

Public Document Pack



Meeting Thursday, 12 December 2024
Time 2.00pm
Venue McHattie Room, Saughton Park, Balgreen Road, Edinburgh EH11 3BQ

Edinburgh Partnership Board

Pages

1. Welcome and Meeting Protocols

1.1 Welcome and Meeting Protocols

2. Declaration of Interests

2.1 Declarations of Interest

3. Minutes

3.1 Minutes of the Edinburgh Partnership of 3 September 2024 – submitted for approval as a correct record. 5 - 10

4. Outstanding Actions

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5. For Decision

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6. For Consideration

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7. For Information

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8. Future Meetings

| | | |
|------------|--|--|
| 8.1 | Future Partnership Meetings | |
| | 10am, Thursday 27 March 2025 at The Edinburgh Remakery | |
| | 10am, Thursday 12 June 2025 at North Edinburgh Arts | |

THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Tuesday 3 September 2024 – 2.00pm - Meeting via Microsoft Teams

MINUTE

Board members present

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Dona Milne (in the chair) | NHS Lothian |
| Cllr Simita Kumar | City of Edinburgh Council |
| Cllr Jule Bandel | City of Edinburgh Council |
| Cllr Iain Whyte | City of Edinburgh Council |
| Lyn McMath | University of Edinburgh |
| Cllr Cammy Day | City of Edinburgh Council |
| Paul Wilson | Volunteer Edinburgh |
| Audrey Cumberford | Edinburgh College |
| David Happs | Police Scotland |
| Murray Dalgleish | Scottish Fire and Rescue Service |
| Steve Kerr | Edinburgh Federation of Community Councils |

In attendance

| | |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| Andrew Field | City of Edinburgh Council |
| Daniel Greig | City of Edinburgh Council |
| Taylor Ward | City of Edinburgh Council |
| Derek McGowan | City of Edinburgh Council |
| Elin Williamson | City of Edinburgh Council |
| Michele Mulvaney | City of Edinburgh Council |
| Gillie Severin | City of Edinburgh Council |

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Ken Robertson | Edinburgh Federation of Community Councils |
| Lindsay Robertson | City of Edinburgh Council |
| Flora Ogilvie | NHS Lothian |

1. Appointment of Vice Chair

To agree that Dona Milne would be appointed as Vice Chair for the forthcoming period.

2. Declaration of interests

None.

3. Minute

Decision

- 1) To agree the minute of the Edinburgh Partnership Board of 11 June 2024 as a correct record.
- 2) To agree the minute of the additional Edinburgh Partnership Board of 7 August 2024 as a correct record.

4. Outstanding Actions

The Outstanding Actions were presented to the Edinburgh Partnership Board.

Decision

- 1) To note the updated actions.
To agree to close the following actions:
 - Action 4 – The Edinburgh Children’s Partnership Plan
 - Action 6 – Transformation and Improvement Programme
 - Action 12 – Future Meetings
- 2) To note the remaining outstanding actions.

5. Edinburgh Transformation and Improvement Programme – Progress Update

Feedback was presented from stakeholders on the Transformation Improvement Programme, and next steps were considered for the programme.

Decision

- 1) To note the feedback to date on the change proposition.
- 2) To agree the proposed next steps in the Transformation and Improvement Programme.
- 3) To note that the proposition to go to the next stage of design and implementation would be brought to the next meeting of the Edinburgh Partnership Board.
- 4) To request workshops for Board members on the Edinburgh Transformation and Improvement plan and how this will benefit communities.
- 5) To request community council's were invited to attend meetings.

6. Community Planning Self-Evaluation

Agreement was sought of the Board to participate in a national biennial self-assessment progress for Community Planning Partnerships. This recognised the essential role Community Planning Partnerships played in improving local outcomes.

Decision

- 1) To agree to participate in the biennial national self-assessment provided by the Improvement Service.
- 2) To request members completed the improvement service questionnaire.

7. Scottish Government Ten Year Population Health Framework

A verbal update was provided on the ten-year population health framework. The update provided information on the approach to developing the framework, population health drivers and topics and progress on the framework.

Decision

- 1) To note the update on the Ten-Year Population Framework.

8. Poverty Prevention

A summary was provided by the City of Edinburgh Council Strategic Change and Delivery Team and the NHS Lothian's Public Health Team of work that was underway and proposed next steps on prevention and early intervention, in particular poverty prevention.

Decision

- 1) To note the plans in progress to reconvene the Edinburgh Poverty Commission for an interim review of progress to date.
- 2) To agree for the board to meet the Commission in as part of the review in a special meeting which would be arranged for October 2024.
- 3) To agree for the development of a roadmap of change actions needed to make substantive progress for prevention of poverty and other harms.
- 4) To note that this roadmap should be developed in parallel to aligned with the Edinburgh Partnership Transformation and Improvement Programme.
- 5) To discuss and agree the proposed scope and draft priorities for this roadmap as outlined.
- 6) To agree for all partner organisations to identify and nominate key lead officers for relevant workstreams.
- 7) To agree for these officers to form a working group, formed as a sub-group to the LOIP Delivery Group, and tasked with developing a programme of 12 month delivery plans for each priority action area for scrutiny by the Board at its next meeting.
- 8) To agree to support the development of a partnership wide Joint Strategic Needs Assessment to support the delivery of this roadmap and other service programmes.
- 9) To agree for further work to be undertaken on the potential for Marmot principles and indicators to be used as part of monitoring progress in delivery of this roadmap and the community planning partnership as a whole.
- 10) To request agencies such as Edinburgh Leisure were consulted to bring them into the mainstream to improve health and well-being.
- 11) To request officers wrote to other community partnerships to discuss what had been done since the poverty commission was implemented.

9. Proposal for Housing Partnership Establishment

Proposals for the Edinburgh Partnership Board agreement to establish a new Housing Partnership were set out for agreement by the Board.

Decision

- 1) To agree the proposals for the establishment of a Housing Partnership.
- 2) To agree an update report would be brought to the December meeting of the Edinburgh Partnership Board, and to circulate this report to members prior to publication for comment.

10. Local Outcome Improvement Plan Annual Report

The Local Outcome Improvement Plan was presented after its approval in March 2022, and an annual progress update was provided.

Decision

To approve the publication of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan annual report.

11. Becoming a Trauma Informed Partnership

An update was provided on the National Trauma Transformation Programme, with a Roadmap for Creating Trauma-Informed and Responsive Change for Organisations, Systems and Workforces in Scotland being the framework used by Regulatory bodies to assess progress and hold authorities accountable to meeting the Scottish Government's and COSLA's commitment.

Decision

- 1) To consider psychological trauma in any future policy or practice development, either new or reviewed.
- 2) To invite a partnership representative to the Strategic Oversight Group, currently under development.
- 3) To recognise that leaders at all levels had a key role to play in setting the culture, priorities, values and behaviours of an organisation. This includes embodying the key principles of safety, trust, choice, collaboration and empowerment within our leadership practice.
- 4) To invite leaders to commit to developing knowledge and skills by attending the Scottish Trauma Informed Leaders Training (STILT), a half day workshop with an opportunity for ongoing coaching and peer leadership support opportunities.
- 5) To commit to a minimum of Level 1 Trauma Training across the partnership. Additional training to be encouraged based on specific roles and responsibilities, as per the NTTP recommendations.

- 6) To agree Leaders to commit to an ongoing journey of continuous improvement as outlined in the Roadmap.
- 7) To encourage a Trauma Ambassador at every service level, to embed this approach within our teams and services.
- 8) To invite member organisations of the partnership to sign the Pledge of Support to Implement the NTTTP locally across the Council and the HCSP. There are almost 80 Pledge Signatories across Scotland.
- 9) To agree members would complete initial awareness training by December 2024.
- 10) To request links in the report be checked and updated if required to enable members to complete training.

12. UK Shared Prosperity Fund Update

An update was provided on the delivery of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund in Edinburgh.

Decision

- 1) To note the progress made with the delivery of programmes in Edinburgh funded by the UK shared Prosperity Fund.
- 2) To note the continued engagement with the UK Government regarding future UK Government Structural Funding.
- 3) To agree to write to Government Ministers around reductions in third sector, including a response from the Partnership around cuts (for example, to free bus travel for asylum seekers).

13. Dates of Future Meetings

Decision

- 1) To note the next meeting would be held on 12 December 2024, venue to be arranged.
- 2) To agree future meetings of the board would meet in person only to allow the wider community to attend.

