828	8,994	9,576
Number of clothing grant awards in school year	5,337	8,301	9,773	9,013
Scottish Welfare Fund – no. applications for Crisis Grants	16,367	35,923	32,616	31,647
SWF – no. applications for Community Care Grants	5,377	8,320	8,503	8,450



<b>Opportunities that drive justice and boost prospects<sup>xv</sup></b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
% parents receiving funded Early Learning and Childcare through their preferred location	-	-	92.4%	-
% parents receiving funded Early Learning and Childcare through their preferred model of delivery.	-	-	74.1%	-
Low attendance: % of Primary pupils whose attendance is less than 85%	-	10.6%	14.0%	12.6%
Low attendance: % of Secondary students whose attendance is less than 85%	-	17.2%	19.1%	20.3%
Literacy (all pupils) - The % of pupils in Primaries 1, 4 & 7 who achieve their expected Curriculum for Excellence level	-	73.8%	77.0%	-
Literacy (Lowest SIMD Quintile) - The % of pupils in Primaries 1, 4 & 7 who achieve their expected Curriculum for Excellence level	-	57.3%	62.5%	-
Numeracy (all pupils) - The % of pupils in Primaries 1, 4 & 7 who achieve their expected Curriculum for Excellence level	-	80.4%	83.0%	-
Numeracy (Lowest SIMD Quintile) - The % of pupils in Primaries 1, 4 & 7 who achieve their expected Curriculum for Excellence level	-	65.1%	71.4%	-
Attainment (all pupils) - The % of secondary school leavers achieving one or more qualifications at SCQF level 6 (Higher or equivalent)	71.1%	72.6%	68.4%	-
Attainment (Lowest SIMD Quintile) - The % of secondary school leavers achieving one or more qualifications at SCQF level 6 (Higher or equivalent)	51.1%	50.6%	44.9%	-

Positive destinations for school leavers - all pupils	92.5%	95.1%	96.1%	-
Positive destinations for school leavers - Lowest SIMD Quintile	88.9%	91.7%	94.7%	-
<b>Connections in a city that belongs to us</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
Proportion of people living in areas with low levels of public transport	31%	-	39%	-
No. CEC homes connected to fibre-to-the-property (FTTP) infrastructure	1,515 (7.7%)	8,917 (45%)	15,449 (83%)	17,075 (91%)
<b>Equality in our health and wellbeing<sup>xvi</sup></b>	<b>2017-2019</b>	<b>2018-2020</b>	<b>2019-2021</b>	<b>20220-2022</b>
Average male life expectancy (years at birth)	78.4	78.2	78.0	77.8
Average male healthy life expectancy (years at birth)	65.0	64.2	62.9	Not available
Male HLE as a proportion of LE (%)	82.9%	82.2%	80.7%	Not available
Average female life expectancy (years at birth)	82.5	82.4	82.4	82.2
Average female healthy life expectancy (years at birth)	66.3	66.5	66.3	Not available
Female HLE as a proportion of LE (%)	80.4%	80.7%	80.5%	Not available
Inequalities in 0-74 years mortality rate (deaths per 100,000, EASR)- difference between the most and least deprived areas <sup>xvii</sup>	534.6	539.3	547.2	Not available
	<b>2015-2019</b>	<b>2016-2020</b>	<b>2017-2021</b>	<b>2018-2022</b>
Inequalities in Male life expectancy – difference in years between the most and least deprived areas	11.9	11.8	11.8	Not available

Inequalities in Female life expectancy – difference in years between the most and least deprived areas	8.6	8.7	9.3	Not available
	<b>2017-2019</b>	<b>2018-2020</b>	<b>2019-2021</b>	<b>2020-2022</b>
Healthy Male Life Expectancy: percentage of life spent in good health	84.6%	82.2%	Not available	Not available
Healthy Female Life Expectancy: percentage of life spent in good health	78.8%	80.7%	Not available	Not available
	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Inequalities in 27-30 months check for new speech and language concerns- difference (percentage points) in proportion with suspected new concerns between the most and least deprived areas*	11.3	8.4	7.6	8.0
	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2021/22</b>
(Mild to moderate) MH prescriptions- percentage of population prescribed drugs for anxiety/depression/psychosis	15.2%	15.5%	15.1%	16.1%

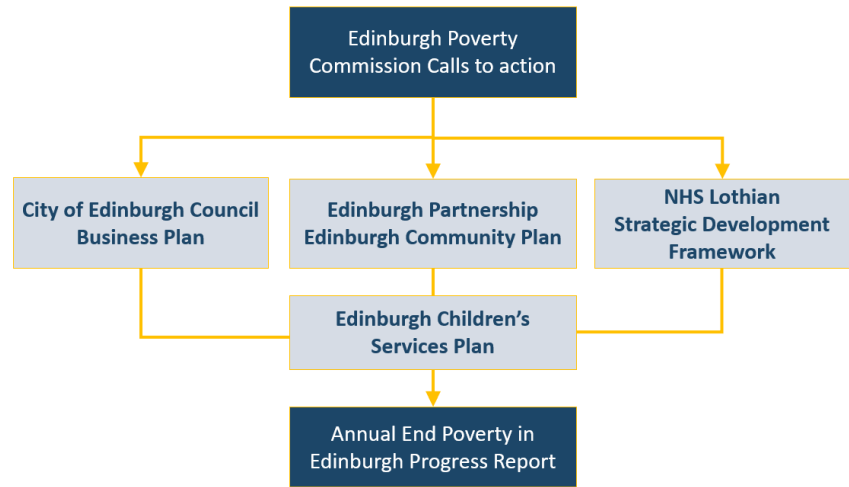
# Appendix 2: Responding to Edinburgh Poverty Commission Calls to Action

## Introduction

Following publication of the final Edinburgh Poverty Commission report in September 2020, City of Edinburgh Council and the Edinburgh Partnership agreed two plans to embed and progress local actions needed to end poverty in Edinburgh. These included:

- [The City of Edinburgh Council End Poverty in Edinburgh Delivery Plan – 2020-2030](#), which set out actions to be led by City of Edinburgh Council, and
- [Edinburgh Poverty Commission – Calls to action for Edinburgh Partnership](#), which set out actions to be embedded within delivery of the Edinburgh Community Plan.

These actions are now embedded within and delivered through the strategic plans and governance frameworks of the Council, the Edinburgh Partnership, and NHS Lothian.



This report draws these end poverty actions together into a single plan, refreshed, and updated every year. In doing so, the report aims to provide a single, comprehensive view on the steps being taken across the city in response to the challenge and calls to action set by the Edinburgh Poverty Commission.

In total, across the Council, NHS Lothian and other Edinburgh Partnership bodies, these plans identified almost 50 individual actions for delivery either as bespoke projects or as part of existing or forthcoming mainstream plans and strategies.

This annex provides a line of sight from the action updates provided in the main report by providing a point of reference with the calls to action from the Poverty Commission. Where progress is described in the main report, the relevant section and any key documents are stated; and for other actions, a brief update of progress and next steps is described.

To provide clarity on organisational leads and responsibilities, each action is flagged as either:

- **CEC** – City of Edinburgh Council lead
- **NHS** – NHS Lothian Lead
- **EP** – Edinburgh Partnership lead (but incorporating further Council and NHS Lothian involvement)

Call to Action: Cross cutting strategic actions & The right support in the places we live and work	Status update
<b>Agree that the Council and 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 (CEC, NHS, and EP)</b>	<b>Complete</b> End poverty targets embedded within the Council Business Plan and Edinburgh Partnership Local Outcome Improvement Plan
<b>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. (CEC and EP)</b>	<b>In progress</b> End Poverty Edinburgh Group meets regularly with senior elected members and have participated in Edinburgh Partnership discussions during 2023.
<b>Publish an annual report on actions taken to deliver against Edinburgh Poverty Commission findings (CEC, NHS, and EP)</b>	<b>In progress</b> This is the third annual report on council and partnership actions to deliver Edinburgh Poverty Commission calls to action.
<b>Establish a dedicated Council Poverty Prevention team to lead planning, monitoring, and reporting of Council actions in this report (CEC)</b>	<b>Complete</b> Dedicated officer resources within the Council's Policy and Insight team lead the monitoring and reporting of Council and partnership actions. Further details are provided in the <b>Governance and Co-ordination</b> section of this report.
<b>Develop a new End Poverty Edinburgh innovation fund to resource innovation in support of the actions described by the Edinburgh Poverty Commission. (EP)</b>	<b>In progress</b> The Regenerative Futures Fund is a project led by EVOC during 2023 with the aim of developing a new £15m pooled fund to provide long term sustainable resources for anchor community organisations in Edinburgh. See box in main report for further details.
<b>Adopt a partnership approach to considering the impact on people in poverty of budget decisions made by individual organisations (EP)</b>	<b>In progress</b> Initial scoping undertaken and discussed by Edinburgh Partnership's Local Outcome Improvement Plan delivery group. Further work is needed to develop a robust and practical partnership framework.
<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 (CEC and EP)</b>	<b>In progress</b> Full update provided in main report section ' <b>Making it easier to get help</b> '. Further Edinburgh Partnership actions forthcoming during 2024 through the development of a new Edinburgh Partnership Transformation and Improvement Programme.

Call to Action	Status update
<b>Fair Work that provides dignity and security</b>	
<b>Maintain accreditation as a Living Wage Employer (CEC, NHS, and EP)</b>	<p><b>In progress</b> Accreditation has been maintained since 2016.</p> <p>All Edinburgh Partnership member organisations are accredited real Living Wage employers.</p> <p>Update provided in main report, section: <b>“Increase income from work and opportunity to progress”</b></p>
<b>Establish Edinburgh as a Living Wage City (CEC)</b>	<p><b>Complete</b> Accreditation secured in November 2021. Update provided in main report, section <b>“Increase income from work and opportunity to progress”</b></p> <p>See also <a href="#">Fair Work, Gig Economy, and Living Hours City update, August 2023</a></p>
<b>Launch and deliver a new Edinburgh Guarantee For All programme (CEC)</b>	<p><b>In progress</b> Update provided in main report, section <b>“Helping people to access and progress in work”</b></p>
<b>Deliver the ‘No One Left Behind Edinburgh’s Employer Recruitment Incentive’ (EERI), helping people of all ages with the greatest barriers to employment get jobs and stay in jobs. (CEC)</b>	<p><b>In progress</b> Update provided in main report, section <b>“Increase income from work and opportunity to progress”</b></p>
<b>Develop and commission a new Blended Employability Service, providing improved access to flexible employability support across the city (CEC)</b>	<p><b>In progress</b> Update provided in main report, section <b>“Increase income from work and opportunity to progress”</b></p>
<b>Deliver the Council Sustainable Procurement Strategy, and actions to increase living wage accredited suppliers (CEC)</b>	<p><b>In progress</b> Update provided in main report, section <b>“Increase income from work and opportunity to progress”</b></p> <p>Further information in the <a href="#">Sustainable Procurement Strategy Annual Report March 2023</a></p>
<b>Deliver the Council Sustainable Procurement Strategy, and actions to increase, and improve monitoring and delivery of, community benefits offered by suppliers –</b>	As above

Call to Action	Status update
<b>Fair Work that provides dignity and security</b>	
aiming to achieve the target of 1 FTE job with training for a person from a targeted group (where appropriate) for every £1m of procurement spending by 2025 (CEC)	Further information in the <a href="#">Sustainable Procurement Strategy Annual Report March 2023</a>
Review best practice and embed appropriate Community Wealth Building approaches into a revised Edinburgh Economy Strategy developed to drive Council actions for a sustainable economic recovery. (EP & CEC)	<b>In progress</b> Community Wealth Building embedded in <a href="#">Council Business Plan</a> , <a href="#">Economy Strategy</a> , and <a href="#">Edinburgh Partnership</a> work. Further updates planned in 2024.

Call to Action	Status update
<b>A decent home we can afford to live in</b>	
In partnership with city stakeholders, write to and seek a roundtable with Scottish Government (SG) ministers and directors for discussion of the additional funding requirements for housing in Edinburgh the Commission highlights (CEC)	<b>In progress</b> Update provided in main report, section “ <b>Deliver decent homes that people can afford to live in</b> ”
Deliver Edinburgh’s Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP), including actions to Prevent Homelessness, transform temporary accommodation and move away from the use of unsuitable accommodation, support people to access settled accommodation as soon as possible, and reduce the number of people rough sleeping in the city. (CEC)	<b>In progress</b> Update provided in main report, section “ <b>Maximise support from social safety nets</b> ”  See also <a href="#">Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan - Annual Update on Progress</a>
Deliver City Plan 2030 outlining new minimum affordable housing contributions for new developments in Edinburgh (CEC)	<b>In progress</b> Update provided in main report, section “ <b>Deliver decent homes that people can afford to live in</b> ”  See also <a href="#">Affordable Housing Policy Update 2023</a>
Deliver this Council’s commitment to build 25,000 social and affordable homes (CEC)	<b>In progress</b> Update provided in main report, section “ <b>Deliver decent homes that people can afford to live in</b> ”

Call to Action	Status update
<b>A decent home we can afford to live in</b>	
	See also <a href="#">Affordable Housing Policy Update 2023</a>
<p><b>Deliver the annual Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget Strategy, investing in improving existing Council homes and neighbourhoods - including delivering energy efficient, low carbon homes, development of new and existing homes blended together to create a local identity and a sense of pride in communities, and well-designed, green, open spaces that encourage residents to be active and socialise.</b></p> <p><b>(CEC)</b></p>	<p><b>In progress</b> Update provided in main report, section “<b>Deliver decent homes that people can afford to live in</b>”</p> <p>See also <a href="#">2023/24 Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme</a></p>
<p><b>Continue to deliver the Housing Service Improvement Plan, ensuring that the frontline housing service is visible, responsive, and effective</b></p> <p><b>(CEC)</b></p>	<p><b>In progress</b> Update provided in main report, section “<b>Deliver decent homes that people can afford to live in</b>”</p> <p>See also <a href="#">Housing Service Improvement Plan – Six-monthly Update</a></p>
<p><b>Following Scottish Government legislation expected to come into force from April 2021, develop, consult, and agree upon local implementation of the new licensing and planning controls for regulation of short term letting in Edinburgh</b></p> <p><b>(CEC)</b></p>	<p><b>In progress</b> Update provided in main report, section “<b>Deliver decent homes that people can afford to live in</b>”</p> <p>For further information, please see: <a href="#">Short Term Let Enforcement in Edinburgh.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>Seek discussions with private rented tenants, landlords &amp; Scottish Government to address concerns rising private sector rents <b>(CEC)</b></b></p>	<p><b>In progress</b> Update provided in main report, section “<b>Deliver decent homes that people can afford to live in</b>”</p>

Call to Action	Status update
<b>Income security that offers a real lifeline</b>	
<p><b>Deliver priority proposal to deliver embedded income and family support services to a wider range of community settings across Edinburgh <b>(EP)</b></b></p>	<p><b>In progress</b> Update provided in main report, section “Maximise uptake of benefits entitlements and other income support “See also <b><u>Local Outcome Improvement Plan Annual Report 2022-2023</u></b></p>



Call to Action		Status update
Income security that offers a real lifeline		
Continue to deliver high quality money, debt and welfare advice through the Council's Advice Shop service (CEC)		<b>In progress</b> Update provided in main report, section "Maximise uptake of benefits entitlements and other income support"  See also, <a href="#">Annual Performance Report 2022/23</a>
Continue to deliver actions to administer Scottish Welfare Fund crisis and community grants (CEC)		<b>In progress</b> Update provided in main report, section "Maximise uptake of benefits entitlements and other income support"
Deliver a programme of appropriate targeted outreach and promotion of Scottish Welfare Fund and other Council administered benefits and support schemes. (CEC)		<b>In progress</b> Update provided in main report, section "Maximise uptake of benefits entitlements and other income support"
Deliver priority proposals to expand the '1 in 5' programme to all Council staff, redesign of materials to meet the needs of varying staff groups, with an objective to establish appropriate awareness raising sessions for all directorates (CEC)		<b>In progress</b> Update provided in main report, section "Deliver poverty awareness training programmes that addresses stigma, and supports public sector workers public to put prevention of poverty at the heart of everything they do"
Working with city stakeholders, seek dialogue with appropriate UK and Scottish Government ministers on the findings of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission in regard to Social Security Policy and implementation. (CEC)		<b>In progress</b> Examples include officer participation at 2023 sessions of the May 2023 UK Government Work and Pensions Committee inquiry into <a href="#">Benefit levels in the UK</a> .