Rolling Actions Log

Edinburgh Partnership Board

12 December 2024

| No | Date | Report Title | Action | Action Owner | Expected completion date | Actual completion date | Comments |
|----|----------|---|--|---|--------------------------|------------------------|---|
| 1 | 12.12.23 | Update – LOIP Priority 1 – ‘Enough Money to Live On’ | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The board will take a strategic look at Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) support for parents, to enable them to work and learn. 2) A session will be held in February, to look at provision and pressures on ELC in relation to the Council’s Poverty Prevention Board. 3) To consider Energy Poverty at a future meeting of the board and note the work of | Executive Director of Corporate Services Lead Officer: Michele Mulvaney, Strategy Manager (Communities) michele.mulvaney@edinburgh.gov.uk | Ongoing | | <p>Recommended for Closure – Actions 1 and 2 only</p> <p><u>Update March 2024</u></p> <p>A group of key stakeholders met in February to discuss childcare provision in the city. As a first step it was agreed to carry out a mapping exercise to better understand the landscape of provision. This will inform discussion about gaps and opportunities and</p> |



| No | Date | Report Title | Action | Action Owner | Expected completion date | Actual completion date | Comments |
|----|----------|--|---|---|--------------------------|------------------------|--|
| | | | <p>Home Energy Scotland.</p> <p>4) To note that some of the 'red' marked actions in the report have not started yet. Some of these are owing to resources and some require broader cultural shifts across partners.</p> | | | | how to better achieve a collaborative approach. The group will reconvene in April and a progress report will be submitted to the Board in June. |
| 2 | 12.12.23 | LOIP Priority 1 – Loan Shark Charter Mark | <p>1) a) To bring together an Edinburgh wide communications strategy to be launched in February 2024 regarding illegal money lending and to roll this out across places where partners engage with the public.</p> <p>b) To roll out communications</p> | <p>Kate Barlow: Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership.</p> <p>kate.barlow@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk</p> | Ongoing | | <p><u>Update December 2024</u></p> <p>Edinburgh is a recipient of the Charter Mark as from Feb 2024.</p> <p>NHS Lothian has done some work raising staff awareness of the NHS Credit Union</p> |

| No | Date | Report Title | Action | Action Owner | Expected completion date | Actual completion date | Comments |
|----|----------|---|--|---|--------------------------|------------------------|---|
| | | | <p>about Credit Unions as alternative methods of borrowing.</p> <p>2) To set a stretch target of increasing Credit Union membership across Edinburgh by up to 10% within one year. To establish some baseline data to measure this against and report back to the LOIP Priority 1 Group and the board early in 2024.</p> | | | | <p><u>Update June 2024</u></p> <p>A briefing will be circulated to all members.</p> <p><u>Update March 2024</u></p> <p>Comms work has been delayed until March 2024. Further updates to follow.</p> |
| 3 | 12.12.23 | Transformation and Improvement Programme | <p>1) To note that the working group has been re-convened and will meet on 29 January 2024.</p> <p>2) To note that the Transformation and</p> | Executive Director of Corporate Services Lead Officer: Michele Mulvaney, Strategy Manager (Communities) / EVOC michele.mulvaney@edinburgh.gov.uk | Ongoing | | <p><u>Recommended for Closure</u></p> <p>On December Agenda.</p> <p><u>September 2024</u></p> |

| No | Date | Report Title | Action | Action Owner | Expected completion date | Actual completion date | Comments |
|----|----------|---|---|--|--------------------------|------------------------|--|
| | | | <p>Improvement Programme is being undertaken in tandem with the partnership's broader work.</p> <p>3) To note that as part of the programme a communications strategy about Community Planning arrangements in Edinburgh targeted at people in communities.</p> <p>4) A further update will come to the board when matters have progressed.</p> | | | | <p><u>A further update is on the Board Agenda for September 3 2024.</u></p> <p><u>June 2024</u></p> <p><u>Update on progress included within agenda for Board meeting, 11 June 2024.</u></p> |
| 4 | 05.03.24 | Poverty Related Hunger Edinburgh – Plan Update | To agree to receive a further report, in September 2024 with recommendations about how the £500,000, agreed as part of the budget, would be used. | Executive Director of Corporate Services Lead Officer: Eleanor Cunningham eleanor.cunningham@edinburgh.gov.uk | September 2024 | | <p><u>Recommended for Closure</u></p> <p>On December Agenda.</p> <p>Report submitted to Policy and</p> |

| No | Date | Report Title | Action | Action Owner | Expected completion date | Actual completion date | Comments |
|----|----------|---|---|--|--------------------------|------------------------|--|
| | | | | | | | Sustainability Committee on 28 May 2024 |
| 5 | 05.03.24 | Review of Neighbourhood Networks | To agree that the report with recommendations about the future of Neighbourhood Networks which will go to the Culture and Communities Committee will come back to the partnership board in due course. | Executive Director of Place Lead Officer: Andrew Field andrew.field@edinburgh.gov.uk | December 2024 | | <u>Recommended for Closure</u> On December Agenda in T&I report. Update on progress included within Transformation and Improvement Programme update to the EPB, 11 June 2024. |
| 6 | 11.06.24 | Housing Emergency | A proposal to form a partnership focused on housing issues has been agreed upon. This partnership will be scoped out and developed with key partners, led by Derek McGowan. The proposal will be presented to the September Edinburgh | Executive Director of Place Lead Officer: Derek McGowan Derek.McGowan@edinburgh.gov.uk | December 2024 | | <u>Recommended for Closure</u> Board considered a report in September 2024. |

| No | Date | Report Title | Action | Action Owner | Expected completion date | Actual completion date | Comments |
|----|----------|--|--|--|--------------------------|------------------------|--|
| | | | Partnership Board for discussion. | | | | |
| 7 | 11.06.24 | Transformation and Improvement Programme | A programme of engagement has been agreed upon to further develop a future model for community planning in the city. | Executive Director of Corporate Services Lead Officer: Daniel Greig daniel.greig@edinburgh.gov.uk | December 2024 | | <u>Recommended for Closure</u> On agenda for December 2024 <u>September 2024</u> This is on the agenda for the September 2024 Board Meeting. |
| 8 | 11.06.24 | Community Learning and Development Partnership Plan | The Community Learning and Development (CLD) Plan has been agreed upon as presented. A progress report on the CLD Plan will be provided annually to the EPB. | Executive Director of Children, Education and Justice Services Lead Officer: Linda Lees linda.lees@edinburgh.gov.uk | June 2025 | | December Update: To bring the CLD 1 year Implementation plan to EPB in due course. |
| 9 | 11.06.24 | Land and Asset Update | The Director of Public Health for NHS Lothian will liaise with the new Chief Executive of the City of Edinburgh Council to | Director of Public Health, NHS Lothian / Chief Executive, City of Edinburgh Council | Ongoing | | Update to follow for December Board. |

| No | Date | Report Title | Action | Action Owner | Expected completion date | Actual completion date | Comments |
|----|----------|--|--|--|--------------------------|------------------------|---|
| | | | discuss a co-chair role and establish the Terms of Reference for advancing the work. | Lead Officer, Dona Milne Dona.Milne@nhs.scot | | | Currently drafting Terms of Reference. Draft will be presented for comment when available. |
| 10 | 03.09.24 | Edinburgh Transformation and Improvement Plan | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To note that the proposition to go to the next stage of design and implementation would be brought to the next meeting of the Edinburgh Partnership Board. 2) To offer workshops to partner organisations regarding Transformation and Improvement plan. 3) To request community council's were invited to attend meetings. | Executive Director of Corporate Services Lead Officer: Michele Mulvaney michele.mulvaney@edinburgh.gov.uk | December 2024 | | <p><u>Recommended for Closure</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Report to board in December 2024 2) This training had been offered to members 3) Community Councils have been invited |

| No | Date | Report Title | Action | Action Owner | Expected completion date | Actual completion date | Comments |
|----|----------|---|--|--|--------------------------|------------------------|---|
| 11 | 03.09.24 | Poverty Prevention | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To agree that a short-life working group is established. 2) To hold a meeting of the board with the poverty commission. 3) To request partners provide information on what they have done since the poverty commission was implemented. | Executive Director of Corporate Services Lead Officer: Chris Adams chris.adams@edinburgh.gov.uk | December 2024 | | <p><u>Recommended for Closure</u></p> <p>Report in December</p> <p>Update from CA to follow</p> <p>Meeting on 5th with poverty commission</p> |
| 13 | 03.09.24 | Proposal for Housing Partnership Establishment | To agree an update report be brought back to the December meeting of the Edinburgh Partnership Board, and to circulate this to members prior to publication for comment. | Interim Executive Director of Place Lead Officer: Derek McGowan derek.mcgowan@edinburgh.gov.uk The University of Edinburgh Lead Officer: Lynn McMath lynn.mcmath@edinburgh.gov.uk | December 2024 | | <p><u>Recommended for Closure</u></p> <p><u>December 2024</u></p> <p>Update regarding this to be submitted to the board in December 2024.</p> |

| No | Date | Report Title | Action | Action Owner | Expected completion date | Actual completion date | Comments |
|----|----------|---|---|---|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| 14 | 03.09.24 | Becoming A Trauma Informed Partnership | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To agree members would complete initial awareness training by December 2024. 2) To request links in the report be checked and updated if required to enable members to complete training. | Executive Director of Children, Education and Justice Services Lead Officer: Rose Howley rose.howley@edinburgh.gov.uk | TBC | | Update to follow |

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THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

Edinburgh Partnership Transformation and Improvement Programme – Progress Update 12 December 2024

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 It is recommended that members of the Board:
 - 1.1.1 Note that on 5 September, partners agreed to engage with colleagues and stakeholders across the city on how community planning could be strengthened.
 - 1.1.2 Note the feedback from this engagement at appendix one.
 - 1.1.3 Agree the proposed future model for strategic community planning at appendix two along with a high-level timeline at appendix three.
 - 1.1.4 Note that further work is now required to strengthen community planning in local areas working.
 - 1.1.5 Note that this paper will also be subject to consideration by individual partners at their governance boards.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report proposes a new strategic Edinburgh Partnership (EP) model following an engagement programme run over the summer of 2024.

3. Background

- 3.1 Community planning is a way of working that enables public bodies and the community and voluntary sector to collaborate and use their resources jointly to design and deliver services to improve outcomes for individuals and communities, especially those experiencing the greatest need. When done well, it has the potential to bring budgets together and deliver services more effectively. Given the funding challenges across all areas of the public and voluntary sectors, using community planning to better pool resources at a strategic and local level is urgently required.
- 3.2 The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 set out a new legislative framework for community planning in Scotland. In response, the Partnership agreed a new governance framework in April 2019 and a refresh of the city's Local

Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP). This is a statutory plan which was developed to respond to the current challenges faced by the city, including poverty, climate change, economic recovery and citizen wellbeing.