Call to Action: Opportunities that drive justice and boost prospects		Status update
Continue the delivery and development of core existing plans and strategies aiming to ensure pupils thrive at school and close the attainment gap, including – Edinburgh Children's Services Plan, Education Improvement Plan 2020-23, and the Edinburgh Learns Equity Framework (CEC)		<b>In progress</b> Update provided in main report, section "Improve attainment, achievement, and positive destinations for young people who grow up in poverty"  See the <a href="#">Local Authority Standards &amp; Quality Report 2022-23</a> .
Develop and deliver the Learning for Life Programme aiming to create a world class learning city where everyone's skills, knowledge, creativity and relationships with people and places are equally valued.		<b>In progress</b> Update provided in main report, section "Improve attainment, achievement, and positive destinations for young people who grow up in poverty"

Call to Action: Opportunities that drive justice and boost prospects	Status update
(CEC)	See the <a href="#">Local Authority Standards &amp; Quality Report 2022-23</a> .
<p>Develop actions to provide inclusive, equitable, valuable learning opportunities for everyone.</p> <p>(CEC)</p>	<p><b>In progress</b> Update provided in main report, section “<b>Improve attainment, achievement, and positive destinations for young people who grow up in poverty</b>”</p> <p>See the <a href="#">Local Authority Standards &amp; Quality Report 2022-23</a>.</p>
<p>Develop actions to use a place-based approach to build collaborative and sustainable learning communities and networks</p> <p>(CEC)</p>	<p><b>In progress</b> Update provided in main report, section “<b>Provide the support people need, in the places they live and work</b>”</p> <p>See the <a href="#">Local Authority Standards &amp; Quality Report 2022-23</a>.</p>
<p>Develop actions to co-create the environments where learners can lead and shape their own learning</p> <p>(CEC)</p>	<p><b>In progress</b> Update provided in main report, section “<b>Improve attainment, achievement, and positive destinations for young people who grow up in poverty</b>”</p> <p>See the <a href="#">Local Authority Standards &amp; Quality Report 2022-23</a>.</p>
<p>Work with school communities in target areas (beginning with core projects in Granton and Westerhailes), and their partners to define curriculum rationales which will then lead to clear, equitable pathways into further education and the world of work. (CEC)</p>	<p><b>In progress</b> Update provided in main report, section “<b>Provide the support people need, in the places they live and work</b>” See the <a href="#">Local Authority Standards &amp; Quality Report 2022-23</a>.</p>
<p>Expand 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 (EP)</p>	<p><b>In progress</b> Mentoring programmes in place in Edinburgh schools and other educational settings. Further work would be required to scope business case for full expansion.</p>
<p>Expand and develop the 1 in 5 programme as a regular, mandatory training action for all school staff, aiming to improve and reinforce understanding of poverty and inequality across all schools (CEC)</p>	<p><b>In progress</b> Update provided in main report, section “<b>Deliver poverty awareness training programmes that addresses stigma, and supports public sector workers public to put prevention of poverty at the heart of everything they do</b>”</p>
<p>Develop and deliver training to pastoral staff in all schools as part of the 1 in 5 programme, responding to the evidence of high levels of school absence as well as anxiety and depression among children in temporary accommodation. (CEC)</p>	<p><b>In progress</b> Update provided in main report, section “<b>Improve attainment, achievement, and positive destinations for young people who grow up in poverty</b>”</p>

Call to Action: Opportunities that drive justice and boost prospects	Status update
Develop Professional Learning with a focus on Leadership for Equity (LfE) to build expertise, practices and skills in leading improvements aimed at achieving equity. (CEC)	<b>In progress</b> See the <a href="#">Local Authority Standards &amp; Quality Report 2022-23</a> .
Host a roundtable with Edinburgh Independent Schools to explore and agree new partnership actions to overcome inequality and improve inclusion across Edinburgh (CEC)	<b>Complete</b> First roundtable with Independent Schools was held in 2021. Actions included commitment of schools such as George Watson's college to full Living Wage accreditation.
Explore opportunities to review individual school catchment areas as part of school development and building programmes (CEC)	<b>In progress</b> Opportunities for catchment review have continued to be brought forward to the Education Children and Families Committee as they arise. 3 statutory consultations are upcoming.
Deliver across all schools, a new online tracking system that highlights poverty related attainment gaps, allowing schools to respond to these with targeted support (CEC)	<b>In progress</b> See the <a href="#">Local Authority Standards &amp; Quality Report 2022-23</a> .
Deliver Early Years Expansion to 1140 funded hours and ensure early years provision is flexible enough to meet the needs of families (CEC)	<b>In progress</b> Update provided in main report, section "Improve attainment, achievement, and positive destinations for young people who grow up in poverty" See the <a href="#">Local Authority Standards &amp; Quality Report 2022-23</a> .
Target PEF on actions to allow schools to continue to address poverty-related barriers, including inequity of digital access and reducing the cost of the school day (CEC)	<b>In progress</b> Update provided in main report, section "Improve attainment, achievement, and positive destinations for young people who grow up in poverty" See the <a href="#">Local Authority Standards &amp; Quality Report 2022-23</a> .
Develop and implement a plan to reduce the poverty related attainment gap in literacy and numeracy including recruiting Closing the Gap teachers (CEC)	<b>In progress</b> Update provided in main report, section "Improve attainment, achievement, and positive destinations for young people who grow up in poverty" See the <a href="#">Local Authority Standards &amp; Quality Report 2022-23</a> .

Call to Action: Connections in a city that belongs to us	Status update
<p><b>Deliver a new Edinburgh Economy Strategy developed to guide Council actions to support a sustainable economic recovery for the city post Covid, including the renewal of Edinburgh's cultural sector (CEC)</b></p>	<p><b>In Progress</b> New <a href="#">Edinburgh Economy Strategy</a> published in 2021. Progress update planned for January 2024. New Culture Strategy published in 2023 provides additional actions on promoting inclusion in Culture in Edinburgh.</p>
<p><b>Develop plans to design and embed a 20-minute neighbourhood approach to new developments, and planning of services in Edinburgh (CEC)</b></p>	<p><b>In Progress</b> Improve digital inclusion and access to affordable transport <b>"Provide the support people need, in the places they live and work"</b></p>
<p><b>Deliver a City Mobility Plan (CMP), with actions to reduce the day to day cost of travel for families in Edinburgh (CEC)</b></p>	<p><b>In Progress</b> Update provided in main report, section <b>"Improve digital inclusion and access to affordable transport"</b></p>
<p><b>Deliver the Council Digital and Smart City Strategy actions to improve digital inclusion and provide support for citizens to gain digital skills and the confidence to use them, including: (CEC)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) ensuring connectivity is available in community spaces including libraries, schools, and early years settings</li> <li>ii) ensuring citizens can access resources within our libraries</li> <li>iii) ensuring citizens can access learning opportunities to further their digital skills</li> <li>iv) ensuring that digital literacies are embedded into all aspects of the curriculum</li> <li>v. fostering positive relationships between families and early years settings/schools allowing for support opportunities to be identified</li> <li>vi) providing equity of access to digital resources for all learners in schools</li> <li>vii) ensuring low cost affordable broadband is available for Council tenants</li> <li>viii) working with third sector partners to promote access to affordable digital equipment</li> <li>ix) ensuring that citizens on low incomes are involved in the design and development of digital services that matter to them</li> </ul>	<p><b>In Progress</b> Main update provided in main report, section <b>"Improve digital inclusion and access to affordable transport"</b></p> <p>Additional actions include work under way to improve online forms based on customer feedback, including making links that make it easier to tell the Contact Centre when a service hasn't been delivered as expected. Priorities for 2024 include further expansion of customer satisfaction surveys to help shape future options to expand digital services and use technology to serve citizens.</p> <p><b>In Progress</b> Update provided in main report, section <b>"Maximise uptake of benefits entitlements and other income support"</b></p>

Call to Action: Connections in a city that belongs to us	Status update
<p>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 and 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. (EP)</p>	<p>Actions yet to be developed. Updates on affordable transport actions are provided in main report, section “<b>Improve digital inclusion and access to affordable transport</b>”</p>
Call to Action: Equality in our health and wellbeing	Status update
<p>Continue Council and Edinburgh Partnership responses to the impacts of the Covid outbreak, including (EP, CEC &amp; NHS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• management of key frontline service delivery in line with government and public health guidance</li> <li>• provide crisis support for people affected by Covid, including contact support for vulnerable citizens, welfare checks and grant support for self-isolating citizens</li> <li>• Review and develop approaches to make best use of Scottish Government funding to address financial hardship as a result of Covid</li> </ul>	<p><b>Complete</b> Pandemic recovery actions now embedded as part of mainstream delivery.</p>
<p>Develop and continue partnership working with EVOC and 3rd Sector to ensure a coordinated approach to contact and delivery of support activities and to assess long term service delivery options to address food insecurity (EP)</p>	<p><b>In Progress</b> Update provided in main report, section “<b>Deliver well targeted cash first and local crisis support programmes</b>”</p>
<p>Deliver priority proposal to invest in the expansion of the ‘Discover’ programme, working with families to reduce food anxiety, build skills and address social isolation (CEC)</p>	<p><b>In Progress</b> Delivery of Discover! programmes continue. Update provided in main report, section “<b>Improve attainment, achievement, and positive destinations for young people who grow up in poverty</b>”</p>

Call to Action: Equality in our health and wellbeing	Status update
<p><b>Develop and enhance NHS-led partnerships and services (NHS)</b></p>	<p><b>In Progress</b> NHS Lothian is established as an Anchor Institution and accredited Living Wage employer, with close links with employability partners to support NHS Lothian general and specific employability initiatives.</p> <p>Key actions delivered by the Edinburgh Partnership and Place Team during 2023 have included integrating a Child Poverty Focus into Children's Services Partnership; joint-funding and working with Council and Police Scotland to allocate and support management of Connecting Communities Edinburgh Fund; developing referral pathways from midwifery, health visiting and family nurse practitioners to income maximisation support, and leading the 'standards' workstream within the food poverty strategy</p> <p>As part of their role within the Edinburgh Partnership, NHS Lothian lead the 'Creating good places to live' workstream of Edinburgh's Local Outcome Improvement Plan.</p> <p>Further updates provided in the main report, section "<b>Increase income from work and opportunity to progress</b>" and "<b>Maximise uptake of benefits entitlements and other income support</b>"</p>
<p><b>Fully establish the Edinburgh Partnership and Place team within Public Health (NHS)</b></p>	<p><b>Complete</b> The Edinburgh Partnership and Place team was established within Public Health during 2022/23.</p>
<p><b>Further develop the use of public health data with community planning partners (NHS)</b></p>	<p><b>In Progress</b> Key actions delivered during 2023 include improvements to children and young people core datasets, support for development of the Local Outcome improvement Plan performance framework and providing bespoke analysis on the impact of poverty on people with disabilities.</p>

# Endnotes

<sup>i</sup> 2021 estimates of all age and child poverty in Edinburgh are derived from datasets published by End Child Poverty Coalition - [Child Poverty Statistics - End Child Poverty](#). For a full analysis of methodology used to produce Edinburgh level poverty estimates, please see [https://edinburghpovertycommission.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/20200930\\_Poverty\\_in\\_Edinburgh-Data\\_and\\_evidence.pdf](https://edinburghpovertycommission.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/20200930_Poverty_in_Edinburgh-Data_and_evidence.pdf)

<sup>ii</sup> <https://data.gov.scot/poverty>

<sup>iii</sup> <https://www.resolutionfoundation.org/publications/living-standards-outlook-summer-2023/>

<sup>iv</sup> [Poverty in Scotland 2023 | JRF](#)

<sup>v</sup> <https://data.gov.scot/poverty>

<sup>vi</sup> Source: Citizens Advice Scotland

<sup>vii</sup> Source: City of Edinburgh Council

<sup>viii</sup> Data relates to target 1) % of adults and children living in relative poverty after housing costs; 2) % of individuals in Edinburgh who are destitute; 3) % of individuals who have been living in relative poverty after housing costs for at least 3 years. For a full analysis of methodology used to produce Edinburgh level poverty estimates, please see [https://edinburghpovertycommission.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/20200930\\_Poverty\\_in\\_Edinburgh-Data\\_and\\_evidence.pdf](https://edinburghpovertycommission.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/20200930_Poverty_in_Edinburgh-Data_and_evidence.pdf)

<sup>ix</sup> Estimates are drawn from biannual JRF/Heriot Watt University study Destitution in the UK. Next update is due for publication on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

<sup>x</sup> Definitions and data drawn from <https://data.gov.scot/poverty/>. The absolute poverty line is 60% of the inflation-adjusted UK median income in 2010/11. People are in absolute poverty if they live in a household whose equivalised income is below this amount. Absolute poverty is a measure of whether those in the lowest income households are seeing their incomes rise in real terms. Combined low income and child material deprivation is an additional way of measuring living standards. It is about households who cannot afford basic goods and activities that are seen as necessities in society.

<sup>xi</sup> All data from All data from City of Edinburgh Council records unless listed below

<sup>xii</sup> Unemployment levels are from ONS Annual Population Survey, via [NOMIS](#)

<sup>xiii</sup> Universal Credit claimant numbers via [DWP](#)

<sup>xiv</sup> Data presented are as at March each year. Data in main document provides an update as at September 2023 when total accredited employers in Edinburgh had risen to 677.

<sup>xv</sup> Opportunities: school attendance, attainment, and destination rates via [Scottish Government School Education Statistics](#)

<sup>xvi</sup> Data sources for health inequality data:

- [Life Expectancy in Scotland | National Records of Scotland \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](#). Note that 2022 data are based projections and treated as provisional.
- [Healthy Life Expectancy in Scotland | National Records of Scotland \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](#)
- Mortality rates calculated by NHS Lothian Public Health Intelligence using NRS deaths data held by Lothian Analytical Services
- 27-30 month review data based on CHSP-PS and extracted from PHS Discovery
- MH Prescriptions (% population prescribed drugs for anxiety/depression/psychosis) via [ScotPHO profiles tool](#).

<sup>xvii</sup> This measure- the absolute gap- describes the absolute difference between the extremes of deprivation (SIMD 1 and SIMD 5). These are different figures to those presented in the last report, based on SII, which due to technical issues could not be updated. More information about the absolute gap can be found in the Scottish Government's Long-term Monitoring of Health Inequalities report ([Annex 1: Technical Notes - Long-term Monitoring of Health Inequalities March 2023 report - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#))

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## THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

### UPDATE on LOIP 1 '*Enough Money to Live on*', in the context of the End Poverty in Edinburgh Annual Progress Report 2023

#### 1. Executive Summary

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- 1.1 The [End Poverty in Edinburgh Annual Progress Report 2023](#) was recently presented to City of Edinburgh Council (CEC)'s Policy and Sustainability Committee, and subsequently to the Edinburgh Children's Partnership. The report consolidates the wide range of actions being taken across Edinburgh into four categories of work to **reduce the cost of living; make it easier to find help; maximise support from social safety nets and increase income from work and opportunity to progress.**
- 1.2 The report was welcomed, however there was a request for an update to be brought back to committee on progress against the recommendations from the [Review of Welfare Rights and Debt Advice in Edinburgh](#), including an update in relation to access to CEC Advice Services. Other areas identified for further exploration included opportunities for closer links between poverty and environmental sustainability, particularly in the context of employment; pupil attendance rates; and digital inclusion. The need to demonstrate progress from longer term poverty prevention work, including for example some of the work within LOIP 3, was also acknowledged.
- 1.3 The ongoing impact of a shortage of housing that is affordable to those on low incomes, as well as a shortage of childcare provision within the city have been identified as areas where further action is still required. Following presentation of the annual poverty report to the CEC's Poverty and Prevention Board, a recommendation was made that a special meeting of the Edinburgh Partnership Board is held to consider early years provision in the city.
- 1.4 There is a commitment to reconvene the Edinburgh Poverty Commission in 2024 for a review of progress against their calls to action, which will include reviewing progress in relation to the issues highlighted above.
- 1.5 This LOIP 1 update report, provided in recognition of the requests following discussions on the Poverty Annual Progress Report, provides information in three parts:
  - An update on the delivery of LOIP 1 actions, including the implementation of recommendations from the Review of Welfare Rights and Debt Advice in Edinburgh.

- An update on additional resources that have been secured to deliver further poverty-reduction work in Edinburgh, and how these will be integrated with existing programmes of work and provisional governance arrangements.
- A reflection on the need for additional work in the areas of housing and childcare provision, in order to more fully address poverty in the city.

## 2. Recommendations

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### 2.1 The Board is recommended to:

#### i. **Note:**

- Progress against the LOIP 1 actions, including the implementation of recommendations from the commissioned review of welfare rights and debt advice in Edinburgh.
- Note the additional resources that have been secured to deliver further poverty-reduction work in Edinburgh.

#### ii. **Agree:**

- For this progress update to be presented back to CEC Poverty and Sustainability Committee.
- The provisional proposal for how additional poverty-reduction work will be integrated with existing programmes of work, acknowledging that provisional changes in governance still need to be confirmed at the LOIP 1 Strategy Group.
- To hold a special meeting of the Board in February to consider access to childcare provision in the city with a focus on early years provision.

#### iii. **Discuss:**

- Further actions that could be taken by the Partnership to support the provision of additional housing that is affordable to those living on low incomes.

## 3. Background

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- 3.1 An independent review of welfare rights and debt advice services in Edinburgh was commissioned by the Edinburgh Partnership, with the [review report](#), including 24 recommendations, published in September 2022. In January 2023 the LOIP 1 Strategy Group was established, and a Logic Model (Appendix 1) and Action Plan (Appendix 2) developed, to oversee the work needed to deliver against the review recommendations and other related areas of work, including actions on access to affordable credit.
- 3.2 The Strategy Group have met quarterly to oversee progress, explore opportunities to secure additional resources and re-prioritise actions when limited resources meant it was not possible to progress all actions in line with the



originally agreed timescales. Additional resource to support the delivery of the agreed LOIP 1 actions has recently been secured, and an update on progress to date is provided in Section 4 of this report.

- 3.3 More recently, the Scottish Government made available two additional sources of funding, in the form of new [Cash-First funding](#), as part of their plan [Towards Ending the Need for Food Banks in Scotland](#), as well as [Child Poverty Practice Accelerator funding](#). Edinburgh has been successful in partnership bids to both funds, attracting an additional £275,000 for partnership work to address poverty in the city in 2023/24 and 2024/25 (£195,000 from the Cash First programme and £80,000 from the Accelerator programme).
- 3.4 There is a need to ensure this funding is integrated with existing programmes of work and governance mechanisms for the implementation of the [Welfare Rights & Debt Advice Services Review in Edinburgh](#) and the [Ending Poverty Related Hunger in Edinburgh](#) strategy, as well actions to address poverty set out within the Edinburgh Children's Services Plan. An update on the work that will be delivered with this additional funding and the proposed governance mechanism is provided in Section 5 of this report.

#### 4. Progress of LOIP 1 'Enough Money to Live on' actions

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- 4.1 The RAG-rated action plan for the LOIP 1 workstream is provided in Appendix 2. A summary of progress is as follows:
- 8 actions are completed: 2 (R1 & R2) of the 24 Review recommendations and 6 (AC2, AC3, AC4, AC8, AC10, AC11) of the 16 Affordable Credit Actions.
  - 6 actions are on-going, including work in relation to Money Counts training.
  - 11 actions are scheduled to commence in 2024/25.
  - 4 actions are currently rated 'red' and at risk of not being delivered, including the action to create a unified 'Advice for Edinburgh', which requires both resource to implement change but also senior leadership commitment to change from a range of organisations.
- 4.2 In light of resource constraints, the LOIP 1 Strategy Group agreed to re-prioritise the actions within the Action Plan to focus on 3 areas (6 actions) from the Review recommendations in the short term:
- Forming the Joined up for Advice network (R5) and the development of a Charter (R17) with some progress towards network resources (R19). The recruitment of a 0.6 whole-time-equivalent co-ordinator (funded by CEC) has now taken place, with someone due to start in post in the new year.
  - Improving consistency of data to allow for future strategic planning (R8, R9).



- Developing a commissioning specification for advice services to allow a formal commissioning process to replace the grant-making that is currently used by the EIJB to fund a third of service provision in the city (R11, R16).

## 5. Integrating additional poverty-reduction work into LOIP 1 governance

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- 5.1 The aim of the Cash First funding is to improve access to emergency financial assistance i.e. taking a cash-first approach and providing money advice and holistic support services alongside cash-first responses can help to prevent future hardship.
- 5.2 Edinburgh's proposal for the use of this funding includes a mapping phase; followed by a test-of-change phase, including:
- Commissioning a comprehensive mapping of the full range of food support providers including current use of cash-first and the wider services and supports available.
  - Using this information to support service improvement and builds on the review of the welfare rights and debt advice services across Edinburgh carried out in 2022.
  - Using different approaches to getting people to engage in support beyond a cash payment for emergency support, to improve linkages between emergency financial assistance and income maximisation services.
  - Targeted pilots to improve access to financial assistance, for example supporting young families in temporary accommodation; working with Health Visitor in relation to infants under 12 months and with midwifery in to improve to prenatal support.
- 5.3 Edinburgh's proposal for the use of the Scottish Government's Child Poverty Practice Accelerator Fund focusses on:
- Improving access to and take up of income maximisation support and money advice for families with children who are living in poverty in Edinburgh by piloting a school term-time expansion of the city's successful 'Discover!' programme – which currently provides support to low-income families during school holidays, including food support, family activities, support for learning, and income maximisation support.
- 5.4 The additional Scottish Government funding has prompted the opportunity to review the scope and governance of LOIP 1, in order to integrate the work that will be supported by new funding, as well as better integrating the existing work committed to as part of the Ending Poverty Related Hunger in Edinburgh Strategy (also known as 'Menu for All'). There is a provisional proposal, still to be formally agreed at the LOIP 1 Strategy Group, that going forward the work of the following groups should report into the Strategy Group.



- Edinburgh Advice Partnership (previously the Income Maximisation and Poverty Group)
  - Menu for All Steering Group
  - Cash-First Project Group
  - Child Poverty Practice Accelerator Project Group
- 5.5 There will remain close links to the existing Edinburgh Poverty Coordination Group, which is responsible for the facilitation of information-sharing on work from all three LOIP priorities through the Edinburgh Poverty Network as well as the production of the End Poverty in Edinburgh Annual Progress Report.
- 5.6 Existing members of the LOIP 1 Strategy Group are also linked to wider relevant work, including City of Edinburgh Council's Family and Household Support Team and Parental Employability Team; as well as the Edinburgh Children's Partnership's Whole Family Wellbeing Fund Subgroup.
- 5.7 A visual representation of linkages between work described above is set out in Appendix 3.

## 6. Further action needed to address poverty in Edinburgh

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- 6.1 This paper has summarised a range of work that is currently underway in Edinburgh to ensure people have enough money to live on, however it is important to note that within the End Poverty in Edinburgh Annual Progress Report the dual challenges of access to housing affordable to those on low incomes and access to affordable childcare remain significant.
- 6.2 It is acknowledged that there is already some Partnership work taking place in relation to these issues, including through the LOIP 2 and LOIP 3 workstreams. The views of Partners are however sought on whether additional Partnership work in these areas would be beneficial and should be prioritised in order to support further progress against poverty in the city.

## 7. Contact

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Kate Barlow – Public Health Practitioner, EHSCP  
[Kate.barlow@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:Kate.barlow@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk)

Flora Ogilvie – Consultant in Public Health, NHS Lothian  
[Flora.ogilvie@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:Flora.ogilvie@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk)



THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

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LOIP P1 – LOGIC MODEL

Shared Vision: To work collaboratively with all benefit and advice providers across the city and their funders, and in partnership with other agencies with the aim to increase money in the pockets of Edinburgh’s citizens in order to move towards a poverty free Edinburgh.

ACTIVITIES			OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES		
from Welfare Advice Review Recommendations and other LOIP P1 Actions (Affordable Credit Action Plan and Money Counts training)				SHORT TERM	MEDIUM TERM	LONG TERM
PHASE 1 (delivery by end of March 2023)	PHASE 2 (delivery from April 2023 to March 2024)	PHASE 3 (delivery from April 2024 to March 2025)				
Co-ordination of cost of living campaign and resources (Money Worries resources, Crisis Guide, CEC website) as well as 1 in 5 training adapted to Money Counts training for all community planning partners’ workforce.	Comms plan continues re Cost of Living and Money Worries etc and links with national campaigns		Number of coordinated comms campaign work (national and locally) undertaken each year	Workforce and our citizens have greater awareness of available resources and support	Citizens access welfare rights and debt advice more regularly (and not just at times of crisis)	CULTURE  Shift of culture around talking about money and debt in that citizens feel more comfortable about talking and managing their finances (present and planning for the future)
	Preventing problem debt actions from AC action plan e.g. illegal money lending, gambling		Increased awareness of illegal money lending (evidenced through number of education sessions with workforce)			
	Communications plan to increase visibility of affordable credit options					
	Continuing to roll out and develop the Money Counts training		Evaluation results from Money Counts training reports that workforce has increased knowledge and confidence around poverty, increased awareness of related sigma and resources of support	Stigma is reduced around accessing services	Reduced impact of money worries on citizens’ wellbeing	
<b>R1</b> Creation of a strategic group of funders and providers who can learn from current examples of good practice and make decisions about funding  <b>R2</b> Develop an overall strategy, plan and theory of change for coordinated services	<b>R4</b> Take a flexible and long term approach to commissioning that recognises changing needs and circumstances, and allows services to be adaptable	<b>R3</b> Pool funding across the available streams to create an overall funding pot and commit to funding over the longer term, which can allow strategic planning of services to take place	Logic model agreed with measures of success  An active Strategy Group who meet regularly to oversee the funding for long term delivery for welfare rights and debt advice services in Edinburgh	Services are designed to target the most vulnerable/ agreed priority groups	Services are more:  1) Co-ordinated 2) Targeted 3) Accessible 4) Inclusive and non-stigmatising 5) More holistic	SERVICE  There is a common Edinburgh approach to the planning and delivery of welfare rights and debt advice services
	Working in partnership with Credit Unions, CDFIs, SSS, Housing Associations and Financial Sector on AC solutions					
	<b>R5</b> A network of services should be formalised which could share resources and training, and provide benefits for non-publicly funded services to sign up to the network		Joined up for Advice launched  4 Forum events per annum  Active involvement for all members with a membership across all providers/ settings			



	<b>R23</b> Identify data held in public systems which can act as an early warning system to allow people to be diverted into debt and welfare rights advice		More targeted intervention work e.g. increased uptake of pension credit	results in shared resources, consistency, and effective practice		
	<b>R11</b> Co-production and co-design of services with those who access them, and those who currently do not access them, to understand local need and barriers to access.	<b>R14</b> A mix of universal services, targeted outreach in communities and specialist services, with local services delivered within the 20-minute neighbourhood plan.	Citizen-led commissioning specification			
	<b>R8</b> Setting targets and outcomes at an overall Edinburgh level to incentivise collaboration and referral across services	<b>R12</b> Greater use of data across the city, drawn from providers, to understand need and demand with centralised analysis to inform design of services	Clearer and more accurate annual reporting (in Annual Poverty Report).			
	<b>R9</b> Shared targets across services and include other indicators to demonstrate collective impact of services	<b>R10</b> More coherent monitoring and evaluation would allow the Partnership to assess how priority groups were being supported	More co-ordinated planning of services			
	<b>R17</b> A client-centred charter of quality standards should be co-designed with clients. The SNSIAP standards should form part of a wider set of standards and support smaller organisations to achieve these.	<b>R16</b> Clients accessing any funded service should have the same standard of experience and access to high quality advice delivered through compassionate interactions which build trust and feelings of safety	All service providers are accredited to national standards			
	<b>R19</b> Set up centralised resources for welfare rights advisors and debt advisors in Edinburgh including shared training, information, and peer support and introduce a dedicated wellbeing initiative for welfare rights advisors and those who supervise them.	<b>R18</b> There should be consistent access to translation and interpreters.	Consistent support, resources and training for all service providers evidenced by a number of examples of shared resources, training etc.			
	<b>R20</b> Build in time and resource to funding for staff terms and conditions, training and support		A consistent and hence fairer contract for all staff	Retention rate of welfare rights and debt advisors is increased		
	<b>R13</b> Design person-centred services which are holistic where possible, reduce the need for clients to re-tell their story and ensure seamless handovers between services.		Citizens only have to explain their situation once			
	<b>R7</b> Explore option to provide a single number and access point for advice services in Edinburgh, through which clients could have a triage call with a generalised service before being connected into specialist advice		An IT telephone system that allows: triaging, copes with the demand, logs info, sets appointments etc. is operational	Easier to navigate the system		
	<b>R6</b> Advice services should be commissioned under a unified “advice for Edinburgh” brand. The details of the services and providers should be included on a portal accessible by both the general public seeking advice and professionals who are supporting people.		A sub-umbrella brand developed to signify quality, consistency, etc for advice services			



		<b>R22</b> Identify opportunities for proactive and early intervention, taking a whole system and life course approach.	Service design is more joined up e.g. midwifery to HV to early years to schools; mental health – acute to community	Citizens will access services easier (known by consumer feedback survey) and due to service design being more proactive, targeted, and citizen led (and less reactive to crisis)	Citizens are empowered, understand the impact of their decisions on their finances (current and long term) e.g., career breaks, employability/ training opportunities, reducing costs, budgeting and hence are more confident in their financial decision-making	<b>CITIZEN</b>  The Edinburgh citizens are financially resilient <sup>1</sup>
		<b>R15</b> Commit to a test and learn approach of funding pilots (for example, provision in schools, financial capability workshops in communities, targeted support around transitions) with options for targeted roll-out if pilots are successful.	Learning from proactive and innovative pilots feeds into service design  Annual learning event			
			Consistent use of financial education in schools and a programme of delivery achieved			
		<b>R24</b> Develop a financial education and capability offer which can be provided as part of ongoing support to people who access services	Financial resilience support is developed by citizens (for all ages)  Number of citizens of all age’s completed financial education, which increases their financial capability/ resilience			
	<b>R21</b> Work with employability services to develop a client to welfare rights and debt adviser volunteering/employment pathway, valuing lived experience of accessing welfare rights		Risk of ongoing vacancies and poor retention rates of welfare rights and debt advisors is decreased			

<b>THEME of Activity (from Review Recommendations)</b>
<b>STRATEGY – A shared strategy for funding welfare rights and debt advice services</b>
<b>BRANDING and ACCESS – A unified brand and access point for services</b>
<b>OUTCOMES and DATA – A coherent approach to collecting and sharing data about a shared set of outcomes across services</b>
<b>UNDERSTANDING NEED &amp; DEMAND – Design services which meet the needs of people and are accessible to them where and when they need them through co-design with communities and use of data</b>
<b>QUALITY – Develop a consistent set of standards for commissioned services so that people who access services experience the same high standard of advice across Edinburgh</b>
<b>WORKFORCE – A workforce plan for welfare rights and debt advisors with shared training and wellbeing resources, and a new route into welfare rights volunteering/employment opportunities for those with lived experiences</b>
<b>EARLY INTERVENTION – Explore options for proactive intervention and early identification of financial issues</b>

Measures of success:

- Percentage of people living on incomes below the poverty threshold
- Percentage of children living in families on incomes below the poverty threshold
- Percentage of people living in destitution

<sup>1</sup> Check wording with Lived Experience Group i.e. is ‘resilience’ the right word here; plus check what support they need to be financially resilient

- Uptake of services
- Outcomes for people supported including mental health and wellbeing
- Measure around persistent poverty (tbc)
- Increases from baseline (to be collected) and 2025 through an agreed service user survey (around citizens’ experience: access, a common approach, quality, their confidence of dealing with their finances – TBC)

Poverty Commission Targets

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

Priority Groups:

- Families where there is a lone parent; or a disability; or with 3 or more children; or where the youngest child is younger than one year; or the mother is aged less than 25; or from a minority ethnic background.
- People who are older, have disabilities or long-term health conditions, from a black and minority ethnic background, who are homeless, people involved with criminal justice system, veterans, and carers

Risks:

Assumptions:

**LOIP Priority 1: Enough Money to Live On****2-year action plan (April 2023 – March 2025)***EP = Edinburgh Partnership, IMPG = Income Maximisation & Poverty Group*

We will work together to deliver a more coordinated approach to planning income maximisation, support, and advice services.	Lead	Target date to complete by	SHORT UPDATE SECTION	Partnership or Collaboration or EP support	Evidence of success measurements	RAG with reason for rating
<p><b>As a result, residents should have access to income maximisation support where and when they need it and receive the same high quality support wherever they are in the city.</b></p> <p><b>We will agree and implement a common Edinburgh approach.</b></p>					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Percentage of people living on incomes below the poverty threshold</li> <li>- Percentage of children living in families on incomes below the poverty threshold</li> <li>- Percentage of people living in destitution</li> </ul>	
Edinburgh Partnership to propose and develop a single city-wide 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.	KB	March 2025	<p>Commissioned in Q4 of 2021/22. All stakeholders engaged with mapping exercise and review of welfare rights and debt advice services. Report finalised and presented to EP in Sept 2022. Engagement continued with dissemination events in Q3 and Q4 with a wide range of stakeholders.</p> <p>Next steps: implementation of the 24 recommendations taking a phased approach. Year 1 of delivery - 2023-2024 Year 2 of delivery - 2024-2025</p>	Supported by EP. Partnership and governance through the Short Term Working Group. Collaboration with all stakeholders. New LOIP 1 Strategy Group formed to oversee	<p>Report and presentation of mapping exercise and review to EP, LOIP Delivery Group, STWG and IMPG in Q3 (2022-23).</p> <p>Discussions with wider stakeholders completed in Q3(2022-23).</p> <p>Implementation plan agreed by LOIP P1 – Strategy group in Q4 (2022-23): becoming the 2-year action plan for LOIP P1.</p>	<b>G due to being completed</b>



				implementatio n of Review. Delivery supported by IMPG.		
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS OF REVIEW</b>						
<b>STRATEGY - A shared strategy for funding welfare rights and debt advice services</b>						
R1 Creation of a strategic group of funders and providers who can learn from current examples of good practice and make decisions about funding.	KB	June 2023	LOIP P1 Strategy Group formed in Q4; chaired by NHS Lothian – PH.  Representation from lived experience will be when the work starts on co-design and commissioning (as per R11). ToR agreed. Ongoing action of bring examples of good practice and funding opportunities.	Delivery supported by collaboration from IMPG.	Full membership and ToR agreed in Q1 of 2023-24.	<b>G due to being completed</b>
R2 Develop an overall strategy, plan and theory of change for coordinated services.	YK/ KB	June 2023	Logic model and narrative drafted and shared with IMPG. Please note that the logic model includes all LOIP P1 activities.	Delivery supported by collaboration from IMPG.	Agreed logic model with measures of success in Q1 of 2023-24.	<b>G due to being completd</b>
R3 Pool funding across the available streams to create an overall funding pot and commit to funding over the longer term, which can allow strategic planning of services to take place.	NB	March 2025	This action is planned for Year2: 2024-2025.  Please note that the EIJB Grants has been extended another 2 years to March 2025.  Next steps: EIJB agree in principle for the funding currently allocated to WRA services is managed by this new commissioning process.	Support from EP and partnership working across the system		<b>Not started</b>