- 3.3 The subsequent Audit Scotland Best Value report identified areas for improvement, including governance, performance and impact, and the need to embed community participation within the approach.
- 3.4 In September 2023, the EP agreed to a Transformation and Improvement Programme to take a fresh look at how community planning is delivering for the city. This recognised the need for community planning to evolve to better reflect and respond to the above identified areas for improvement as well as changing circumstances and challenges. This also recognised that the challenges in local areas were continuing to grow and more needs to be done to support collaboration between the voluntary and public sector.

4. Main report

- 4.2 In November 2023 a short life working group was set up to develop the EP Transformation and Improvement Programme. The working group included representatives from the voluntary and community sector and met three times in the period to May 2024 hearing evidence on the experiences of local partnership working, including the strengths and weaknesses of existing arrangements. The learning from this was developed into a proposal to the Edinburgh Partnership in June 2024 where approval was given for wider engagement on a new framework for community planning across the city.
- 4.3 Key recommendations of the proposal included:
 - 4.3.1 Creation of a new Management Group as a sub-board of the Edinburgh Partnership to drive delivery of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan at an officer level and oversee the delivery of work in the wider CPP family partnerships. This would replace the current LOIP Delivery Group.
 - 4.3.2 The amalgamation of existing LOIP groups one to three into strategic partnerships groups as set out at appendix two.
 - 4.3.3 Creation of a housing partnership to work more collaboratively on the housing emergency in the city.
 - 4.3.4 Replacement of the existing four Locality Community Planning Partnerships (LCPPs) with new place-based arrangements on smaller geographic areas to provide for better targeting of approaches and strengthening the role of and relationship with the community and voluntary sector.
- 4.4 The new proposals were tested with stakeholders between June and October 2024. Over 200 participants took part including those from strategic partnerships, LCPP's, city wide and local voluntary sector organisations, Edinburgh Association of Community Councils, community councils, Edinburgh Tenants Federation, and

neighbourhood networks. Elected members were invited to all the locally based sessions and provided with separate briefings as requested. A full list of stakeholders and a summary of their feedback is included at Appendix 1.

4.5 A summary of feedback is set out below:

4.5.1 Community planning needs to drive a model of continuous improvement to tackle difficult issues, both city wide and in local areas. Current resource constraints in all sectors mean working collaboratively is more essential than ever. More broadly, resourcing was a common concern raised, particularly in ensuring and supporting community and voluntary sector participation and collaboration.

4.5.2 Edinburgh Partnership should strengthen its governance and management arrangements to both encourage collaborative working and continuous improvements. There needs to be more transparency in how decisions are taken, and funding allocated across the partnership as well as how communities can influence and participate in the process.

4.5.3 The Partnership needs to use both data and lived experience to target and improve challenges in the city. A shift towards targeted place-based working could support more community and voluntary sector engagement in service design and delivery. These should build on existing local networks and ensure a wide variety of community voices are heard and involved in co-design.

4.6 Alongside this programme, in September 2024 the Partnership agreed to the development of a roadmap of change actions needed to make substantive progress on actions focused on the prevention of poverty in Edinburgh. The themes identified for improvement include core service delivery, income maximisation, economic inclusion, health and well-being, and area based anti-poverty actions. Progress on development of this programme will be considered in a separate paper.

4.7 This programme, along with the findings from the Edinburgh Poverty Commission Interim Review process and a collation of existing Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) intelligence, supplemented by an additional JSNA focussing on children and families, will support the development of a new Local Outcome Improvement Plan to be developed for consultation in 2025.

5. Next Steps

5.1 If the approach is approved, in 2025 the partners will begin work to implement the approach, focusing on:

5.1.1 Creation of a Management Group.

5.1.2 Refreshing and consulting on Edinburgh's Local Outcome Improvement Plan and the development of an integrated performance framework.

- 5.1.3 Continuing to work with the Improvement Service on the community planning self-assessment programme.
- 5.1.4 Continuing engagement on the local area place-based community planning, to ensure it links with existing local work and a recognition that local solutions will be required. A priority of the newly established management group will be to further explore options to meet local community needs such as:
 - 5.1.4.1 forums to discuss local quality of life, place management and community issues
 - 5.1.4.2 living well alliances to support areas of higher deprivation by bringing together voluntary and public partners to work collaboratively and in some cases creating local areas teams
 - 5.1.4.3 Community planning partnerships, focusing on the future needs of communities, with a particular focus on climate and adaptation.
- 5.1.5 Agreeing a mechanism for a continued programme of JSNA and other intelligence work that is needed to support community planning decision making on an ongoing basis.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 The programme aims to create greater efficiencies through improved collaborative working and better targeting of resources. However, there will be a need to ensure the implementation and delivery of the approach can be resourced with this having to be met by partners from existing budgets.

7. Equality and Poverty Impact

- 7.1 This proposal will contribute positively to the public sector equality duty and priorities of the End Poverty Edinburgh Plan.

8. Climate and Nature Emergency Implications

- 8.1 The inclusion of the Net Zero Leadership Board within the governance will contribute positively to the climate or nature emergency. However, more needs to be done to work with local communities on the climate and nature emergency facing the city. While at present community planning has put in place governance to drive collaboration between key partners in the city, more now needs to be done at a local level.

9. Risk, policy, compliance, governance and community impact

- 9.1 The proposed approach has been the subject of engagement with a range of stakeholders currently involved in community planning in the city, including the community and voluntary sector. The proposals aim to strengthen community planning by delivering improved outcomes in the city, particularly for those experiencing the greatest poverty and inequality.
- 9.2 As part of the programme an Edinburgh Partnership risk register will be produced which will be overseen by the new Management Group.

10. Background reading/external references

- 10.1 [Development of an Edinburgh Partnership Transformation and Improvement Programme, Edinburgh Partnership, September 2023](#)
- 10.2 [Development of an Edinburgh Partnership Transformation and Improvement Programme, Edinburgh Partnership, December 2023](#)
- 10.3 [Community Planning: the next stage of partnership working, Edinburgh Partnership, June 2024](#)
- 10.4 [Transformation and Improvement Programme – Progress Update 3 September 2024, Edinburgh Partnership](#)
- 10.5 [Poverty Prevention, Edinburgh Partnership, September 2024](#)

11. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Findings from Engagement Programme

Appendix 2 – Diagram of proposed new model

Appendix 3 – Proposed high-level implementation plan

Community Planning Transformation and Improvement Programme

Summary of feedback from engagement sessions (October 2024)

Feedback on current model

Some people felt that the aims of the current model had not been realised (for example the Neighbourhood Networks feeding into the LCPPs) or given time to be properly embed. The loss of the locality model and removal of Locality Managers contributed to this, as their removal had led to insufficient support in establishing the model locally.

Noted weaknesses of current model

- **Lack of Coordination:** Poor coordination across various partnerships (e.g., children's services, LOIP, income maximisation).
- **Disconnection:** A gap exists between local people and planning structures, and between strategic and operational levels.
- **Complex Structure:** The model has too many layers, unclear priorities, and governance failures, leading to a vague and ineffective structure. There was a lack of engagement on and understanding of the current model and community planning in general.
- **Dominance of Statutory Organisations:** Smaller organisations struggle with the power dynamics and communication issues within partnerships. Volunteers are not able to challenge, and bureaucracy gets in the way. Decision-makers do not have enough contact with services at a local level.
- **Representation:** Community councils are not representative. Third sector are service providers, and community groups like community councils are self-selecting. More effort needs to be put into engaging the wider community.
- **Resource Competition:** Excessive competition for resources and too many forums complicate effective time allocation and purpose.
- **Action vs. Discussion:** Too much discussion with insufficient action, leading to wasted efforts and duplicated work.

Examples of good practice

- **Niddrie Initiatives:** Successful programmes include youth clubs, Scran, substance abuse support, and collaboration with Edinburgh Leisure and partner groups, mainly run by third-sector organisations.
- **R2 Initiative:** Effective but should focus on collaboration rather than duplication.
- **Placemaking:** Integrated into income maximisation efforts, particularly within GP practices.
- **LOIP 1 Collaboration:** A strength due to having the right participants involved.

Feedback on proposed model and new structure

Place-based approach

There was support for a place-based approach that aligns services and planning closer to the needs of local communities. This model is seen as potentially more effective in targeting community engagement and reducing service duplication. People welcomed the move to smaller geographical areas as some felt that the Council ward structure was sometimes a barrier to partnership work.

Discussions emphasised the importance of understanding the distinct needs of different communities and using local infrastructure effectively. Improvements to the planning and collection of data in place-based approaches will allow better management and sharing of information.

Discussion about the physical environment highlighted the importance of the design of physical spaces and how this impacts service delivery. The emphasis was on safety, accessibility, and inclusivity.

Concerns raised

Strategic direction and community input

There was some uncertainty about the future direction of community planning structures and the need for strategic clarity. Concerns were raised about the perceived reduction of community input in decision-making processes, particularly regarding the disbanding of Locality Community Planning Partnerships (LCPPs).

There is a need to avoid duplication and learn from what has been done in the past. It was suggested that a mapping exercise should be

conducted; collating information on what is operating across the city, where gaps exist, where extra resource is available or required etc. More could be done to tap into existing resource across the city, which is currently overlooked or unrecognised.

It is important that the "community voice" is not sidelined; and is integrated meaningfully into new planning structures. The need to build upon existing neighbourhood networks (NNs) to improve partner and community engagement was highlighted. LCPP Chairs also mentioned that they had previously requested to attend Edinburgh Partnership meetings but had not heard anything back. They felt that their attendance at EP meetings would help to raise and address local issues more effectively.

There was a consensus on the need for improved communication between partners and communities. It was noted that the success of community planning depends on trust, respect, effective collaborative working and clear information sharing.

Some people felt there was a sense of participation exhaustion within communities because people keep being asked for their views but then they see no real change. It is important to report back with timelines as to when decisions will be made and how feedback will be incorporated in decision-making. This in turn would help to build trust and confidence in the communities that they are being listened to and action is being taken.

Community engagement should be more focused on going to local communities and building relationships, rather than just expecting them to attend events or participate in larger consultation and engagement activities.

Face to face communication allows people to network and build relationships, it was suggested that there may be a need for in-person social events throughout the year, which can bring people together and cover a range of issues and topics.

The police have been trying to do community engagement differently through quarterly ward forums plus the 'coffee with a cop' initiative. It was felt that community councils need to be more involved in promoting these types of things and take more responsibility for community engagement.

Structure and function of new partnerships

Some people felt that the new structure appeared too bureaucratic, too safe and that issues appeared to be siloed, especially if a preventative approach was to be taken. In addition, some felt that the third sector was not represented as a key partner or sub-group for community planning delivery but has an overarching role to play in the delivery of action.

There were discussions about the potential structure of new community planning models, including concerns about creating a two-tier system with "Quality-of-Life Partnerships" and "Anti-Poverty Networks." This could cause confusion about roles and responsibilities. It was suggested that having core principles in the Terms of Reference (TORs) for these partnerships was important to guide their work effectively. The need for Social Justice to be recognised within the structure was also highlighted.

It was suggested that more could be done to support and nurture individuals and groups or organisations across the city to kick start or develop networks.

Existing initiatives and the Local Improvement Plans (LIPs)

Concerns were also raised about the potential loss of focus on Local Improvement Plans (LIPs) within the new structures, which could undermine current efforts. There is a desire to retain effective practices from existing structures and integrate them into any new approach.

Third sector

There is a need to recognise the reduction in funding for the third sector and its implications for community organisations and think of ways to mitigate the impact of these funding cuts on service delivery.

Equity and inclusivity

Some participants criticised the lack of a clear equalities approach in the proposed changes. A need was identified to engage more effectively with marginalised groups and address hidden poverty.

Suggestions were made to incorporate diversity and inclusion more explicitly into community planning processes to ensure equitable engagement and outcomes.

Further considerations for the development of new model

Governance and management

- Simplify structures with less hierarchy, focusing on collaboration and place-based themes.
- Clarify roles, responsibilities, and governance structures, and ensure transparency in funding and decision-making.
- Consider structural aspects like a rotating chair to ensure influence does not sit in one place.
- Enhance councillors' understanding of community planning through improvements to induction programs for new councillors. Think of ways to formalise their role to encourage their participation in local community planning.
- Secure long-term funding to retain staff and skills and reduce duplication of services.

Community engagement and communication

- Ensure that community voices are genuinely heard and involved in co-designing services.
- Ensure language used in planning is inclusive and accessible, to maintain grassroots involvement.
- Senior leaders should regularly engage directly with the community, ensuring that language and accessibility considerations are prioritised.
- Engage frontline workers, employers, educational institutions, faith-based organisations, and neighbouring authorities to address common issues.
- Enhance communication and reduce silos between organisations and across levels.
- Do less online surveys and focus more on local engagement.
- Consider a one stop shop for networking and promotion of all community planning related issues e.g. bulletins.
- Provide incentives to encourage participation.

Outcome Focused

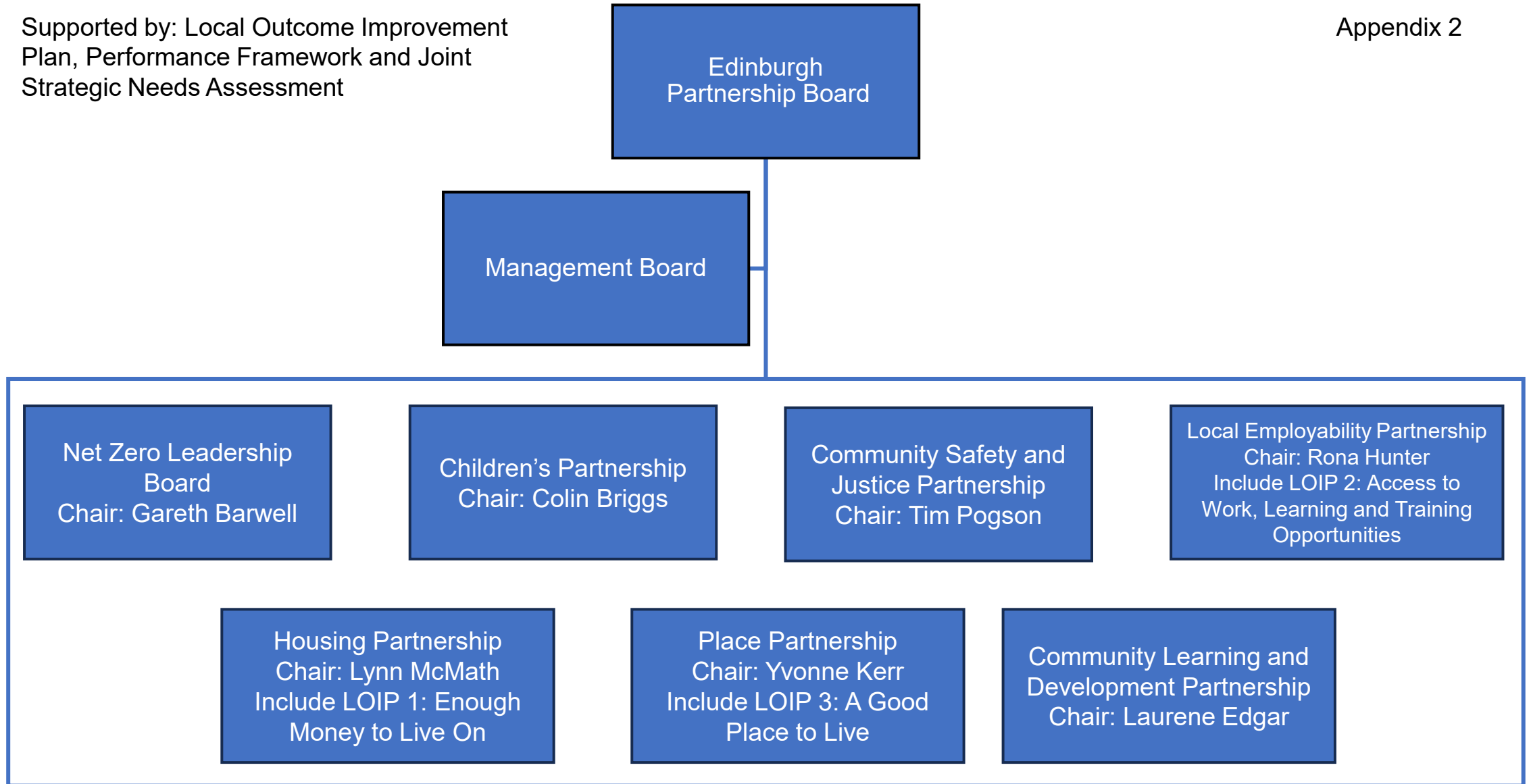
- Strategic groups should work closely with local networks to ensure they are in touch with community needs and lived experiences.
- Emphasise outcomes rather than inputs, ensuring flexibility and responsiveness in addressing issues.

- The new model should be action-oriented with clear objectives and less bureaucracy.

Collaboration with the Third Sector

- Build trust and collaboration with third-sector organisations, recognising their ability to respond quickly and effectively.
- Third sector and place-based networks can support engagement with local residents by utilising their strong working relationships with Community Councils, Parent Councils etc.
- Provide more support to community organisations around fundraising and income generation. The Council can be seen as slow and unresponsive. Current commissioning and tendering processes are seen as barriers to small local growth. These need to be more agile.
- R2 would welcome the ability to allocate funding at a local level – through control of existing local budgets like the Community Grants Fund and/or Neighbourhood Environment Programme funding (recently renamed Estate Improvement Programme).
- Strengthen third sector and place-based networks' decision-making powers and resources to allow them to act on behalf and with local people.

Supported by: Local Outcome Improvement Plan, Performance Framework and Joint Strategic Needs Assessment



To progress the implementation of the Community Planning Partnership Transformation and Improvement Programme please see below a 15-month timeline of activity (further details regarding each of the actions are available on request).



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THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

End Poverty in Edinburgh Annual Progress Report 2024

12 December 2024

1. Executive Summary

This report provides the fourth annual overview on progress made by Edinburgh Partnership in response to the calls to action made by the Edinburgh Poverty Commission. In doing so, the report meets the statutory duty for City of Edinburgh Council and NHS Lothian to publish a joint report on local actions to address child poverty, and provides a refreshed framework of priorities for action by partners during 2025.

2. Recommendations

2.1 It is recommended that the board:

- i. Approve this fourth annual report on partnership actions delivered in response to the Edinburgh Poverty Commission's calls to action
- ii. Note that this report has been prepared in line with and will be published as a part of statutory requirements under the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act
- iii. Note that a further report on priority partnership action on poverty prevention will be considered as a part of this meeting
- iv. Note that future development of all actions set out in this report will be informed by the findings of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission interim review of progress towards end poverty targets
- v. Note that Edinburgh Partnership Board members met the Edinburgh Poverty Commission in special session during November 2024 as part of this review process.

3. Main Report

- 3.1 In September 2020 the Edinburgh Poverty Commission published its final report with a call to action for the steps the city needs to take to End Poverty in Edinburgh by 2030. This report, and partnership actions needed in response to it, was considered by the Edinburgh Partnership December 2020.
- 3.2 In doing so, the Partnership agreed an annual cycle of progress reporting against actions to end poverty in the city, aligned to the statutory duties held by the Council and NHS Lothian to produce an annual report on actions to reduce child poverty.