			Approach funders/ programmes that currently fund WRA services to assess whether feasible to combine monies (e.g. UKSPF – CEC/ CCP, WAHP, CEC, etc) that could be included.			
R4 Take a flexible and long term approach to commissioning that recognises changing needs and circumstances, and allows services to be adaptable.	RH	March 2025	Planned for 2024/25 implementation and links with R11	Partnership working across the system (nationally and locally)	A consistent, citizen-led commissioning specification used by all partners	<b>Not started</b>
<b>BRANDING and ACCESS - A unified brand and access point for services</b>						
R5 A network of services should be formalised which could share resources and training and provide benefits for non-publicly funded services to sign up to the network.	RH	Dec 2023	<p>Planned for 2023/24 implementation, partial funding from CEC (delayed due to applications into RT and abrdn unsuccessful).</p> <p>In the process of recruiting a Joined Up for Advice Coordinator.</p> <p>Low response rate back from the current Advice Services Forum (chaired by CEC) on developing the network: a few members expressed need for an expert group in terms of supervision and issues with DWP/ SSS.</p> <p>Home Energy Scotland organised and hosted an Advisory Forum networking event with a focus on damp and condensation in Q2, 2023.</p> <p>CEC confirmed partial funding of £38k in Q2, 2023. This will fund a JUFA Officer</p>	Delivery supported by collaboration from IMPG and IMPG evolves to be the steering group for Joined up for Advice.	<p>Joined up for Advice launched in Q3 in 2023</p> <p>4 Forum events per annum</p> <p>Active involvement from all members with a membership across all providers/ settings</p>	<p><b>G due to n partial funding from CEC</b></p> <p><b>PRIORITY</b></p>



			<p>part-time (3 days - 0.6FTE) for 12 months, forum support and networking events and Charter development and design.</p> <p>Next steps: review job specification, recruit officer, draft and agree ToR for Joined Up for Advice.</p>			
R6 Advice services should be commissioned under a unified “advice for Edinburgh” brand. The details of the services and providers should be included on a portal accessible by both the general public seeking advice and professionals who are supporting people.	NB	March 2024	<p>Planned for 2023/24 implementation</p> <p>Next steps: Investigate the fit of ‘The Edinburgh Guarantee’ branding</p> <p>Edinburgh Guarantee is under review, but the key change will be to bring all CEC-funded support under the brand – for a coordinated ‘no wrong door approach’ for any citizen or employer needing support, including accessing welfare/debt advice services.</p>	Delivery supported by collaboration from IMPG	A sub-umbrella brand developed to signify quality, consistency, etc for advice services	<p><b>Due to delays to proposed brand and priority being employability</b></p> <p><b>RISK</b></p>
R7 Explore option to provide a single number and access point for advice services in Edinburgh, through which clients could have a triage call with a generalised service before being connected into specialist advice.	NB	March 2024	<p>Planned for 2023/24 implementation, initial meeting with 3 main third sector service providers looking into using the Advice Shop telephone line.</p> <p>Next steps:</p>	Delivery supported by collaboration from IMPG	An IT telephone system that allows: triaging, copes with the demand, logs info, sets appointments etc. is operational	<p><b>Due to no update submitted</b></p> <p><b>RISK</b></p>
<b>OUTCOMES and DATA - A coherent approach to collecting and sharing data about a shared set of outcomes across services</b>						
R8 Setting targets and outcomes at an overall Edinburgh level to incentivise collaboration and referral across services.	YK/ KB	March 2024	<p>Planned for 2023/24 implementation</p> <p>Next steps: Agreeing consistent quarterly reporting with the Edinburgh Consortium (CAE, CHAI GIC).</p> <p>Pilot with IS for all providers contributing to annual reporting (timings TBC &amp; links to R9)</p>	Delivery supported by collaboration from IMPG	Consistent performance reporting across all the service providers. Clearer and more accurate annual reporting (in Annual Poverty Report).	<p><b>G as progress is being made</b></p> <p><b>PRIORITY</b></p>



R9 Shared targets across services and include other indicators to demonstrate collective impact of services.	BN	March 2024	Planned for 2023/24 implementation Indicators of impact should be reported using the CAPMRF to demonstrate collective impact, as outlined in R12. Targets, should be established from the annual analysis, taking account of the average targets achieved by the best performing services. An action plan for improved performance should also be established at or immediately following that meeting, for any provider who is not delivering those targets. Failure to deliver again, following conclusion of the action plan, should result in re-distribution of investment, to ensure best value and maximum reach and impact is being achieved. This process should be clearly established within contracts and transparent reporting and consistent improvement performance management, would allow the EIJB and elected members to be satisfied with the fairness of that approach. Advice Pro and CASTLE are essentially the same system. They record and report on the same data. However, to offer a comparison in terms of cost, CAE pay Citizens Advice Scotland an annual membership fee of £4,800 for which we receive a suite of continuously updated comprehensive online and in person training, unlimited licences to CASTLE and Advisernet, Independent quarterly and annual Quality Assurance Audits.	Delivery supported by collaboration from IMPG	Clearer and more accurate annual reporting (in Annual Poverty Report).	<b>G</b> <b>PRIORITY</b>
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			By contrast, other providers pay £188 per licence to access Advice Pro.			
R10 More coherent monitoring and evaluation would allow the Partnership to assess how priority groups were being supported.	YK/ KB	March 2025	Planned for 2024/25 implementation Next steps:	Partnership working across the system	Improved annual report to EP	<b>Not started</b>
<b>Understanding Need &amp; Demand - Design services which meet the needs of people and are accessible to them where and when they need them through co-design with communities and use of data</b>						
R11 Co-production and co-design of services with those who access them, and those who currently do not access them, to understand local need and barriers to access.	RH	March 2024	Planned for 2023/24 implementation, linked to R5 – therefore timings dependent on funding.  Next steps: confirm funding by the end of Q2, 2023.	Partnership working across the system	A consistent, citizen-led commissioning specification used by all partners	<b>R due to no funding identified  PRIORITY</b>
R12 Greater use of data across the city, drawn from providers, to understand need and demand with centralised analysis to inform design of services.	BN	March 2025	Planned for 2024/25 implementation  The Common Advice Performance Management Reporting Framework (CAPMRF) already exists and is resourced and managed by the Improvement Service. Its purpose is: "To report and analyse the investment made by local authorities in money and welfare rights advice services (covering both internal delivery and external commissioning) and to assess the outputs and impacts achieved for this investment". Providers are already required to gather, analyse and report on key performance data in this consistent template and go through a process of analysis with the	Partnership working across the system	More co-ordinated planning of services	<b>Not started</b>



			<p>Improvement Service. The data required for the CAPMRF, is aligned to the primary IT systems (CASTLE and Advice Pro). Similarly, any additional impact or outcome data that needs to be captured, can be added to CASTLE or Advice Pro as required.</p> <p>To meet this recommendation, we would require every funded provider to report using the CAPMRF and establish and annual review with the Improvement Service to analyse the details from their collated city wide report and comparative national data, to analyse and inform design of services.</p> <p>BN has reached out to the Improvement Service to clarify their current process and ask if they would facilitate such an approach and will update the group on their response. BN is already on a National Working Group with the Improvement Service that analysis the consistency of data recording across Scotland into this framework. If the EIJB required any other data to be captured to assess outputs and impact, that should be added to the CAPMRF for consistency and that can be achieved through the afore mentioned working group or directly, as required, with Improvement Service colleagues.</p>			
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R13 Design person-centred services which are holistic where possible, reduce the need for clients to re-tell their story and ensure seamless handovers between services.	RH	March 2024	Planned for 2023/24 implementation	Partnership working across the system	A system or service design piloted and being scaled up	<b>R due to no funding identified</b> <b>RISK</b>
R14 A mix of universal services, targeted outreach in communities and specialist services, with local services delivered within the 20-minute neighbourhood plan.	YK	March 2025	Planned for 2024/25 implementation N.B: Links with LOIP P3, Warm & Welcoming Spaces and Whole Family Support Services.	Partnership working across the system	Learning from each model of service delivery is shared for future planning	<b>Not started</b>
R15 Commit to a test and learn approach of funding pilots (for example, provision in schools, financial capability workshops in communities, targeted support around transitions) with options for targeted roll-out if pilots are successful.	RH	March 2024	Planned for 2023/24 implementation Next steps: prioritise pilots and find resources to fund them	Partnership working across the system	Pilot(s) scoped out and funding finalised in 2023 with delivery and sharing of the learning from them in 2024.  Learning from proactive and innovative pilots feeds into service design  Annual learning event	<b>R due to no funding identified</b> <b>ON HOLD</b>
<b>QUALITY - Develop a consistent set of standards for commissioned services so that people who access services experience the same high standard of advice across Edinburgh</b>						
R16 Clients accessing any funded service should have the same standard of experience and access to high quality advice delivered through compassionate interactions which build trust and feelings of safety.	RH	March 2025	Planned for 2024/25 implementation and links with R4, R11 and R17.	Delivery supported by collaboration from IMPG.	A consistent, citizen-led commissioning specification used by all partners	<b>R due to no funding identified</b> <b>PRIORITY</b>
R17 A client-centred charter of quality standards should be co-designed with clients. The SNSIAP standards should form	RH	March 2024	Planned for 2024/25 implementation Next steps: Understand where all service providers are in relationship to	Delivery supported by	All service providers are accredited to national standards (SNSIAP)	<b>R due to partial</b>



part of a wider set of standards and support smaller organisations to achieve these.			working to SNSIAP standards and timescales of audit; hence allowing an understanding of what support is required for smaller providers.	collaboration from IMPG.	A charter for Joined up for Advice agreed and members signed up to it	<b>funding from CEC</b> <b>PRIORITY</b>
R18 There should be consistent access to translation and interpreters.	BN	March 2024	Planned for 2023/24 implementation Most advice providers use telephone bases Interpretation Services. They provide a service in any language in any location within seconds. They are much more efficient, both in terms of accessibility and cost, to an in person interpretation service and there is evidence to suggest that telephone interpretation provides a more accurate interpretation of the advisers dialogue compared to in person, where the factor of direct human interaction established a relationship between the interpreter and the client that can increase the risk of their interpretation of advice being given. Research carried out by medical services in the US has proven that patient satisfaction with remote interpretation is equal to those who received in person. CAE pay £1.20 per minute for use of language line. Costs are only by the minute so no unnecessary travel or hourly charges are added. This will be significantly cheaper than the councils in house interpretation services. CAE currently pay an average of £7,000 per year for interpretation. From the details of the	Delivery supported by collaboration from IMPG.		<b>G</b> <b>ONGOING</b>

			advice review, it is estimated that we see at least a third of people seeking advice, therefore a budget pot of £21,000 could help to cover these costs per year. Language line can provide individual cost centres for authorised agencies accessing the service to monitor and manage billing on a monthly basis.			
<b>WORKFORCE - A workforce plan for welfare rights and debt advisors with shared training and wellbeing resources, and a new route into welfare rights volunteering/employment opportunities for those with lived experiences</b>						
R19 Set up centralised resources for welfare rights advisors and debt advisors in Edinburgh including shared training, information, and peer support and introduce a dedicated wellbeing initiative for welfare rights advisors and those who supervise them.	RH	March 2024	Planned for 2023/24 implementation, linked to R5 – therefore timings dependent on funding.  Next steps: confirm funding by the end of Q2, 2023.	Delivery supported by collaboration from IMPG.	Consistent support, resources and training for all service providers evidenced by a number of examples of shared resources, training etc.	<b>R due to partial funding from CEC</b>
R20 Build in time and resource to funding for staff terms and conditions, training and support.	BN	March 2024	Planned for 2023/24 implementation Links with R4, R11 and R17.  CAE is known to be one of the better and consistent paying employers for Advice Roles. We have a flat rate of £26,650 for an Adviser plus a 7% employers pension contribution, 25 days annual leave and 10 days public holidays. Other providers pay a mixture of salaries for advice roles, but all will be below that rate. By comparison, the last role advertised by the Councils Advice Shop offered a salary on a scale between £34,057 to £40,275, with I believe an employer's	Delivery supported by collaboration from IMPG.	A consistent and hence fairer contract for all staff  Retention rate of welfare rights and debt advisors has increased	<b>A due to costs identified but there has actually been no change to terms and conditions due to there being no additional funding</b>

			pension contribution of between 18-25% (based on public council committee reports, but this may be an inaccurate interpretation on my part) and annual leave entitlement of 27 days plus 6 public holidays. This is a salary (plus pension) gap of between £11,672 and £21,828 (if the pension increases to 25%). I doubt this is a gap, per adviser, that the EIJB or its current funded providers can bridge and this does not take account of the gap that already exists amongst the providers themselves. This does however give the Strategy Group some high level detail to consider how we wish to approach this recommendation, as providers will now expect to see some response to funding that gap, given the details in the review report.			
R21 Work with employability services to develop a client to welfare rights and debt adviser volunteering/employment pathway, valuing lived experience of accessing welfare rights.	RH	March 2024	CCP piloting with CHAI using the Vocational Training framework (VTF) for recruiting WRA vacancies re UKSPF in June 2023.	Delivery supported by collaboration from IMPG.	Risk of ongoing vacancies and poor retention rates of welfare rights and debt advisors is decreased	G as being currently piloted
<b>EARLY INTERVENTION - Explore options for proactive intervention and early identification of financial issues</b>						
R22 Identify opportunities for proactive and early intervention, taking a whole system and life course approach.	YK	March 2025	Planned for 2024/25 implementation	Partnership working across the system	Service design is more joined up e.g. midwifery to HV to early years to schools; mental health – acute to community	Not started
R23 Identify data held in public systems which can act as an early warning system to	NB	March 2024	Planned for 2023/24 implementation	Partnership working across the system	System and process in place: number of clients supported	No update submitted



allow people to be diverted into debt and welfare rights advice.					within this new targeted system.	
R24 Develop a financial education and capability offer which can be provided as part of ongoing support to people who access services.	RH	March 2025	<p>Planned for 2024/25 implementation Next steps: Review and assess any current resources with target audience/ lived experience <a href="https://www.young-enterprise.org.uk/resources/your-money-matters-financial-education-textbook-scotland/">https://www.young-enterprise.org.uk/resources/your-money-matters-financial-education-textbook-scotland/</a></p> <p>Check whether any support from MaPS <a href="https://moneyandpensionsservice.org.uk/financial-wellbeing-in-scotland/">https://moneyandpensionsservice.org.uk/financial-wellbeing-in-scotland/</a></p> <p>Link in with any current support being delivered in schools by CEC's Family Household Support team/ LLL.</p>	Delivery supported by collaboration from IMPG.	<p>Consistent use of financial education in schools and a programme of delivery achieved</p> <p>Financial resilience support is developed by citizens (for all ages)</p> <p>Number of citizens of all age's completed financial education, which increases their financial capability/ resilience</p>	<b>R ON HOLD</b>
<p><b>Edinburgh Poverty Commission Actions under Priority 1</b></p> <p><b>Taking the learning from successful poverty initiatives such as the '1in5' programme in schools, and explore how we can develop into other settings/ partners</b></p>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Target date to complete</b>	<b>SHORT UPDATE SECTION</b>	<b>Partnership or Collaboration or EP support</b>	<b>Evidence of success measurements</b>	<b>RAG</b>
The '1in5' programme has been developed into the Money Counts training (tier 3,2,1) and is being delivered to frontline staff.	TBC (MP)	March 2024	<p>160 staff including housing officers, community centre business support staff, librarians, parent &amp; family support workers, OTs and carers completed tier 3 training.</p> <p>90% reported to be more aware of the causes and impact of poverty.</p>	Delivery supported by collaboration from IMPG.	<p>Number of staff/ partners involved with rolling out training.</p> <p>Feedback from evaluation of training</p>	<p><b>G due to training occurred and further planned</b></p> <p><b>ONGOING</b></p>

			<p>75% reported to be more confident to have a conversation with people about their money worries.</p> <p>91% reported to feel more informed about where to signpost for information and support around money worries.</p> <p>Money Counts training now available on MyLearning Hub (the online training portal for CEC staff). This has been split into two 'modules' for the purposes of MyLearningHub – the first on the Scale, cause and impact of poverty and the second on having conversations, cash first, COL webpage information etc.</p> <p>Delivery of training with a range of partners: Social Security Scotland staff, CEC and NHS staff. Money Counts training planned in March/ April with Police Scotland.</p> <p>Through LAYC 1 in 5 was delivered within community-based youth and children's organisations – ensuring shared learning and language between schools and community settings working with children and young people. LAYC involved in the working group for the new Money Counts training. This will be rolled out through LAYC's youth work led workforce development programme. LAYC and CEC were also invited to deliver a</p>			
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			workshop at the National Youth Work Conference in November 2022 on the partnership approach taken to workforce development and poverty.  Next steps: roll out tier 1,2,3 to EHSCP staff.			
<b>Edinburgh Poverty Commission Actions under Priority 1</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>Lead</b>	<b>Target date to complete</b>	<b>SHORT UPDATE SECTION</b>	<b>Partnership or Collaboration or EP support</b>	<b>Evidence of success measurements</b>	<b>RAG</b>
Production of discussion paper on Affordable Credit allowing the development of an action plan.	RD	Completed Q4 2022	Proposed actions discussed with CA in Q3 and detailed action plan agreed with IMPG, LOIP Delivery Group and EP in Q4 2012- 2022.	Collaboration through IMPG	Agreed action plan for implementation in 2022-23	<b>G as completed</b>
<b>Implementation of Affordable Credit Action Plan</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Target date to complete</b>	<b>SHORT UPDATE SECTION</b>	<b>Partnership or Collaboration or EP support</b>	<b>Evidence of success measurements</b>	<b>RAG</b>
<b>Communications plan to increase visibility of Affordable Credit options</b>						
AC1. Four week dedicated communications campaign in collaboration with CEC and Housing Associations in Edinburgh to promote what affordable credit options are available from responsible lenders. This could take the form of a Directory style, with all responsible lenders identified from	?	March 2024	Needs to be aligned to when Edinburgh has an affordable credit solution  Updates from the 3 main providers of loans regularly shared with IMPG (see AC8 update)	Partnership working across the system		<b>R due to no lead identified</b>  <b>ON HOLD</b>



Responsible Finance records (the affordable credit sector trade body).						
AC2. Collaborate with partners to realise Scottish Government's aim to support a multi-channel financial wellbeing marketing campaign, highlighting the availability of affordable credit, and how this can be accessed.		Completed	<p>SG's Money Support Scotland Campaign ran throughout Spring 2022, focusing on Debt Advice and Affordable Credit receiving local and national TV and written press coverage. Web pages have now been updated to: <a href="#">Help during the cost of living crisis</a></p> <p>CEC's Cost of Living Crisis comms campaign linked to SG's above campaign in 2022, updating the CEC website and resources.</p> <p>CAE continued to deliver <a href="#">Moneytalks</a> in partnership with the Scottish Government until March 2023.</p>	Partnership working across the system		<b>G as completed</b>
AC3. Review of Financial Crisis Resources and update as necessary, before using local operational groups and third sector partners to share resources.	KB	Completed	<p>All 3 AF providers approached in Q3 in 2022 for an update which was shared with IMPG members.</p> <p><a href="#">CEC website</a> contains above info (links to their Cost of Living webpages)</p> <p><a href="#">Crisis Guide</a> (within EHSCP's Connect Here resources) updated annually by IMPG – last updated Feb 2023 and shared with IMPG members. Crisis Guide has been incorporated into CAE's Intranet External Contacts List.</p> <p><a href="#">Moneytalks</a> resources</p>	Delivery supported by collaboration from IMPG.		<b>G as completed</b>

AC4. Support the advice workforce to utilise available affordable credit directories and crisis guides.	KB	Completed	Citizens Advice developed an e-learning module (available to CAB members only) in partnership with <a href="https://www.begambleaware.org/">https://www.begambleaware.org/</a> which our advisers have been encouraged to access. All Debt Specialists already have.	Delivery supported by collaboration from IMPG.		G as completed
AC5. Promote and increase the awareness of NHS Credit Union within NHS Lothian	AM	March 2025	Would also include <a href="#">Work to Save Scotland</a> – workplace payroll savings scheme  Investigating as part of community wealth building work	Partnership working across the system		A as no allocated lead until recently
AC6. Promote and increase the awareness of all South East Credit Unions available to CEC and HSCP staff.	AM	March 2025	<a href="#">Work to Save Scotland</a> – workplace payroll savings scheme  Investigating as part of the community wealth building work	Partnership working across the system		A as no allocated lead until recently
AC7. Reach out to Healthy Working Lives employers who do not already offer salary sacrifice savings schemes and link them with the right people in local Credit Unions.		N/A	Action not feasible anymore due to national Healthy Working Lives programme being discontinued			N/A
<b>Working in partnership with Credit Unions, CDFIs, Social Security Scotland, Housing Associations and the Financial Sector</b>						
AC8. Support local Credit Unions and Community Development Finance Initiatives to provide the types of short term, low sum financial products that our most financially disadvantaged population may need. Explore No Interest Loan Schemes to meet this aim.	?	March 2025	Potentially could link with R23  Capital Credit Union presenting at August's 2023 IMPG meeting. They are the only Credit Union, in the East of Scotland, offering low cost and 0% interest loans to people who are struggling and those who are seriously financially excluded. They can offer the 0% interest loans as the delivery partner	Partnership working across the system		G as completed

			for Fair4All Finance's No Interest Loan Scheme pilot in Scotland			
AC9. Liaise with Scottish Financial Enterprise and Edinburgh Poverty Commissioner to explore how high street banks can develop processes to refer their customers for independent money advice and benefits checks.	BN	March 2024	Meeting in April organised with SIS and SFE for an update on Financial Inclusion for Scotland.	Partnership working across the system		<b>G as progressing</b> <b>ONGOING</b>
AC10. Ensure handover and continuing links with key individuals from external agencies such as CUs, CDFIs and Scottish Financial Enterprise when staff members involved in this work to date move post and/ or change responsibilities.	RD	Completed	Completed – no further action required.	Partnership working across the system		<b>G as completed</b>
<b>Preventing Problem Debt</b>						
AC11. Work with Trading Standards Scotland Illegal Money Lending Unit to raise awareness of what constitutes illegal lending and support people to feel safe reporting it.	LB-I	March 2024	Presentation from Scottish Illegal Money Lending unit to IMPG Q1 Training delivered in Q2 and Q3 plus a summary is included within Money Counts training Raised the awareness of illegal money lending and linking to their national comms campaign in May 2023. Edinburgh signing up to Loan Shark Charter Mark, with a Illegal Money Lending Champion.	Delivery supported by collaboration from IMPG.	Number of training/ raising the awareness sessions and feedback from attendees	<b>G as completed</b>



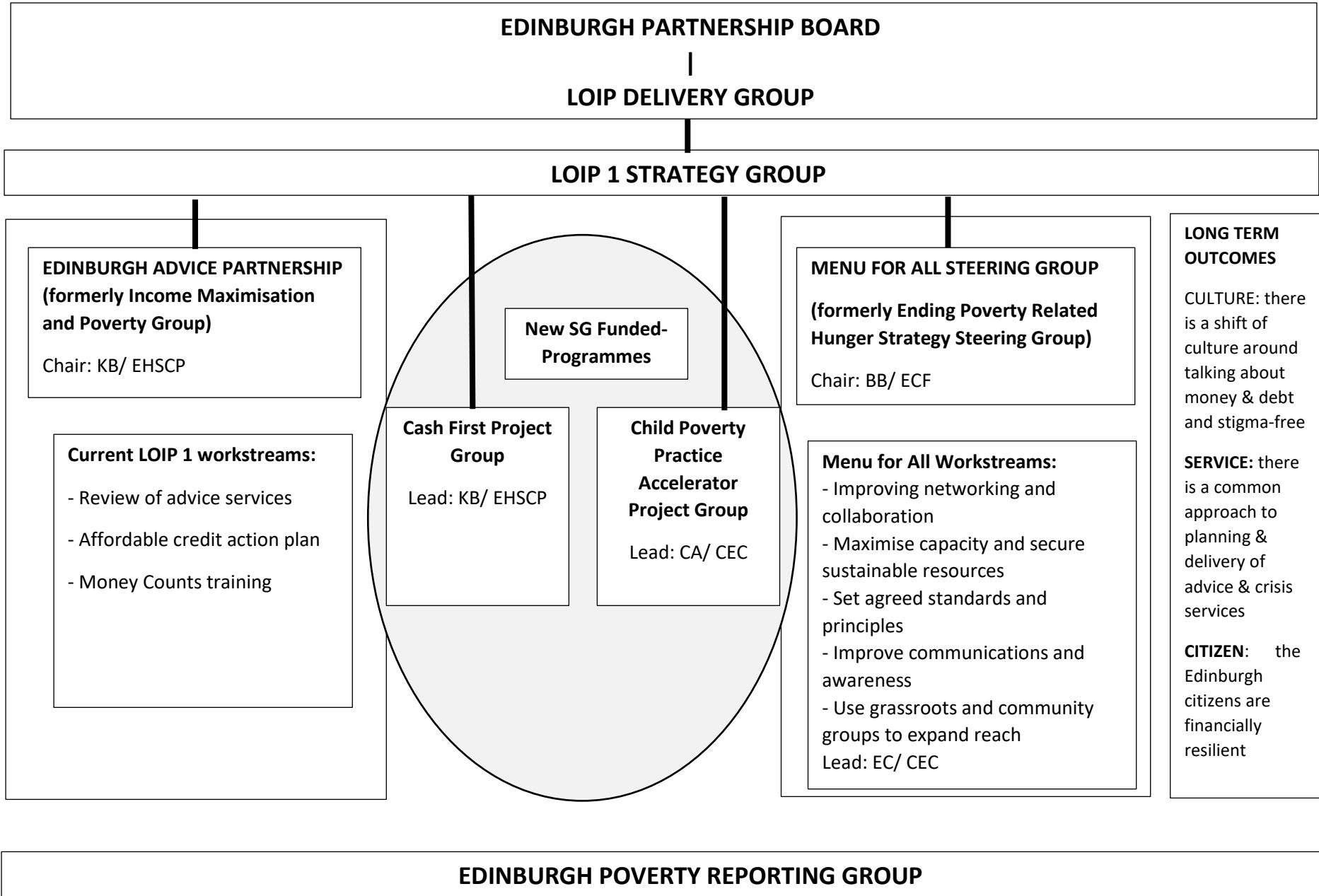
AC12. Work with Scottish Public Health network to develop a whole system approach harm in Edinburgh.  AC13. Actively participate in consultation on licensing board for gambling to feedback a population health perspective on gambling and highlight relevant public health evidence related to gambling licensing.	FO	March 2025	Combined AC12 & AC13 with new proposed action updated as:  Exploring options to take action on gambling, in line with actions taken on other commercial determinants of health such as alcohol and tobacco.  Advice Services Forum holding a training session in Q3, 2023 on gambling.	Partnership working across the system		<b>G</b>
AC14. Increase financial capability in our primary school aged children and our working age adult population using evidence-based approaches.	As for R24		Links with above R24 and hence this work is already covered	Partnership working across the system	As above for R24	<b>R due to no funding identified</b>
AC15. Offer debt awareness training to the wider Advice Workforce to increase their confidence to recognise debt and discuss problem debt with clients.	BN	March 2025		Delivery supported by collaboration from IMPG.		<b>Not started</b>
AC16. Explore options for how we can support our financially disadvantaged population to maintain stable finances. This could be through: - regular benefits checks and advice appointments (with a named person?) - considering the availability of debt advice, taking services to where people are, and offering the right advice at the right time	BN	March 2025	Main four providers in the city provide this as part of their core service and expertise.  CAE have a partnership with Natwest/RBS where a CAE adviser co-located (currently virtually) with their customer service HUB so that there is a process to refer their customers for independent money advice and benefits checks across Scotland.	Delivery supported by collaboration from IMPG.		<b>Not Started</b>
<b>Roll out programmes to 'poverty proof' all public services</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Target date to complete</b>	<b>SHORT UPDATE SECTION</b>	<b>Partnership or Collaboration or EP support</b>	<b>Evidence of success measurements</b>	<b>RAG</b>



Roll out programmes to 'poverty proof' all public services	TBC	March 2025	Is this about rolling out '1in5 in schools/ poverty proofing the school day' to other public services?	Partnership working across the system	An agreed process being used by public sector planning partners	<b>R as no lead identified</b> <b>ON HOLD</b>
<b>Support the Climate Implementation Plan through further work to eliminate fuel poverty in the city</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Target date to complete</b>	<b>SHORT UPDATE SECTION</b>	<b>Partnership or Collaboration or EP support</b>	<b>Evidence of success measurements</b>	<b>RAG</b>
Further work to eliminate fuel poverty in the city	JG	Ongoing	Through the IMPG, Home Energy Scotland connected with a range of partners, which has led to numerous opportunities to collaborate including: Delivery of energy advice at NHS vaccination sites; Contributing an embedded energy advice service into Maximise! Programme delivered by CHAI/Children 1 <sup>st</sup> ; Training HES staff in benefits by CHAI; Referral partnership established with Granton Information Centre; Energy advice delivered to Feniks Over 50, baby groups in Polish; Training for Cyrenians RESET discharge without delay team and referral partnership; Training for EVOC in HES services; Discretionary funding provided by CEC to address fuel debt.	Partnership working across the system		<b>G as ongoing and progress covered within IMPG work</b>

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**Appendix 3: Provisional Proposed Governance and Vision for LOIP 1 ‘Enough Money to Live on’**



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## THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

### LOIP 1 'Enough Money to Live on'

#### 1. Executive Summary

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- 1.1 As part of the Affordable Credit Action Plan, one of the priorities is to prevent problem debt and raise the profile of illegal money lending by supporting the work of the Scottish Illegal Money Lending Unit (SIMLU) and support people to feel safe reporting it.
- 1.2 To raise the awareness of illegal money lending with staff, Money Counts training now includes information on this, and specific illegal money lending training has been organised, which is delivered by the SIMLU.

#### 2. Recommendations

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- 2.1 The Board is recommended to:
  - i. Consider and support further work to raise awareness of illegal money lending by agreeing to sign up to the SIMLU's Stop Loan Sharks Charter Mark.
  - ii. Help support this by getting involved with an Edinburgh wide communications on this.
  - iii. Agree that Edinburgh's designated Champion is the current contact for the SIMLU.

#### 3. Background

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- 3.1 The Edinburgh Poverty Commission report recommends "Edinburgh Partnership should make available new long-term investment to expand the availability of and access to affordable credit..."<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Edinburgh Poverty Commission final report. [A Just Capital](#). September 2020

- 3.2 Back in 2021, the Edinburgh Partnership Board approved an Affordable Credit Action plan, which included a priority of ‘Preventing problem debt’ with a specific action of:

“Work with Trading Standards Scotland Illegal Money Lending Unit to raise awareness of what constitutes illegal lending and support people to feel safe reporting it.”

#### 4. Update on progress

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- 4.1 The Partnership & Support Officer of the SIMLU presented at the Income Maximisation & Poverty Group (IMPG) this year which resulted in organising training sessions for Edinburgh’s workforce on this topic and delivered by the SIMLU.
- 4.2 The IMPG have also supported their current media campaign ‘Ask the Question’ and are in the process of organising resources to be distributed throughout the city.
- 4.3 The next action that the IMPG are proposing is through The Edinburgh Partnership, Edinburgh signs up to SIMLU’s Stop Loan Sharks Charter Mark.
- 4.4 Through the IMPG, Edinburgh has fulfilled the requirements of the Charter; with only the exception of designating a Champion who can serve as a point of contact between the SIMLU and Edinburgh.
- 4.5 It is proposed that Edinburgh’s designated Champion is the current contact for the SIMLU (Lauren Browne-Islam, Public Health Practitioner, EHSCP) for this work of raising the awareness and support for staff (as per the requirements set out in the SIMLU’s Charter in the appendix). This recommendation has been discussed and agreed at IMPG and LOIP 1 Strategy Group.

#### 5. Contact

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Kate Barlow – Public Health Practitioner, EHSCP  
[Kate.barlow@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:Kate.barlow@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk)

## APPENDIX

### **Loan Sharks Charter Mark**

#### **What we expect from Charter Mark Holders**

**1. Work in partnership with and support the work of the Scottish Illegal Money Lending Unit**

We would expect the Charter Mark holder to appoint an organisational Illegal Money Lending Champion. That person/role would allow for a single point of contact to be established between the organisation and the SIMLU. It would be up to the organisation to decide where this would be placed.

The role would be able to link us to other parts of the organisation (if necessary) and assist the team in promoting our work within their communities.

**2. Adopt a zero tolerance approach to illegal money lending within their community/service user groups**

We would expect Charter Mark holders to make sure that staff/volunteers know that they are expected to report any instances, confirmed or not, of illegal money lenders operating in their community. It would be expected that organisations cannot and should not break client confidentiality to do this but we would expect that information would be reported as without that being broken

**3. Promote the Stop Loan Sharks Campaign**

We would expect that Charter Mark holders will assist in promoting our campaigns throughout the year. This will be done through placing poster and leaflets in public spaces, promoting our social media messaging by sharing it through their own platforms. We would expect that we would be allowed to publicise our work through the organisations internal and external communication. In return we will make sure that we will make. We will provide quarterly newsletters to organisations promoting our work.

**4. Increase the confidence of service users to enable them to report illegal loan shark activity safely**

We would expect that organisation who achieve the Charter Mark to encourage people within their communities to report any instance of illegal money lending that they know about. We would expect that this can be achieved by the organisation providing advice and support to reporters in their communities.



**5. Take a multi-agency approach to facilitate the illegal money lending team to increase their reach within communities/service user groups**

We would expect organisations that achieve the Charter Mark to work with partners to raise awareness of illegal money lending. This can be done through organising training for staff and/or volunteers with partners to be run in conjunction with the SIMLU, joint events promoting the work of the team in communities.