Poverty in Edinburgh

- 3.3 The latest available data shows that an estimated 17% of people in Edinburgh were living in poverty in the period to 2023, including 20% of all children. In line with national patterns these data indicate that poverty rates have remained relatively unchanged in recent years.
- 3.4 The report shows that to meet the headline targets set by Scottish Government and the Edinburgh Poverty Commission, will require 36,000 people, including 8,600 children to be lifted out of poverty over the 7 years from 2023-30 in Edinburgh alone.
- 3.5 Evidence in the report shows that local and national actions have likely been successful in preventing child poverty rates from rising in recent years, but that a challenging macro-economic and policy environment lies ahead. Poverty rates across the UK are projected to rise by 1% in the period to 2030.

Progress during 2024

- 3.6 Notwithstanding this challenging context, over the past 12 months, local partners have collaborated across the framework of actions outlined in the End Poverty in Edinburgh Delivery Plan. The report provides a comprehensive overview of these actions. Key examples of progress delivered in the past year include:
 - 3.6.1 Almost £24m generated for low income people in Edinburgh through money and welfare advice services delivered or commissioned by the partnership. This represents a 20% increase on the total generated in the previous year.
 - 3.6.2 5,000 people supported through partnership funded employability programmes, a 19% increase over the previous year's total.
 - 3.6.3 Three successful partnership applications to Scottish Government funding programmes (Child Poverty Accelerator Fund, and Cash First Funds) to support tests of change projects on child and food poverty.
 - 3.6.4 Six new projects delivered through the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund to provide bespoke, holistic support to reduce the need for crisis interventions
 - 3.6.5 Projects delivered in projects in Murrayburn, Dumbryden and Hailesland that have helped over 900 homes become more energy efficient
 - 3.6.6 Creation of the new Regenerative Futures Fund, a third sector led programme bringing £15m of new investment to help end poverty in Edinburgh over the next decade.

Priorities for 2025

- 3.7 In September 2024, the Edinburgh Partnership agreed to the development of a new roadmap to accelerate and improve the city wide actions needed to prevent

poverty in Edinburgh. This roadmap provides a focus on five areas of improvement to form the basis of priority work by the Council and partners during 2025. These areas include Improving core services, Maximising incomes, Economic inclusion, Health and wellbeing, and Area based anti-poverty alliances.

- 3.8 A report on initial scoping and steps towards development of this programme is considered as a part of this partnership meeting.
- 3.9 This work will be taken forward in alignment with the Edinburgh Partnership Transformation and Improvement Programme, and with the findings of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission 2024 Interim Review process currently underway.

4. Contact

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End Poverty in Edinburgh Annual Progress Report

2024

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Foreword

This is the fourth annual report since the Edinburgh Partnership and City of Edinburgh Council made their public commitment to take all local actions possible to end poverty in this city by 2030.

These remain challenging times for the 80,000 people in our city who are living on incomes below the UK poverty threshold, and we are more motivated than ever to create the conditions and provide support to help them stay afloat.

As city partners we have taken steps to help put more money directly into the pockets of people who need it most. The city's money and welfare advice services have delivered £24m of financial gains for Edinburgh citizens (a 20% increase on previous years).

We have helped people maximise their earnings from employment, by supporting almost 5,000 people into work or learning – a 19% increase on last year's figure.

We built more new Council homes in 2023/24 than the previous two years combined, and we are delivering on our Housing Emergency Action Plan to address the biggest driver of poverty and destitution in Edinburgh.

While doing all this, we are also building the foundations for longer term prevention of poverty. We have supported the launch of the new Regenerative Futures Fund, a UK first programme seeking to bring £15m of investment to help communities shape solutions to poverty in this city. We are delivering six Whole Family Wellbeing Fund projects to support the whole system transformational change needed to reduce the need for crisis intervention and move towards prevention and early intervention. We are using a range of intelligence, including insights from the recent Lothian Public Health Survey, as well as working with partners – such as the Smart Data Foundry – to establish new data driven innovation methods to improve the targeting of our work to end poverty.

The actions described in this report are the right things for us to do, and as the data and case studies 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.

It is because of that knowledge that we are committed to developing a new roadmap of actions to improve and accelerate the system changes needed to prevent poverty in Edinburgh.

This builds on recommendations in the NHS Lothian Director of Public Health 2022 Annual Report, and the NHS Lothian Strengthened Approach to Prevention. Both documents highlight the need to focus on children and young people's health and wellbeing as part of a wider prevention and early intervention approach to address inequalities in the building blocks for a healthy life, including tackling poverty as a driver of these inequalities.

Our work to address poverty will be supported by the continued work of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission and the End Poverty Edinburgh Citizen's group, who are currently undertaking their independent review of the city's, and national government's response to their 2020 calls to action.

We know 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.

Councillor Cammy Day
Council Leader, City of Edinburgh
Council & Chair, Edinburgh
Partnership

Dona Milne
Director of Public Health and Health
Policy
NHS Lothian

Executive Summary

This report provides an overview of progress made in the past year by the City of Edinburgh Council, NHS Lothian, and Edinburgh Partnership to meet the calls to action set by the Edinburgh Poverty Commission, including specific actions to address child poverty.

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 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 2023, including 20% of all children**. In line with national patterns these data indicate that poverty rates have remained relatively unchanged in recent years.

The report shows that to meet the headline targets set by Scottish Government and the Edinburgh Poverty Commission, we will require **36,000 people, including 8,600 children to be lifted out of poverty over the 7 years from 2023-30 in Edinburgh alone**.

Evidence in the report shows that local and national actions have likely been successful in preventing child poverty rates from rising in recent years, but that a challenging macro-economic and policy environment lies ahead. Poverty rates across the UK are projected to **rise by 1% by 2030**.

Alongside this, long term trends show an increase in the severity of poverty in the city, with rates of very deep poverty and destitution **having risen by 23%** in Edinburgh between 2019 and 2022. Significant variations in poverty risk are also evident between population groups and local communities in Edinburgh, with the Lothian Public Health Survey showing higher rates of food insecurity and fuel poverty amongst younger adults, for example. Households with large families, disabled adults, or children, lone or young parents, and Black and

minority ethnic households all show continued heightened risk of poverty. At the same time, on a spatial/geographical level **child poverty rates in the city vary from over 30% in Leith to less than 10% in Morningside**.

Actions to end poverty in Edinburgh

Over the past 12 months, local partners have collaborated across the framework of actions outlined in the **End Poverty in Edinburgh Delivery Plan**. These include actions across four headline themes

1. Increase income from work and opportunity to progress:

This includes actions this year to:

- Promote the **real Living Wage**, with the number of accredited employers in the city rising to **756** at a rate of increase well ahead of annual targets.
- Launch partner engagement on a new city-wide **Edinburgh Fair Work Charter** for employers and workers
- Support **4,948 people into work and learning, including over 1,284 young people** through Council funded employability programmes
- Provide targeted employability support for people from child poverty priority groups, including **1,900 people from ethnically diverse backgrounds**, and **1,500 people from families with a disabled child or adult**
- Continue to deliver and develop the **Discover! programme** for families with children at risk of poverty, including new term time programmes in addition to school holiday support
- Agree a **£10m package of investment** for organisations supporting vulnerable and disadvantaged young people and their families right across Edinburgh through the Connected Communities Fund

- 2. Maximise support from social safety nets:** This includes actions this year that have:
- Helped over **20,000 low income people** in Edinburgh achieve total financial gains of almost **£24m** through money and welfare advice services
 - Delivered specialist support programmes targeted at child poverty priority groups with money advice support embedded and referred through **early years' centres, schools, midwives, health visitors, hospitals, locality recovery hubs, community mental health and GP practices across the city**
 - Invested **£500,000 of additional Council funds** to expand money and debt advice capacity, improve benefits uptake rates; and provide additional capacity for the Council's welfare and benefits programmes
 - Delivered **£194m** for Edinburgh citizens through locally administered benefits such as housing benefit, DHP, and Council Tax Reduction
 - Delivered **£2.4m in Crisis Grants** and **£1.8m in Community Care Grants** to people in need of support across Edinburgh
 - Delivered early intervention support **to prevent 461 households from homelessness** and **supported 685 households to move on from temporary accommodation**
 - Made three successful bids for **£360,000** of additional Scottish Government investment in child and food poverty innovations through the **Child Poverty Accelerator Fund** and **Cash First** programmes
- 3. Reduce the cost of living:** This includes local actions this year that have:
- Launched and begun implementation of a new **Housing Emergency Action Plan** focused on reducing homelessness, improving access to housing and housing advice, improving the supply and quality of housing across the city, preventing harm and improving the experience of tenants in Council housing
 - Completed **934 new affordable homes** in Edinburgh, including **177 new Council homes**, and **208 other social rented** homes
 - Delivered projects in Murrayburn, Dumbryden and Hailesland that have seen over **900 homes made more energy efficient**. These projects are benefiting over 670 council tenants and 230 private residents with lower energy bills and reducing their energy consumption already
 - Provided **subsidised childcare places** for working families in four areas of the city through Edinburgh's Affordable Childcare for Working Parents service
- 4. Make it easier to find help:** This includes local actions this year to:
- Support creation of the new **Regenerative Futures Fund**, a third sector led programme bringing £15m of new investment to help end poverty in Edinburgh over the next decade
 - Establish six new projects through the **Whole Family Wellbeing Fund** including those to improve access to childcare and youth work opportunities as well as providing access to more holistic early support to reduce the need for crisis interventions
 - Continue to deliver place-based pilot projects for early intervention and integrated support underway in **Craigmillar, Liberton, and Craigroyston**
 - Deliver pilots of a new **Lightning Reach** digital tool to help citizens and frontline workers find support available in the city
 - Begin work with **Smart Data Foundry** on a pilot data driven innovation project to help identify areas and individuals who may benefit from targeted financial inclusion support
 - Deliver **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.

Priority Actions for 2025

In September 2024, the Edinburgh Partnership agreed to the development of a new roadmap to accelerate and improve the city-wide actions needed to prevent poverty in Edinburgh.

Building on the End Poverty in Edinburgh Delivery Plan framework set out in this report, this roadmap will establish a new partnership wide programme for system change across five inter-related workstreams. Initial scoping and development of the programme will be considered by the Edinburgh Partnership in December 2024, with 12 month action plans for implementation throughout 2025.

Workstream 1

Improving Core services

- Ensuring public services that deliver to those in greatest need are of the highest possible quality, joined up, and fit for purpose to provide a service experience that is humane, compassionate, and easy to navigate.

Workstream 2

Maximising incomes

- Delivering strategic changes needed to improve access to high quality money, debt and welfare advice making sure citizens are able to access all the benefits they are entitled to, and manage financial pressures.

Workstream 3

Economic inclusion

- Ensuring that economic opportunity in the city is available to those in greatest need and that employment is translated into income growth.

Workstream 4

Health and wellbeing

- Ensuring the places where people live support them to be physically and mentally well, and targeting physical and mental health programmes in the areas and across the communities which need them most

Workstream 5

Area based poverty alliances

- Assembling local partnerships across Edinburgh which bring together voluntary sector agencies with key public services with the aim of providing integrated support to those already in need, or those at risk of being in need.

EDINBURGH POVERTY COMMISSION INTERIM REVIEW

The calls to action made by the **Edinburgh Poverty Commission** in 2020 provide a core reference point for all work conducted by partners to prevent and address the effects of poverty in Edinburgh.

2025 will mark the mid-point between the publication of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission's final report and the 2030 targets set out in its calls to action for the city. In advance of that threshold, in 2022 City of Edinburgh Council and the Edinburgh Partnership agreed that the members of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission would be invited to reconvene during 2024 to provide an interim review of progress made in the city towards 2030 targets.

All original independent members were invited to an inception and scoping session in June this year. At this session, the commission agreed that the review process would be conducted and led in partnership with members of the End Poverty Edinburgh citizen's group with a focus on three priorities:

- **Reviewing progress** made in the past four years, meeting those calls to action.
- **Reiterating and restating** the core principles and findings of the original commission, the evidence they were drawn from, and their continued relevance.
- **Refreshing the calls to action.** Considering new evidence and looking ahead to actions needed over the next five years.

The commission's main inquiry work began during Autumn 2024, with findings planned for publication during early 2025. In doing so, the review process and findings are intended to support the development of transformation and poverty prevention programmes currently underway across the City of Edinburgh Council and the Edinburgh Partnership.

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 fourth 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 2024 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 Commission¹ 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."

Edinburgh Partnership and the City of Edinburgh Council have 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:

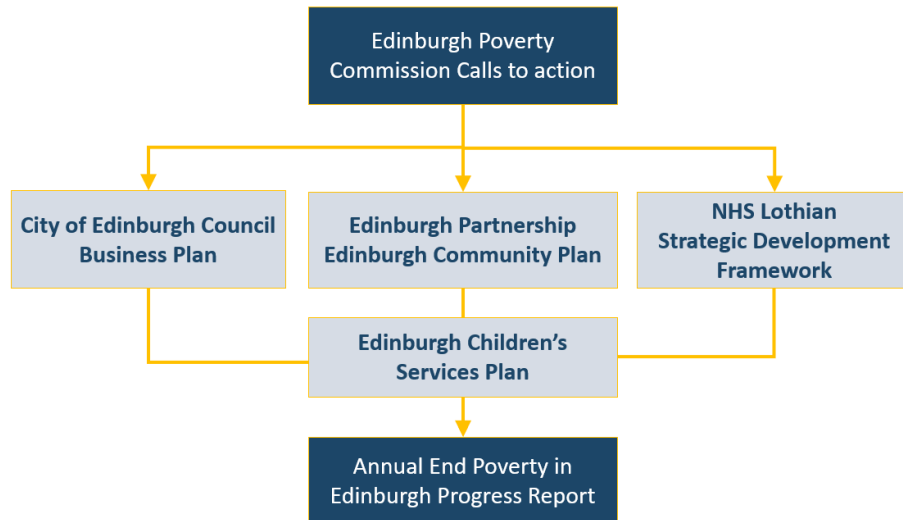
- Fewer than 10% of children should be living in families in relative poverty by 2030.
- Fewer than 5% of children should be living in families in absolute poverty by 2030.
- Fewer than 5% of children should be living in families living in combined low income and material deprivation by 2030.
- Fewer 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 Edinburgh Partnership, the City of Edinburgh Council, and NHS Lothian. This report draws these end poverty actions together into a single plan, updated every year. 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.

The report is developed by a multi-agency officer 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 Child Poverty (Scotland) Act, the report is scrutinized by relevant committees of Edinburgh Partnership, City of Edinburgh Council, and NHS Lothian.



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. This focus on poverty prevention and early intervention forms a key part of the partnership’s current **Transformation and Improvement Plan** programme which aims to improve the impact of community planning in the city.

The **Edinburgh Children’s Services Plan for 2023-26**, provides a 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,
- use a data driven, evidence-based approach to child poverty work
- make sure future children’s service commissioning is informed by a poverty lens and a rights-based approach, and
- support a test of change, focusing on an identified population, designing and evaluating interventions related to poverty prevention and mitigation

The **Council Business Plan** guides the work of the City of Edinburgh Council over the period 2023 to 27. This plan incorporates the target to ‘end poverty by 2030’ as one of three headline priorities to drive budget and service decision making.

The **NHS Lothian Strategic Development Framework** (LSDF) 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 with workstreams focusing on improving maternal health and tackling poverty; infant and child health and wellbeing; adolescent health and wellbeing; and The Promise for children, young people, and their families.

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. Meetings include presentations from local partners and Scotland wide specialists, alongside evidence from citizens highlighting lived experience of the issues under discussion.

The sessions 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.

Themes discussed during 2024 have included:

- The role of further education in helping to end poverty
- Poverty and wellbeing – featuring speakers from [Carnegie UK](#)
- Learning from Fife’s approach to tackling poverty
- Actions to end poverty-related hunger in Edinburgh
- Low pay and insecure work in the hospitality industry – featuring speakers from the [Poverty Alliance](#)
- Poverty and digital exclusion
- Affordable childcare and supporting parents into work, and
- Edinburgh’s Housing Strategy

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 using the subject line ‘**Edinburgh Poverty Network**’

CASE STUDY: MAKING BETTER USE OF FUNDING

Edinburgh’s network of statutory funders is working hard to improve the impact of public funds allocated to supporting people in or at risk of poverty.

This is being carried out through improvements to the collection and use of data to target interventions on priority groups, and through involving people with lived experience more directly in service design.

Third sector organisations who are funded to deliver employability and education outcomes are now asked to both target and collect data on the six priority family groups identified as being in high risk of poverty. This allows funders to identify and address gaps in service and improve targeting of resources – whether by family group, or geographical area.

At the same time, Employability and Lifelong Learning services (such as the Multiply programme) are tracked via Capital City Partnership’s Helix system. This is now beginning to give useful trend information to track the achievements of families that meet the priority group criteria and evaluate the impact of programmes.

Partners are also focused on ensuring that people with lived experience of poverty are part of design and decision-making processes.

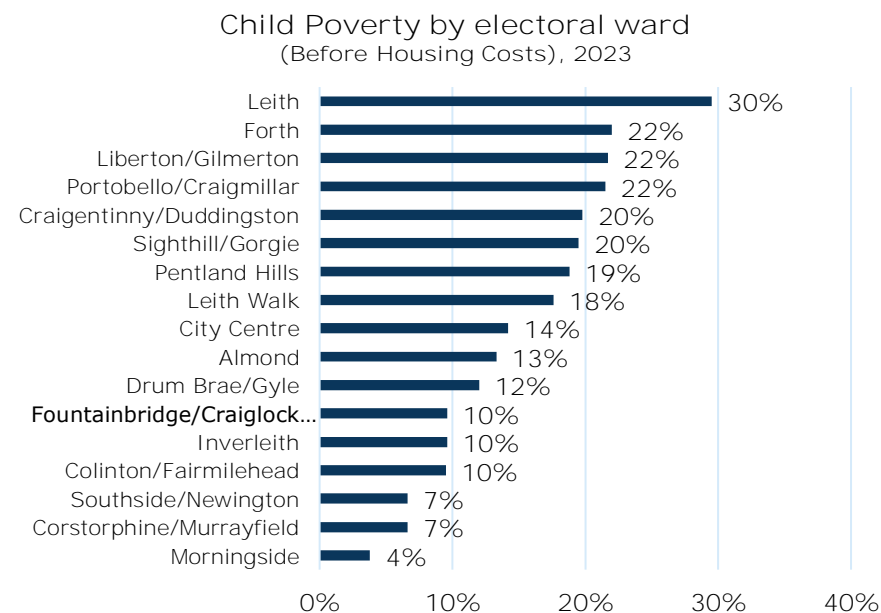
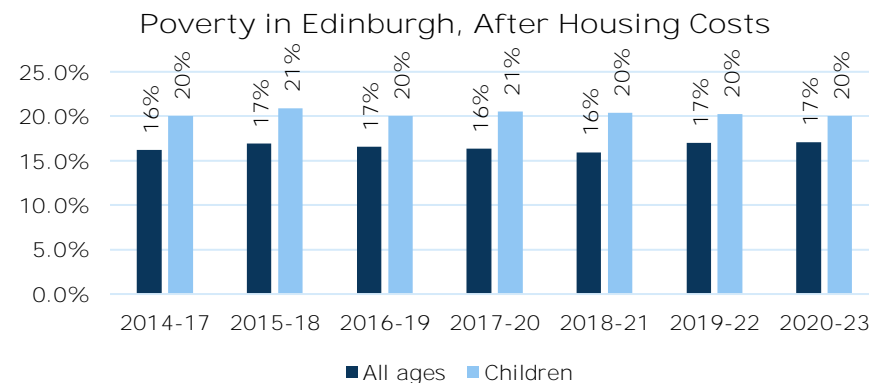
In one example, parents were invited to join scoring panels to look at grant applications for projects aimed at improving the employability of parents. They were offered training and recompensed for their time and their insight and experiences were central to appraisal and awarding of funding. A wide-ranging client feedback project has been undertaken (via focus groups and surveys) to ascertain how people want their services to be delivered and what support they require.