**To achieve all of this we commit to making sure that all Charter Mark holders are trained regularly, support any events that they will hold, make sure that we provide them with a supply of publicity materials and support and promote the Charter Marks holders work through our channels.**



## THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

### The Edinburgh Partnership Survey

#### 1. Executive Summary

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- 1.1 This report gives an update on results from the 2023 Edinburgh Partnership Survey. A locally representative sample of 3,736 residents were interviewed between July and September 2023.
- 1.2 The results from the survey will be used to inform best practice, strategy development and outcome monitoring across the Edinburgh Partnership.
- 1.3 Key findings of the report are summarised in section 3.6 and available at Appendix 1.

#### 2. Recommendations

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- 2.1 Note the key findings from the Edinburgh Partnership Survey and proposed next steps for ensuring survey findings used to inform future Community Planning activity.
- 2.2 Note that a report will be presented to the EPB within 12 months detailing recommendations for any future surveys based on requirements for developing an integrated performance framework and feedback from Community Planning groups.

#### 3. Main Report

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##### 3.1 Background

- 3.2 The Edinburgh Partnership Survey 2023 is the first of its kind, undertaken on behalf of the Edinburgh Partnership, to measure indicators of interest to partners especially in relation to the Local Outcome Improvement Plan.
- 3.3 The survey was funded jointly by the partners and designed and overseen by a working group composed of representatives from partner organisations. Data was collected by face-to-face in-street and doorstep interviews that took place in all electoral wards. The target group for this research study was a representative sample of Edinburgh residents.
- 3.4 The survey was designed to provide a proportionate sample of Edinburgh residents aged 16+ in each of the four localities, as well as usefully analysable samples of those living in deprived areas and those from ethnic minority backgrounds.
- 3.5 The survey achieved 3,736 face-to-face interviews in total.

##### 3.6 Key findings

- 3.7 A summary of findings is available in Appendix 1.

- 3.8 Results shows that deprivation is the most significant factor affecting the lives of those living in Edinburgh, and receiving services. Those in the [20% most deprived areas](#) have an experience that is significantly and substantially worse than people who live in other areas of Edinburgh.
- 3.9 Residents feel a sense of belonging in their neighbourhoods and feel these areas are welcoming to a diverse community. However, residents are less likely to feel they have control over their neighbourhood, understand how to exercise control, or be willing to participate in local decision-making.
- 3.10 While most residents have access to an internet-capable device, have the skills to use the internet and have access at home, retired people are much less likely to have any of these things. Almost all of those who said they lack devices, skills and access to the internet in Edinburgh were retired people.
- 3.11 Residents perceptions of their physical health generally worsened with age, but mental health and feelings of loneliness were more strongly linked to being in employment, with unemployed people reporting the worst mental health and loneliness.
- 3.12 More than a quarter of residents had not paid a household bill, paid a bill using a credit or had used a food bank in the last 12 months. Employment was the main factor in all these actions. Amongst people who were unemployed, over half had used a food bank, had not paid a bill, or had paid a bill using credit.

## 4. Next steps

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- 4.1 Findings from the survey will support the Local Outcome Improvement Plan activity in the following way:

### LOIP 1:

- Inform the refreshed Affordable Credit Action Plan which includes preventing problem debt.
- Provide a baseline to measure progress and improvement in critical areas such as debt.
- Include relevant key findings within Money Counts training and keep raising the awareness of the need to support people promptly with problem debt.
- Support the commissioning specification for the mapping of crisis services and support within LOIP 1's Cash-First programme.

### LOIP 2:

- Inform the refreshed LOIP 2 Local Employability Partnership Delivery Plan for 2024-2026 which is being drawn together with an action plan by Rocket Science.



- Support the commissioning of services and support through funds dedicated to LOIP 2 areas, including No One Left Behind and UK Shared Prosperity Funding.
- Target resourcing into communicating messages better and increasing engagement and effectiveness of services, for example with The Edinburgh Guarantee messaging.
- Understand the shared challenges of client groups across the three LOIPs and spot opportunities for better collaboration, for example around digital exclusion.
- Ensure services are informed and shaped by the communities we support, including addressing locality and accessibility.
- Provide a baseline to measure progress and improvement in critical areas.

### LOIP 3

- Support development of refreshed actions for LOIP 3 building on survey findings
- Provide a baseline across key areas of LOIP 3 activity to enable measurement of progress
- Identify role of LOIP 3, working alongside the other LOIP priority groups, in collaborating on the cross-cutting themes identified
- Identifying ways to enhance community participation and feeling of involvement and inclusion using the data to identify groups and communities who reported they found this more difficult
- Build on existing test site work, evaluating current projects, to enable roll out of successful models elsewhere using the data to identify particular communities

4.2 Findings of the survey will be published on the Edinburgh Partnership Website and shared with Strategic Partnerships and Locality Community Planning Partnerships. Where appropriate community planning groups will be asked to identify actions to address findings from the survey. Progress on these actions taken to address issues will be monitored and reported to a future meeting of the Edinburgh Partnership Board.

4.3 It is anticipated that findings from the survey will be of interest on an individual organisation basis as well as in the community planning context. Summary findings and data will be shared with all community planning partners and partners will be asked for feedback on how data has helped contribute to strategic planning.



- 4.4 It is recommended that a business case is developed with partners to investigate the benefits of a further wave of survey fieldwork in 2025/26. This would enable data from the 2023 survey to be used as a baseline and one source of evidence in an Integrated Edinburgh Partnership Performance Framework.

#### Contact

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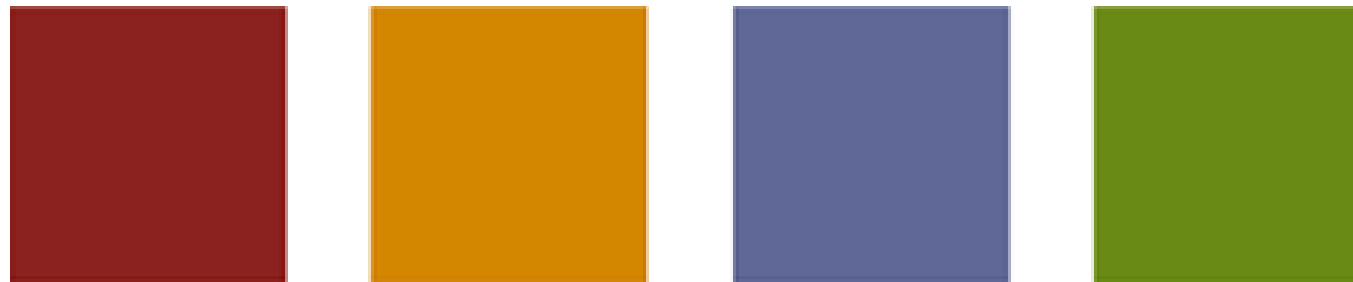
Daniel Greig  
[Daniel.Greig@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Daniel.Greig@edinburgh.gov.uk)

#### Appendixes

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Appendix 1: Edinburgh Partnership Survey Presentation





# THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP SURVEY

**Short summary of results from 2023**

## LOIP 3 Indicators

**Satisfaction with neighbourhood as a place to live** in 2023 was 91%, comparable to 89% measured by the 2018 Edinburgh People Survey.

91% of participants **felt a sense of belonging to their neighbourhood** in 2023.

74% **felt safe in their neighbourhood after dark** in 2023.

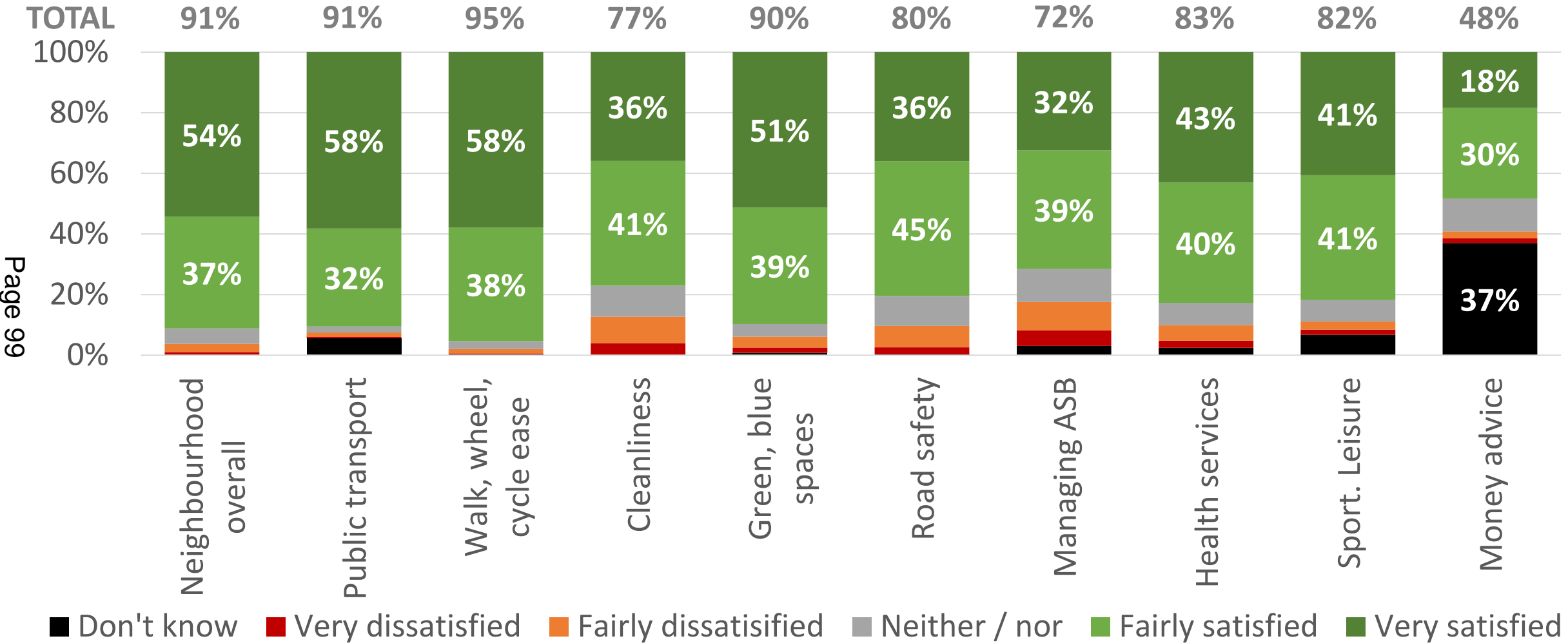
90% **felt their neighbourhood was a place where people from different backgrounds got on well together** in 2023. In 2018, this same indicator was 82%.

70% **felt people in their neighbourhood had found ways to improve things by working together** in 2023.

- The 2018 Edinburgh People Survey was carried out using the same methodology as the 2023 Edinburgh Partnership Survey, and included some questions which were identical – including neighbourhood satisfaction, and people of different backgrounds getting along.
- Other questions were new, or the way they were asked changed substantially.

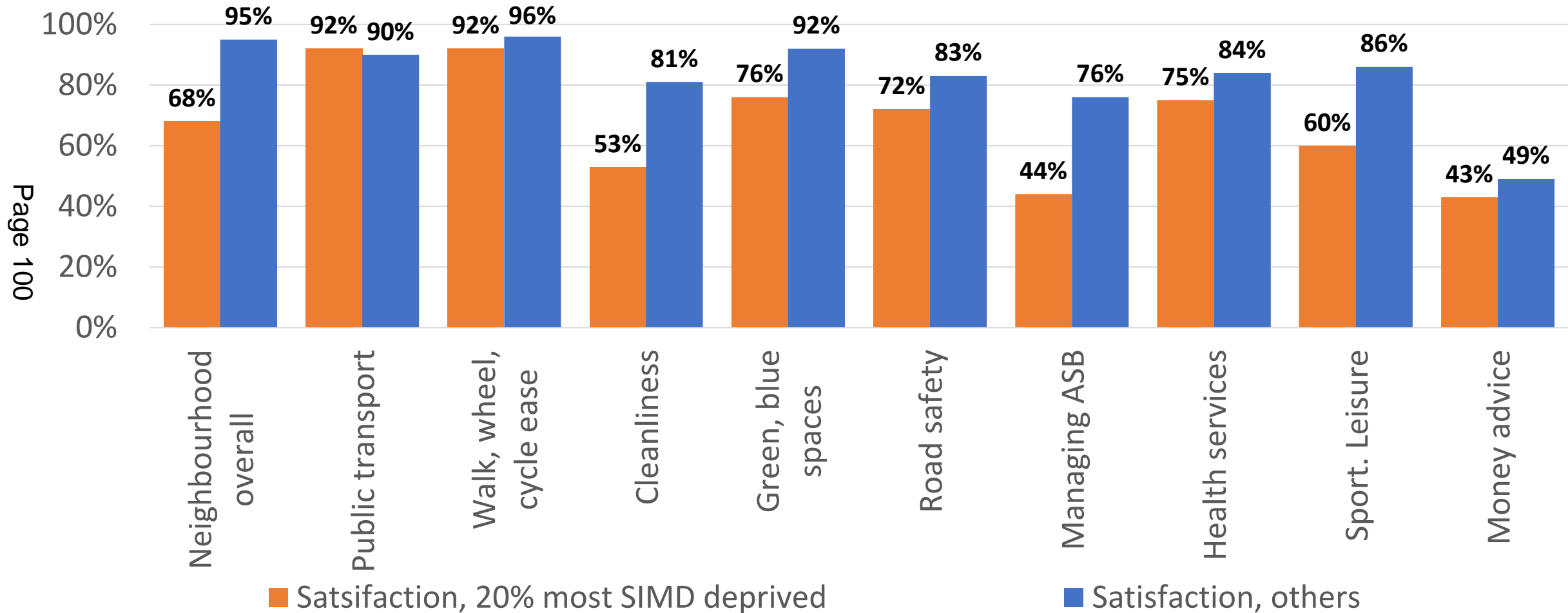


# Aspects of neighbourhood satisfaction, various questions (3,736 responses)



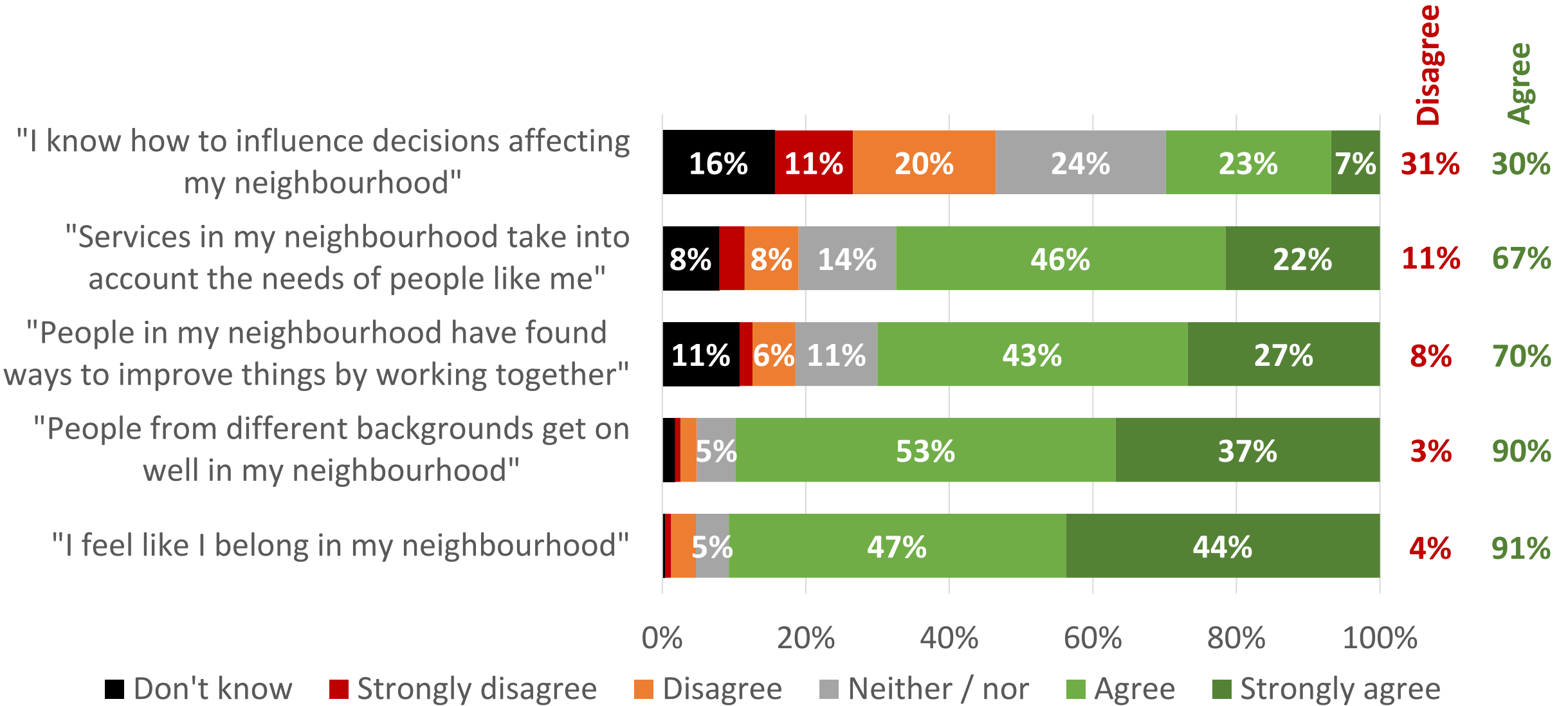
# Impact of deprivation on experience of neighbourhood

Those largest differential impact on experience of living in Edinburgh came from comparing people in the 20% most deprived SIMD areas to people living in other parts of the city.