Poverty in Edinburgh: What the data tells us

A full analysis of the latest data on poverty trends, including progress against key progress indicators and associated measures is provided in **Appendix 1** to this report.

In summary, the data shows that:

- An estimated **17% of people** in Edinburgh were living in poverty in the period to spring 2023, accounting for over 87,000 individualsⁱⁱ.
- These included over 17,200 children, **or 20% of all children in the city**.
- **10%** of all residents (including 14% of all children) had been living in poverty for **three of the past four years**
- To meet the headline targets set by Scottish Government and the Edinburgh Poverty Commission, requires **36,000 people, including 8,600 children to be lifted out of poverty over the 7 years from 2023-30 in Edinburgh alone**.
- This comes within a challenging macro-economic and policy environment in which poverty rates across the UK are projected to **rise by 1% in the period to 2030ⁱⁱⁱ**.
- Long term trends show an increase in the severity of poverty across the UK. Rates of very deep poverty and destitution **rose by 23%** in Edinburgh between 2019 and 2022^{iv}
- Households in key priority groups show a heightened risk of poverty and destitution. Two thirds of all people in destitution have a long term **chronic health condition or disability**, while around 40% of all **lone parent or minority ethnic households** are in poverty.
- Child poverty rates vary significantly across areas Edinburgh, ranging from over **30% in Leith**, to less than **10% in Morningside^v**.



CASE STUDY: POLICE SCOTLAND, THE PILTON PROJECT

Clear, Hold, Build (CHB) is a partnership approach designed to reduce the number of Serious and Organised Crime Groups (SOC), crime levels and serious violence within communities in a sustainable way.

It is designed to tackle one or a combination of SOC related threats, including, but not limited to: criminal networks, priority locations, SOC vulnerabilities and priority individuals bringing together a range of partners, including the community itself.

Using data and evidence, West Pilton was chosen as a project site. Current priorities are child and adult criminal exploitation, quality of housing stock and the poor condition of the local environment.

As an example of case: police found that a young mother, living with her extended family, was dealing drugs at the behest of others. Her young son had been exposed to the dealing activity but there was no open case with social work, or any other services. On top of this, the family were facing eviction within days as their private let was being repossessed by the mortgage lender, through no fault of theirs.

Recognising the stress on the entire family and the clear child concern, immediate contact was made with social services and safeguarding put in place. A referral was then made with the family's consent to a local navigator service – NESSie, primarily to help with the housing. A relationship with this service has been established through The Pilton Project team and this enabled a direct referral and almost immediate support. Through this, the family were able to get additional time, the local authority is now processing their housing claim with full knowledge of their circumstance and the child can attend school locally without disruption.

Follow-up visits to the family by the team have developed a positive relationship and there is no evidence of a recurrence of drug dealing activity.'

CASE STUDY: DEVELOPING AN ANTI-STIGMA CHARTER

Capital City Partnership are collaborating with the City of Edinburgh Council, the Making it Work for Families Project, and the End Poverty Edinburgh group to develop resources and build an **Anti-Stigma Charter** into training and learning for workers and organisations across in Edinburgh

Evidence shows that stigma about poverty can be wide-ranging, impacting peoples' health and wellbeing and creating inequalities.

This Anti-Stigma Charter is a commitment to eliminating poverty-related stigma across Scotland, promoting **dignity, equality, and inclusivity** for individuals and families.

The core principles of the Charter were developed with the insights of parents and young people with lived experience of poverty and stigma who are currently engaging with projects across Edinburgh and the wider City Region.

The Charter is designed for anyone working to support individuals and families, including practitioners, project staff, community and statutory organisations.

The training and learning will initially be rolled out to Edinburgh Council staff.

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 a context of stubbornly low-income growth, high living costs, and a local housing emergency, the challenge of meeting Edinburgh’s poverty goals is clear.

This section sets out the actions needed to end poverty in Edinburgh, building on the original findings of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission and including:

- **Calls to action for UK and Scottish Governments**
- **A framework for local action, and**
- **Edinburgh’s priority actions for 2025**

Calls to action for national governments

From implementation of core policies such as the Scottish Child Payment, as well as temporary policy introductions made during the Covid pandemic and cost of living crisis, the powerful impact that policy levers held by national governments can have on poverty levels across the country is clear.

It is for that reason that the Edinburgh Poverty Commission noted that, while 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.

Ahead of the findings from the interim review of progress currently underway by the Commission, this report reiterates the calls to action for national

governments made by the Commission in its 2020 report. These calls have been repeated in recent years by local and national partners and include requests 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 such as the five-week wait, the two-child cap, and the benefit cap, and
- **Scottish Government** funding to support delivery new social rented homes in Edinburgh and support Edinburgh’s Housing Emergency Action Plan. 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:

5. **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.
6. **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
7. **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
8. **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 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 of September 2024.

Edinburgh's Priority Actions for 2025

During 2024, and in advance of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission Interim Review currently underway, partners in Edinburgh have developed an outline SWOT analysis of Edinburgh's current local approaches and progress in preventing poverty in the city.

In summary, this analysis found that (as evidenced throughout this report):

- Partners can show demonstrable improvements in collaboration and joint working in recent years,
- There is clear evidence of the significant impact that local interventions are having on the lives of people in poverty in Edinburgh

- But the rate and scale of progress has not yet been sufficient to meet the targets for poverty reduction set by the Edinburgh Poverty Commission, or Scottish Government.

Following discussions in September 2024, the Edinburgh Partnership agreed that partners actions in 2025 should focus on the development of a **roadmap for partnership transformation** on five priority areas^{vi}.

This roadmap will be developed in line with the emerging findings of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission Interim Review, and support and align to other key actions plans across the city (including Edinburgh's Housing Emergency Action Plan).

The roadmap will focus on city wide, partnership actions to:

1. **Improve core service delivery** – ensuring public services that deliver to those in greatest need are of the highest possible quality (including housing, health and wellbeing, neighbourhood, community services and others), joined up, and fit for purpose to provide a service experience that is humane, compassionate, and easy to navigate
2. **Maximise incomes and minimise costs** – providing easy access to high quality money, debt and welfare advice making sure citizens are able to access all the benefits they are entitled to, reduce living costs, and manage financial pressures
3. **Improve economic inclusion** – ensuring that economic opportunity in the city is available to those in greatest need and that employment is translated into income growth
4. **Improve health and well-being**– Ensuring the places where people live support them to be physically and mentally well, and targeting physical and mental health programmes in the areas and across the communities which need them most

5. **Build and support area based anti-poverty alliances** - assembling local partnerships across Edinburgh which bring together voluntary sector agencies with key public services with the aim of providing integrated support to those already in need, or those at risk of being in need.

In support of these five priority workstreams, a series of cross-cutting enabling actions will be undertaken including:

- Development of a new **Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, with a focus on children and families**, to support improved clarity of purpose and direction for strategic programmes
- A review of current approaches to third sector funding
- Action to develop a strong financial case for poverty prevention action to ensure that poverty reduction can be meaningfully incorporated within partner budget decision processes
- Development of data driven innovation support for poverty prevention programmes, including digital tools to help programmes identify early indicators that people may need help, and
- A framework for consistent and meaningful evaluation of the outcomes, impacts, costs, and benefits of poverty prevention programmes, designed to highlight what works and driving improvement.

Initial scoping work for this programme began in September 2024, with outline plans in development for consideration by the Edinburgh Partnership in December 2024.

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 participated and made their voices heard in around 40 meetings, including regular meetings with **elected officials** – local and national, the monthly **Edinburgh Poverty Network** and **Menu for All Steering Group** and others.