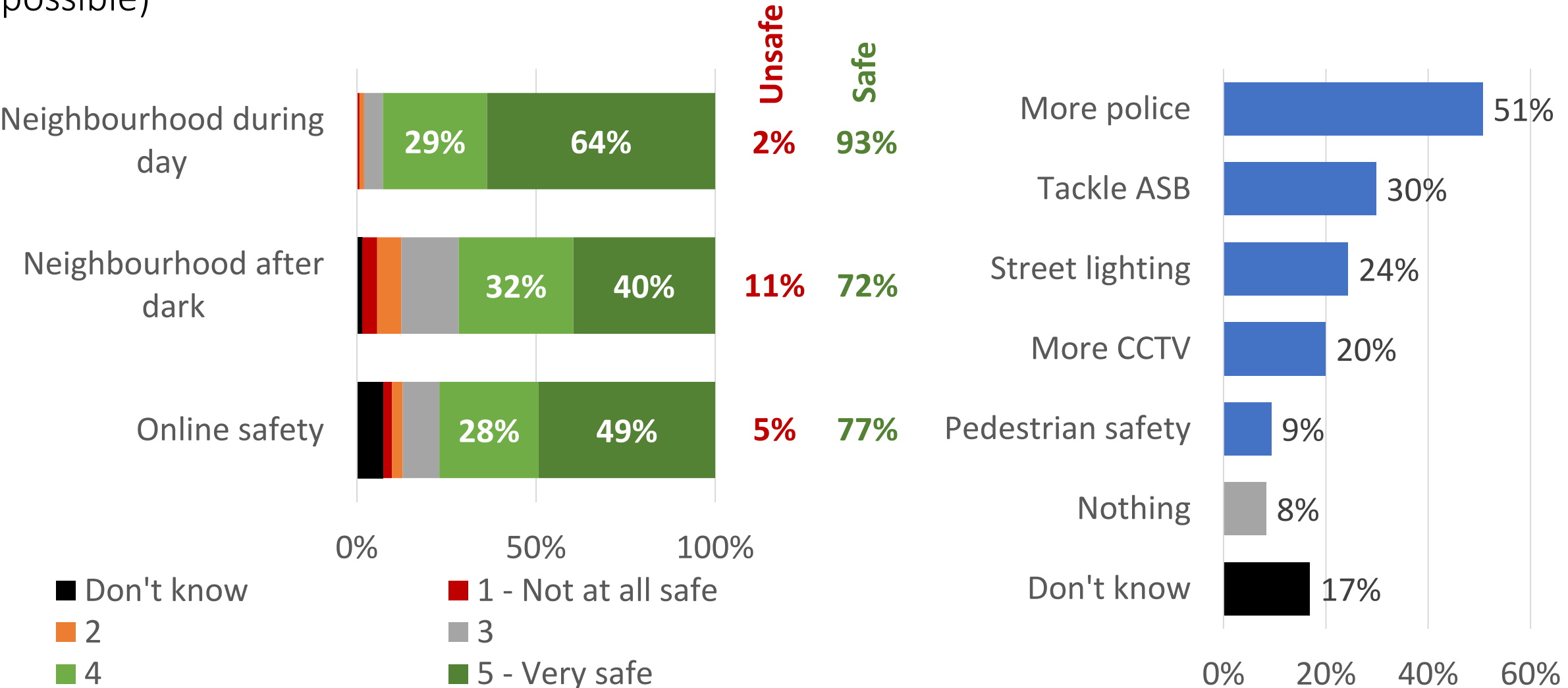
Aspects of neighbourhood cohesion, agreement against various statements (3,736 responses)

Page 101

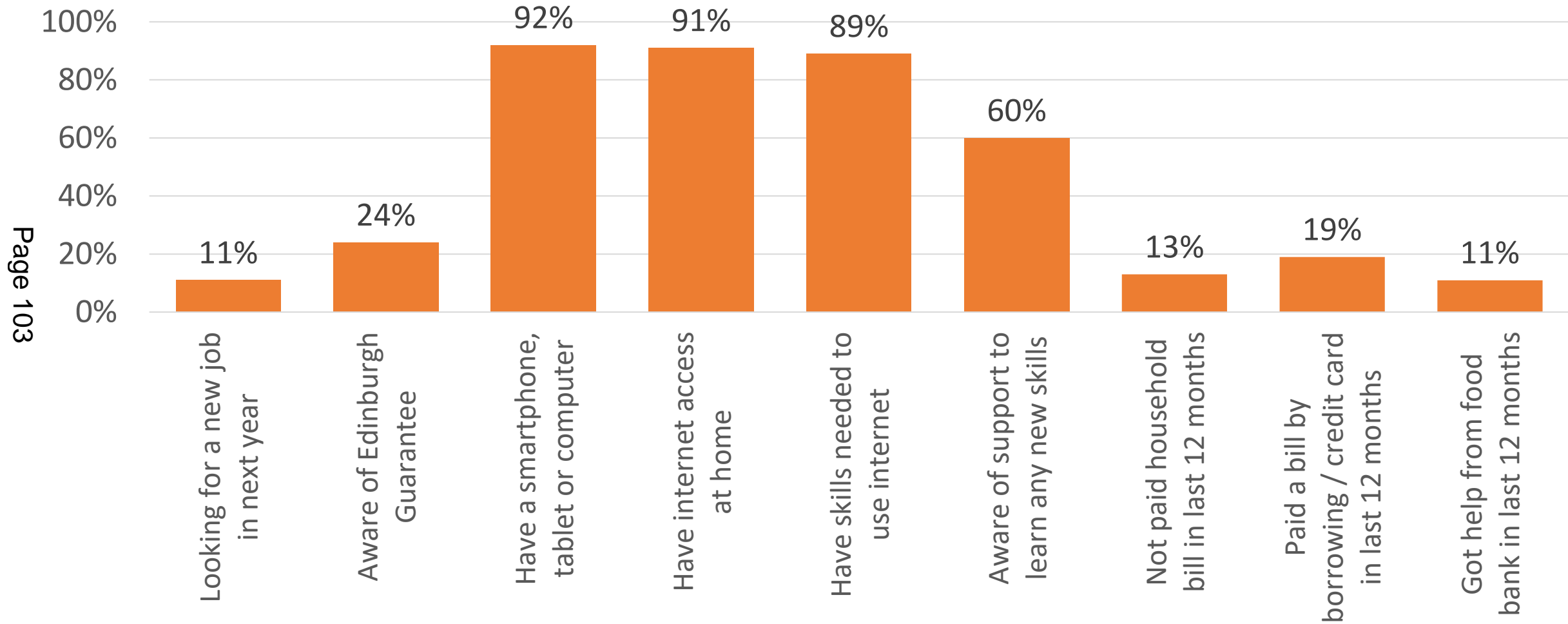


# Feelings of safety during the day, at night, online; (3,736 responses) and open question “What, if anything, would make you feel safer?” (2,549 respondents, multiple answers possible)

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# Aspects of employability, skills, and financial wellbeing (3,736 responses)



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## THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

### Development of an Edinburgh Partnership Transformation and Improvement Programme

#### 1. Executive Summary

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- 1.1 At the September Board, we agreed to look afresh at the role of Community Planning in Edinburgh. While there's pockets of brilliance across the city, we're not yet at a stage where the Edinburgh Partnership is fully maximising the relationships between public sector agencies and the voluntary and community sector to address poverty and inequality and the climate and nature emergency.
- 1.2 This paper updates on the first session which was held on 27 November. We used the service design model to design the session.

#### 2. Recommendations

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- 2.1 The Board is recommended to note the progress made and that a further workshop is planned for January.

#### 3. Background

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- 3.1 The Edinburgh Partnership Board agreed in September 2023 to smaller workshops which would look at how we can strengthen partnership working.
- 3.2 This work was designed to build on previous work but also looks to future demands. This includes likely expectations for community planning identified in the Verity Agreement and Scottish Parliamentary review of the implementation of Part 2 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

#### 4. Main Report

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- 4.1 The workshop was held on 27 November and facilitated by Gillie Severin (CEC). There were representatives from City of Edinburgh Council, Police Scotland, NHS Lothian, Edinburgh Integration Joint Board, Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations Council, Volunteer Edinburgh and the Regenerative Futures Fund. The agenda is at Appendix 1.
- 4.2 We used the service design double diamond to frame the workshop and stop us jumping to solutions. The workshop focused on the 'discover' stage meaning we focused on peoples and organisational experiences of partnership working. The tone of the conversation was open and honest discussion about what partnership working meant in practice.
- 4.3 Some initial themes were identified:
  - 4.3.1 Governance – decision-making, distribution of power, accountability, trust

- 4.3.2 Communications – creating a narrative, sharing practice, linkages across the community planning landscape, transparency
- 4.3.3 Place – building on the local eco-system of collaborative service design and delivery, achieving a better synergy from local to strategic levels, community wealth building
- 4.3.4 Resourcing – efficient and effective use of public, community and business assets - built, natural, human and financial - to reduce duplication and maximise impact
- 4.3.5 Performance – data driven, accountable, integrated system
- 4.3.6 Early intervention and prevention – long-term planning, role of third and community sectors
- 4.3.7 Community empowerment – decision-making, agility, needs, resilience, support, cohesion
- 4.4 A further session is planned for January 2024 where we will seek to ‘define’ the issues from the insight gathered from the discovery workshop.
- 4.5 Performance was identified as a key theme during the discussion and this will continue to be progressed by the established working group comprising a range of partners. Initial work has focused on developing options for a new approach, building on the existing framework, and based on the Aberdeen Community Planning Partnership model which is cited as good practice.
- 4.6 Complementary to this, a programme of engagement will be developed to ensure all partners and Partnerships are able to contribute to the way forward. Securing buy in to change will be essential in ensuring the programme’s success. This will include engagement with the strategic partnership chairs with an initial discussion proposed for February.
- 4.7 A paper will be brought back to the Edinburgh Partnership Board at its March meeting..

## 5. Contact

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Bridie Ashrowan, [bridie.ashrowan@evoc.org.uk](mailto:bridie.ashrowan@evoc.org.uk)  
Michele Mulvaney, [Michele.Mulvaney@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Michele.Mulvaney@edinburgh.gov.uk)

## Edinburgh Transformation and Improvement Plan

### Session 1

The purpose of the session is to consider systems and practice in the city to further the delivery of the Edinburgh Partnership outcomes of preventing poverty and achieving net zero.

It will be an initial discovery phase, considering key questions with the aim of identifying the change needed to work together to deliver an integrated approach to realise the Partnership outcomes.

This initial discussion will provide a framework for further phases of the work which will include engagement across the wider Edinburgh Partnership to produce a transformation and improvement plan for the consideration of the Board early next year.

Welcome	Paul	5 mins
Introduction to the session	Gillie	10 mins
Setting the scene	Bridie	10 mins
What does good community planning look like to you?	All	40 mins
What is the current picture at a local/city level? Where is the system working and where is it not?		
Case Study Examples		
Break		15 mins
What would great look like – at local level? at a strategic level?	All	30 mins
What are the enablers to creating this?	All	15 mins
What are the barriers/challenges?	All	15 mins
What are the actions/next steps on the change journey?	All	30 mins
Closing remarks	Paul	5 mins





# Community Planning Partnership Report

December 2023

## Trauma Informed and Responsive Approach In Edinburgh

Executive Wards	Routine All
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### 1. Recommendations

- 1.1 Note that “trauma is everybody’s business” and the key role the City of Edinburgh Council & HSCP play in supporting the sustainable development of a trauma-informed and responsive approach to services, systems and its workforces, across our organisations in Edinburgh
- 1.2 Support a long-term commitment that reflects this work as a priority. Embedding sustainable trauma-informed and responsive ways of working is rooted in long-term culture change that asks for our commitment to a cycle of ongoing development and improvement.
- 1.1 City Leaders to commit to developing knowledge and skills. Senior leaders are invited to attend the Scottish Trauma Informed Leaders Training (STILT), a half day workshop for strategic and operational leaders and managers with ongoing coaching and peer leadership support opportunities. See Appendix 1 for findings of a post STILT report.

#### Amanda Hatton

Director, Education and Children’s Services

Contact: Rose Howley, Chief Social Work Officer, Trauma Champion

Dr Linda Irvine Fitzpatrick Strategic Programme Manager, EHSCP, Trauma Champion

Claire Ryan Heatley Lead Trauma Officer, CEC, Trauma Champion

E-mail : [Rose.Howley@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Rose.Howley@edinburgh.gov.uk) | Tel: 0131 469 3064

[linda.irvinefitzpatrick@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:linda.irvinefitzpatrick@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk) | Tel: 07815592362

[claire.ryanheatley@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:claire.ryanheatley@edinburgh.gov.uk) Tel 07563251632



- 1.3 Support the establishment of a Strategic Oversight group with commitment and representation at a senior level from all partner organisations.

## Trauma Informed and Responsive Edinburgh

### Executive Summary

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- 1.1 The term “Psychological Trauma” is often used interchangeably, the definition we will use to encourage a common understanding of and narrative around trauma is that: “Trauma results from an event, series of events, or set of circumstances that is experienced by an individual as physically or emotionally harmful or life threatening and that has lasting adverse effects on the individual’s functioning and mental, physical, social, emotional or spiritual well-being.” (SAMHSA, 2014)
- 1.2 Large numbers of people in contact with public services have experienced traumatic events. There is an abundance of high-quality evidence showing that trauma is widespread and has far-reaching consequences. Trauma is a root cause of physical and psychological illness, health-compromising behaviours, injury, suicidality, homelessness, substance misuse, and disability and increases the likelihood of experiencing multiple disadvantage, increased contact with the justice system and reduced attainment in education and opportunities in employment.
- 1.3 Traumatic experiences, both in childhood and as an adult, impact on social, emotional, and physical outcomes, and are often at the root of much adult adversity. Living with the impacts of trauma significantly impacts on relationships, health and opportunity, resulting in reduced life chances across the lifespan, early death and an increased incidence of preventable disease.
- 1.4 Taking a trauma-informed and responsive approach has been found to have positive impacts for staff, services and people accessing services. There is much agreement that this improves people’s experiences of services, reduces further risk of harm by recognising and reducing risks of traumatisation and enabling recovery.
- 1.5 This approach helps contribute to positive changes in people’s lives, by reducing barriers to accessing services, resulting in improved experiences of services and increased engagement. This is particularly relevant for people experiencing multiple disadvantage as this group are recognised as being unable or reluctant to access services. In addition to increased engagement improvements have been demonstrated in various outcomes including in mental health and wellbeing, improved and sustained housing, a reduction in substance use, a reduction in risky behaviour and reduced risk of offending and incidence of reoffending.

## Background

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- 2.1 In Scotland, the 2019 Scottish Health Survey revealed that 71% of the Scottish adult population suffered some form of abuse, neglect or other adverse experiences during their childhood (Scottish Government, 2023). The National Trauma Transformation Programme (NTTP), led by NHS Education for Scotland, was developed to meet the Scottish Government and COSLA's commitment that all staff in Scotland would become trauma informed and responsive. They presented their vision within their programme for Scotland (2019-2020):

*'...to achieve a trauma-informed nation capable of recognising where people are affected by trauma and adversity, capable of responding in ways that prevents further harm and which supports recovery, and in ways which addresses inequalities and improves life chances.'*

- 2.2 They recognised that the journey towards becoming a trauma-informed organisation will require organisations to move beyond their traditional models of service delivery and to re-evaluate their entire organisational practices and policies through a trauma-focused lens (Homes & Grandison, 2021).
- 2.3 The key principles underpinning a trauma-informed and responsive approach are services and systems that routinely promote safety, collaboration, trust, empowerment and choice.
- 2.4 Funding was allocated by Scottish Government, to embed and sustain a Trauma Informed culture within CEC & HSCP. The role of Trauma Lead Officer was developed to support this.
- 2.5 *A Roadmap for Creating Trauma-Informed and Responsive Change for Organisations, Systems and Workforces in Scotland* was published in November 2023. This Roadmap has been designed to help services and organisations identify and reflect on progress, strengths and opportunities for embedding a trauma-informed and responsive approach across policy and practice. This will be used by organisations such as the Care Inspectorate to assess progress and hold us accountable to meeting the Scottish Government and COSLA commitment.

## Main report

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- 3.1 An abundance of high-quality evidence shows that trauma is widespread and that large numbers of people in contact with public services have experienced traumatic events.
- 3.2 Research exploring the distribution of traumatic events based on gender, age, ethnic background and socioeconomic status has shown that traumatic events are more frequently experienced by people in low socio-economic groups and from

black and minority ethnic communities, by women, those with experience of a disability and within the LGBTQ+ Community (Hatch & Dohrenwend, 2007).

- 3.3 In Scotland, one in seven adults reported four or more ACEs, with those in the most deprived areas twice as likely than those in the least to experience this quantity of ACEs. ACEs have also been shown to be highly correlated with socio-economic disadvantage in the first year of life (Marryat & Frank, 2019)
- 3.4 Educational success has been demonstrated to relate more to ACES than income and research consistently demonstrate those impacted by trauma and adversity have lower educational qualifications and employment opportunities.
- 3.5 Women in low-income households are 3.5 times more likely to experience violence than women in slightly better-off households.
- 3.6 Implementation of a trauma informed approach in an educational setting showed a reduction in suspension by 83% and increased graduation rates. A trauma-informed substance use service resulted in a 31% lower rate of treatment dropout, with longer treatment leading to improved outcomes. Clients were also found to be using services more effectively, behaving more appropriately and moving towards independence more quickly.
- 3.7 Although many people show remarkable resilience and recover from their experiences, people who experience trauma are at higher risk of experiencing negative outcomes and reduced life chances across the lifespan.
- 3.8 The City of Edinburgh Council & EHSCP, have a fundamental role to play in recognising the prevalence and impact of trauma in their communities and workforce. Adapting policy, practice and processes to reflect this understanding can contribute to the overall aim of councils and partners of reducing inequalities, supporting prevention and early intervention, and improving outcomes for people and communities.
- 3.9 A trauma informed approach to service delivery is explicitly referenced across priority national and local guidance and policy areas. Nationally, A Trauma Informed and Responsive Approach (TIRA) supports the Scottish Government's National Performance Framework (NPF) and will contribute to the following National Outcomes:
  - *Children and Young People* – we grow up loved, safe and protected so that we realise our full potential
  - *Communities* – we live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe
  - *Fair work and Business* - We have thriving and innovative businesses, with quality jobs and fair work for everyone
  - *Human Rights* – we respect, protect and fulfil human rights and live free from discrimination
  - *Health*- we are healthy and active
  - *Poverty* - We tackle poverty by sharing opportunities, wealth and power more equally.



- 3.10 This is also relevant to our staff as research indicates that people in human services demonstrate higher incidence of trauma and adversity than in the general population (Esaki & Larkin, 2013) Additionally staff may incur exposure during the course of their profession that exposes them to a risk of secondary trauma and increase the risk of being impacted by vicarious trauma.
- 3.11 Organisations that do not support their staff to take care of themselves run the risk of exposing them to secondary traumatic stress, vicarious trauma and burnout, all of which will inhibit their ability to provide high quality care (National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN), 2011). Levels of stress and burnout are reduced among frontline workers when they feel well prepared for their role as a result of specialised training, or when they feel confident in their own knowledge and understanding of the situation (Lai, et al., 2020)
- 3.12 Benefits for the workforce included enhanced skills and staff increasingly considered the emotional needs of the people they were working with. They used their knowledge of psychological trauma and the effects of this to create safe and supportive environments, resulting in improved relationships, improved morale and increased resilience Lower levels of staff sickness, absence and turnover were identified. One study of staff reported that they were less reliant on their managers because they were more understanding and therefore 'tolerant' of the people that they were working
- 3.13 Current challenges make Trauma Informed and Responsive Practice highly relevant and can help address the high incidences of staff absences, burnout, and recruitment and attrition rates currently experienced, by prioritizing a well workforce as a foundation to do this work. A well service requires a well, supported and emotionally resourced staff.

## Next Steps

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- 4.1 Adopting a trauma-informed and responsive approach in Edinburgh would mean that our services and organisations commit to being able to recognise when someone may be affected by trauma, make the connection between people's experiences and the difficulties they face, collaboratively adjust how we work to respond in a way that supports recovery, reduce barriers to accessing services and support and improve outcomes and opportunities, across our services and organisations.
- 4.2 Long-term commitment to embed and sustain this approach is required to make the culture change necessary. A commitment to align strategic thinking, planning and decision making with a TIRA and a commitment by all leaders to act as role models, embodying this approach.
- 4.3 Trauma Informed Practice will mean different things for different people. We need to ensure everyone is trained to the right degree for their role, and have the knowledge, skills and confidence to apply this in their role.

- 4.4 Commitment to support learning and development across all teams. Beginning with Level 1 Trauma Training as a core element of essential learning, progressing through the levels as appropriate to role.
- 4.5 A commitment to support implementation. This will look different for different services. Reflective practice groups and trauma informed supervision supports this.
- 4.6 A number of services have undergone training in Justice Services and in Childrens services. Some of those trained supported the training and development of staff in other teams. We would draw on this learning to rollout further training across priority service areas using a co-facilitation, sustainable delivery model for Train the Trainer, allowing frontline staff to deliver training in conjunction with the Trauma Lead Officer.

## Financial impact

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- 5.1 While we attempt to explore the financial costs of adversity and trauma in all its forms and its increased need for services including health care, social care, education, the criminal justice system and the impact of lost productivity on the economy we cannot, capture the significant intangible costs and the emotional suffering to the individuals involved and lost opportunities to thrive in life.
- 5.2 Mental health problems cost the Scottish economy at least £8.8 billion annually according to a new report published by the Mental Health Foundation. Trauma is common across the entire population, but evidence shows that many people experiencing mental health difficulties have often experienced particularly high levels of trauma and adversity in their lives.
- 5.3 91% of females in a Scottish prison had experiences of both childhood and adulthood trauma, at a tremendous financial, social and emotional cost as many have caregiving responsibilities and young dependants. In Edinburgh this figures is higher than the national average and has been identified as 96-98%
- 5.4 Childhood maltreatment predicts a 73-74% higher risk of developing substance use problems. Alcohol harm is estimated to cost Scotland £3.6bn each year, including almost £500 million a year in health and social care costs. In 2017 there were 1,120 alcohol-specific and 934 drug-related deaths. There were 8,546 Drug related stays in hospital, 36,235 Alcohol and 93% Emergency Admissions were related to substance. 38% of all child protection case conferences cited parental drug and/ or alcohol use as a concern.
- 5.5 A variety of international studies give us some insight while recognising the true cost cannot be measured and that this is an area that is under researched.
- 5.6 The greatest individual predictor of health care spending, utilisation and outcomes is the number of adverse experiences sustained in childhood. Individuals who have experienced trauma have been shown to be more likely to utilise costly health care services compared to individuals without a trauma history. In Washington State, a

study found that counties using trauma-informed care in their schools and social services saved \$1.4 billion over a decade.

- 5.7 A study of women with co-occurring mental and substance use disorders with a history of violence highlights the cost effectiveness of using a trauma-informed approach.
- 5.8 A research study completed in Australia by Adults Surviving Child Abuse determined the economic impact of unresolved childhood trauma costs the Australian government \$9.1 billion annually.
- 5.9 For children and youth served in a trauma-informed care facility, inpatient mental health services decreased by half, yielding a 51% savings.
- 5.10 Trauma-informed care has been shown to be effective with seldom heard populations by reducing barriers to accessing support and promoting earlier intervention, reducing the need for crisis intervention.
- 5.11 Trauma-informed approach in substance use treatment increased retention rates as the intervention group was 31% less likely to discontinue treatment within four months.
- 5.12 A study of a trauma-informed organisations indicated lower rates of staff turnover and lower usage of sick leave. The workforce development for trauma-informed care is relatively low-cost and high-yield.
- 5.13 Care experienced children and young people is one population where there is a high incidence of multiple trauma experiences, usually inter-generational in nature. Economic cost of the care system in the UK is £875 million Income tax and national insurance foregone as a result of lower incomes is £732million.

## **Equality and Poverty Impact**

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- 6.1 This approach would not have a negative impact on Equality and Poverty and has the potential to offer many benefits by adopting a root cause approach, recognising the links between trauma, adversity and poverty and that poverty is itself an adverse childhood experience.

## **Climate and Nature Emergency Implications**

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- 7.1 A trauma informed and responsive approach supports engagement and reduces dropout and disengagement.

## **Risk, policy, compliance, governance and community impact**

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- 8.1 In January this year the Trauma Champions, Trauma Informed Advisory Panel supported by the National Improvement Services held a Trauma Informed Edinburgh Development session. Just under 100 people attended from a variety of

services, including CEC, Police Scotland, NHS, third sector, experts with Lived experience, local councillors, education staff.

- 8.2 The session focused on fostering a vision for a trauma-informed Edinburgh, identifying the steps required as we work together to support this and explored the priorities and actions that are required to make it happen.
- 8.3 The attendees feedback that a trauma informed Edinburgh would provide a sense of community and provide consistent responses across all systems and services. The vision identified was for a universal level of knowledge and a common narrative across the services and sectors to ensure a consistent, multi-agency, cross service and cross sector response to trauma
- 8.4 The hope was expressed that this would be a place where everyone feels safe and is treated with dignity and respect. Emphasis was placed on moving away from the 'us' and 'them' attitudes to provide compassionate, non-judgemental places and people.
- 8.5 A TIRA aligns with the three key objectives of the CEC Change Strategy, "To drive improvement to the high-quality services that our residents expect and deserve", ensuring that "Investment is targeted at prevention and early intervention to reduce long-term reliance on our services and allow residents to lead active, independent lives", and that "The growth of the city is sustainable and inclusive" and 2 of our 3 Business Plan priorities to "Create good places to live and work in Edinburgh" and "Take all the local actions needed to end poverty in Edinburgh"
- 8.6 It is well documented that systems, policies and processes inadvertently cause traumatisation and re-traumatisation, and by adopting this approach this risk can be significantly reduced.
- 8.6 Trauma is experienced at a much higher rate, in certain populations. We know that women, ethnic minorities, those with disability, LGBTQ+ and all protected characteristics experience higher incidences of trauma and often repeated incidences across the lifespan. If we were to commit to a trauma-informed and responsive approach in Edinburgh, that recognises the impact trauma can have on people's lives and respond to individuals' needs in a way that resists re-traumatisation and supports recovery this would greatly benefit our most vulnerable populations.
- 8.7 Rejecting the recommendations in this report and failure to adopt a Trauma Informed and Responsive Approach will continue to lead to negative social and health outcomes and perpetuate the cycle of intergenerational trauma, while continuing to risk retraumatising and failing to meet the real unaddressed and acknowledged need of this population, at a tremendous continued economic, social and human cost to our organisation, our people and our citizens. Adopting a trauma informed and responsive approach in 2 service areas saw a reduction in frequent attendees in and A and E setting by 11% and in a GP setting by 31%. This could help address the revolving door system we see in our services by addressing the root cause issue, not just simply managing symptoms.

## Background reading/external references

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- 9.1 The National Trauma Transformation Programme and Roadmap [Implementation - National Trauma Transformation Programme](#)
- 9.2 The Transforming Psychological Trauma: A Knowledge and Skills Framework for the Scottish Workforce  
<https://transformingpsychologicaltrauma.scot/media/x54hw43l/nationaltraumatrainin gframework.pdf>
- 9.3 Trauma-informed practice: toolkit  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/trauma-informed-practice-toolkit-scotland>
- 9.4 Enablers and barriers to trauma-informed systems  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/evidence-review-enablers-barriers-trauma-informed-systems-organisations-workforces>
- 9.5 Trauma-informed approaches to supporting people experiencing multiple disadvantage [Trauma-informed approaches to supporting people experiencing multiple disadvantage \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)
- 9.6 [Mental Health Foundation Cost to the Scottish Economy](#)
- 9.7 [Hard Edges Scotland | The Robertson Trust](#)
- 9.8 [3Rs-Strategy Reducing Drug Deaths.pdf](#)
- 9.9 Follow the Money report [Follow-the-money.pdf \(carereview.scot\)](#)
- 9.10 Conti, G. [://www.gov.scot/publications/trauma-informed-practice-toolkit-scotland/London: NSPCC](https://www.gov.scot/publications/trauma-informed-practice-toolkit-scotland/London: NSPCC).
- 9.11 Halpern, S. C., Schuch, F. B., Scherer, J. N., Sordi, A. O., Pachado, M., Dalbosco, C., ... & Von Diemen, L. (2018). Child maltreatment and illicit substance abuse: A systematic review and meta-analysis of longitudinal studies. *Child Abuse Review*, 27(5), 344-360.
- 9.12 Karatzias, T., Power, K., Woolston, C., Apurva, P., Begley, A., Mirza, K., ... & Purdie, A. (2018). Multiple traumatic experiences, post-traumatic stress disorder and offending behaviour in female prisoners. *Criminal behaviour and mental health*, 28(1), 72-84.

### City of Edinburgh Council Policies and Procedures

- 9.13 Multi-Agency Domestic Abuse Policy: [Integrated Impact Assessment](#)
- 9.14 The Edinburgh [Adult Protection Policy](#)
- 9.15 The Edinburgh [Adult Protection Multi-Agency Guidelines](#)
- 9.16 The Edinburgh [Adult Protection Procedure](#),
- 9.17 The Edinburgh [Child Protection Procedures](#),
- 9.18 The Edinburgh [Domestic Abuse Housing Policy](#)
- 9.19 [EADP-Strategic-Plan-2021-2024-1.pdf \(edinburghadp.co.uk\)](#)

9.20 [Edinburghs Promise](#)

9.21 (COVID-19): [Coronavirus](#) mental health - transition and recovery plan

## Appendices

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10.1 Enablers and barriers to trauma-informed systems, organisations and workforces: evidence review -[here](#)

10.2 Trauma-informed approaches to supporting people experiencing multiple disadvantage A Rapid Evidence Assessment- [here](#)

10.3 Trauma-informed approaches to supporting people experiencing multiple disadvantage (publishing.service.gov.ukAppendix 1 for findings of a post

10.4 [STILT Report](#)

10.5 Appendix 2 [Trauma is Everybody's Business](#)



## THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

### Community Justice Annual Activity Return 2022/23

#### 1. Executive Summary

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- 1.1 Edinburgh's Community Safety and Justice Partnership (CSJP) is responsible for developing and implementing Edinburgh's Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan (CJOIP) on behalf of the Edinburgh Partnership (community planning). The completed Local Area Annual Return Template attached at Appendix 1 contains examples of partner's individual and collective community justice activity in 2022/23.

#### 2. Recommendations

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- 2.1 The Board is recommended to:
- i. Consider and approve Edinburgh's Community Justice Local Area Annual Return for 2022/23; a link to the document is provided at Appendix 1.

#### 3. Main Report

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- 3.1 Community planning partnerships are required to report annually to Community Justice Scotland (CJS), the national agency responsible for promoting good practice in community justice across Scotland, on community justice activity carried out in their area. CJS provides a template for completion and guidance underpinned by the national [Community Justice Outcomes, Performance and Improvement Framework](#) (OPI Framework). A link to the completed template for the Edinburgh CSJP is provided at Appendix 1.
- 3.2 CJS considers each local authority's community justice activity and provides feedback, including recommendations for future activity returns.
- 3.3 Activity detailed in Edinburgh's Local Area Annual Return supports the Scottish Government's vision for community justice set out in the revised [National Strategy for Community Justice](#) (published in June 2022) which sets out two long term outcomes:
- Ensuring justice services embed person centred and trauma informed practices
  - Working across public services to improve outcomes for individuals focussing on prevention and early intervention

Activity carried out in 2022/23 included:

- Assertive outreach - justice services commissioned an assertive outreach recovery co-ordinator to work within the existing Edinburgh and Midlothian Offending Recovery and Support Service (EMORSS) delivered by Third Sector provider Change Grow Live (CGL). The co-ordinator manages all referrals received via the arrest referral route (when someone is in custody after being arrested) at St Leonard's police station and assertively engages with those who are hard to reach and at higher risk of drug related harm to engage them in supports to address their needs.
- Unpaid work opportunities - options offered to people completing the unpaid work part of a Community Payback Order (CPO) were extended through the commissioning of a garden maintenance project managed by Third Sector provider Cyrenians. The project teaches participants garden planning, maintenance, herb growing plant care, hard landscaping and safe use of garden tools and equipment. The project also focuses on supports for mental health and wellbeing.

### 3.5 Challenges in 2022/23 included:

- Planning and delivering sustainable services within the significant budgetary constraints placed on justice services and within the context of short-term funding allocation. Time limited annual allocation of funding causes difficulties in relation to initiating projects within the time frames allowed for the spend and attracting /retaining staff on short term contracts. Recruitment and procurement costs eat into the funding available which does not support best use of resources.
- Recruitment difficulties in some areas have impacted on the ability of partners to deliver a fully joined up service for people on remand. For example, NHS Lothian has been unable to recruit a prescriber to work alongside EMORSS in HMP Edinburgh to provide continuity of care in prescribing for people moving between prison and community; this is especially relevant for the remand population who may be moved or liberated at short notice. NHS Lothian is exploring other options to try to secure a staff member to support the prison treatment service.

### 3.6 The CSJP agreed Edinburgh's Local Area Annual Return for 2022/23 on 21 September 2023. Once approved by the Edinburgh Partnership, it will be submitted to CJS.

## 4. Contact

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Carey Fuller, Head of Criminal Justice, Tel: 07711 016 163,  
[carey.fuller@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:carey.fuller@edinburgh.gov.uk)

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Appendices:

Appendix 1; [Community Justice Local Area Annual Return 2022/23](#)



THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP





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