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:

- Planned, organised, and delivered citizen-led events including a second annual citizen's conference as part of **Challenge Poverty Week** in October 2024
- Hosted a public online hustings focussed on poverty for **UK General Election** in June 2024
- Participated in the design and establishment of the [Regenerative Futures Fund](#) programme, which aims to bring £15m of new investment to end poverty in Edinburgh
- Presented at the '**Tackling Food Insecurity: A Cash First Approach Journey**' event in March 2024
- Presented and supported discussions at a Council staff conference focused on '**Building a Prevention led Council**'
- Held regular meetings with the convenor of the City of Edinburgh Council **Homelessness, Housing and Fair work** Committee
- Appeared on BBC news – [How the cashless society is hurting the poorest](#) in May 2024
- Published **4 blog pieces** reflecting the lived experience of poverty in Edinburgh
- Provided a response to the Scottish Parliament's call for views on the **National Care Service** (Scotland) Bill (Stage 2)

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

End Poverty in Edinburgh Delivery Plan: Progress during 2024

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

A: Increasing incomes from work and opportunities to progress

| Action | Progress in 2024 and priorities for 2025 |
|---|---|
| <p>Promoting fair work that provides dignity and security</p> | <p>The Edinburgh Living Wage Action Group in 2024 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"> • As of September 2024, a total of 756 Edinburgh businesses are accredited real Living Wage employers, • During the first five months of financial year 2023/24, the city has recorded 44 new living wage accreditations, ahead of the city's target of 100 new accreditations per annum. As a direct result of these new accreditations a total of 360 workers have already received a pay rise this financial year alone so far • In June 2024, the group represented the city at the second national Living Wage Places conference held in Newcastle • In November 2024, the group will be celebrating Living Wage Week 2024 with series of news releases and publications to thank accredited businesses for their commitment to providing decent incomes for workers in Edinburgh. • In addition to living wage, there are now 13 Living Hours accredited employers in Edinburgh. <p>In support of this work, in 2024 the City of Edinburgh Council also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reported that a total of 96% of all regulated suppliers pay a real Living Wage, with 45% being fully accredited real Living Wage employers^{vii}. Work is underway to reach out to non-accredited suppliers to encourage and support them to commit to living wage accreditation. • Began stakeholder engagement for a new Edinburgh Fair Work Charter to provide guidance and support for employers and policy makers in the city. This charter builds on work developed for implementation on the Forth Green Freeports site, with an aim to develop a single framework and support network for businesses and workers across the city. • Began formal scoping and audit work to support development of new Community Wealth Building approaches in Edinburgh, including actions to further promote fair work and just labour markets. <p>NHS Lothian is also an accredited Living Wage Employer. This includes directly employed staff as well as third party, including sub-contractor, staff who work regularly on our sites or premises</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anchors metrics submitted to Scottish Government for 22/23 showed that 100% of newly awarded contracts were with suppliers that were Real Living Wage Accredited (or committed to paying the Real Living Wage) (data not yet available for 23/24) |

| Action | Progress in 2024 and priorities for 2025 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|--------------|-----|------|-----|----|------------------|----|-----|----|---|---------------------------------|----|----|---|---|-----------------------------|-----|-----|----|----|---|------|------|-----|----|--------------------------|------|------|-----|-----|
| Helping people to access and progress in work | <p>While Edinburgh continues to have a strong labour market, there are still many people in low-income employment which does not lift them out of poverty. Our focus has therefore not only been on supporting people into employment but supporting them into well-paid employment and working with people to progress in employment.</p> <p>During the last year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council funded programmes provided employability and skills support for 4,948 people, including 1,284 young people • The Edinburgh Guarantee continued to support all ages; a new, improved website is under development to support both employers and residents; and became the Single Point of Contact for employability referrals from the Department of Work and Pensions as of 1 April 2024, as well as the customer facing 'front door' for all jobseekers with barriers to employment. • We increased our focus on child poverty and affordable childcare, with the majority of commissioning focused on small, grassroots charities who are close to their communities and are already offering family support. We have offered them support to increase their knowledge and awareness of employability and training around money advice, immigration, trauma-informed practice and childcare funding has resulted in 60% increase in families from the six priority groups accessing employability support: <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Priority family group</th> <th>2022/23 Engagements</th> <th>2023/24 Engagements</th> <th>2023/24 Job Outcomes</th> <th>2023/24 Education Outcomes</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Lone Parents</td> <td>696</td> <td>1206</td> <td>112</td> <td>63</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Parents under 25</td> <td>87</td> <td>138</td> <td>14</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Families with a child under one</td> <td>46</td> <td>69</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Large families (3+children)</td> <td>157</td> <td>269</td> <td>22</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Families where there is a disabled adult or child</td> <td>1085</td> <td>1520</td> <td>177</td> <td>95</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Minority ethnic families</td> <td>1206</td> <td>1931</td> <td>264</td> <td>128</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council's Parental Employability Support (PES) team launched a discretionary transition fund which supports parents from the six priority family groups to overcome barriers to employment, helping with costs including training, short-term childcare, PVGs, digital equipment, driving lessons and creche facilities. Since the fund was established in September 2023 to 31 March 2024, it has paid out £47,000 to 42 parents. • Capital City Partnership's Whole Family Equality Project continues to support over 230 parents a year from ethnically diverse backgrounds. The project has brought together ethnic minority-led and focused employability organisations to create an action plan | Priority family group | 2022/23 Engagements | 2023/24 Engagements | 2023/24 Job Outcomes | 2023/24 Education Outcomes | Lone Parents | 696 | 1206 | 112 | 63 | Parents under 25 | 87 | 138 | 14 | 8 | Families with a child under one | 46 | 69 | 7 | 8 | Large families (3+children) | 157 | 269 | 22 | 20 | Families where there is a disabled adult or child | 1085 | 1520 | 177 | 95 | Minority ethnic families | 1206 | 1931 | 264 | 128 |
| Priority family group | 2022/23 Engagements | 2023/24 Engagements | 2023/24 Job Outcomes | 2023/24 Education Outcomes | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lone Parents | 696 | 1206 | 112 | 63 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Parents under 25 | 87 | 138 | 14 | 8 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Families with a child under one | 46 | 69 | 7 | 8 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Large families (3+children) | 157 | 269 | 22 | 20 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Families where there is a disabled adult or child | 1085 | 1520 | 177 | 95 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Minority ethnic families | 1206 | 1931 | 264 | 128 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Action | Progress in 2024 and priorities for 2025 |
|--------|---|
| | <p>around closing the race employment gap. Research shows that language continues to be a barrier to employment and so, through the New Scots Strategy, a strategic framework is in development, to improve access and better understand the level of need.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All in Edinburgh, continues to support over 800 people with long-term health conditions and disability each year, and over this year, we supported providers to enhance their work with parents with a disability. However, there are still many people who cannot work due to ill health and disability, and work is continuing with colleagues in health to ensure that people are getting the support they need. • 1,284 young people who live in families experiencing generational poverty, have been supported in their journey to work, education, training or volunteering. A review has also been carried out on the provision for young people who are at risk of, or are, leaving school with no place in education, training or work and an additional 7 workers have been engaged to support their families with their own employment issues. • Capital City Partnership are collaborating with The City of Edinburgh Council, the Making it Work for Families Project, and End Poverty Edinburgh to develop resources and integrate an Anti-Stigma Charter into training and learning. • NHS Lothian Modern Apprenticeship programme is supporting 118 people across its Apprenticeship schemes, this includes 18 new Graduate Apprenticeships and 52 Modern Apprenticeships. <p>Priorities for the next 12 months</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch our new Network of Employment Support and Training grants informed by extensive stakeholder engagement to ensure that the needs of people living in poverty (both out of work and in low income employment) can be met. • Capital City Partnership's Whole Family Equality Project will work with employers to ensure that their workplaces are inclusive and flexible, welcoming places for people from ethnic minority backgrounds. • A new service will support young people with additional support needs and their families to increase their income and move towards sustainable employment • In collaboration with industry revisit our skills provision, ensuring that people have the expertise to apply for new higher skilled jobs in data and the green economy • Ensure that people with long-term health conditions are effectively sign-posted into employability support through better links with primary care • LEP NHS Lothian work placement pilots: testing a new approach to supported work placements across NHS Lothian. The four Lothian LEPs are funding 26 week placements across the Lothian health and care system. LEP keyworkers are also supporting individuals during the placements who have been identified by the NHS Lothian Workforce Development Team. The Workforce Development Team is supporting an accessible application process, tailored job placements, bespoke induction, in-placement training opportunities and support to apply for jobs within NHS Lothian at the end of the placement period. • NHS Lothian has a 3-year Employability Strategy (2024-2027) which sets out a range of priority actions to engage, support and actively encourage people, in particular young people, to think about careers in health. |

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 2023-24 shows that:

- **Attendance** levels at school remain challenging: 10% of pupils in primary schools and 20% of secondary pupils had low levels of attendance (less than 85%); the provisional figure for overall attendance as at end of May 2024 is 94%, with the figure for Scotland at 93%.
- **Attainment** at primary school level continues to increase, but the gap between pupils in the least deprived areas in the city and the total has increased slightly for literacy
- **Positive destinations** from school was 95% across all pupils and the gap between the total and the most deprived areas was fairly stable at 1.5%

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:

- Continuing to develop our **early years** support, increasing the number of available places for Terrific 2s, implementing an application system that identifies children who are eligible for places; and making our services more flexible to support parents and carers with their own employment
- Delivering a range of ways of **improving attendance** through the new Education Wellbeing Team and the appointment of Pupil Support Officers to address barriers through early intervention.
- Continuing to reduce the cost of school day and updating guidance for schools which includes removing financial barriers for families and reducing stigma.
- Continuing to develop **Discover!** during school holidays and **Discover More – Chill n Chat!**, which works with parents and carers during term time connecting them with free opportunities, services and advice. Many parents and carers attending Discover More - Chill n Chat experience in work poverty and cannot attend Discover during school holidays. Free food is provided at each session.
- Introducing the new approvals process for overseas school trips, where a panel considers applications through the lens of poverty and inequality as well as environmental sustainability and curricular relevance.
- Supporting **care experienced young people** through the We Matter Team, strengthened this year with a Principal Teacher for Care Experience and two Pupil Support Officers, funded by the CORRA foundation; and staff training to improve the culture within schools through our Communities that Care partnership with Who Cares? Scotland, to build knowledge and understanding.
- Ongoing delivery of our **professional learning programme**, "Leadership for Equity", to groups of senior and middle leaders and teachers, with 51% of school leaders completing the training, exceeding the target of 40%; and participation by over 1,600 teachers in the **Teachers' Charter**, core professional learning for educators, support staff and early years practitioners.

| Action | Progress in 2024 and priorities for 2025 |
|--------|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing to expand learning options for young people to improve their outcomes – this year we had 72 young people in S3 and S4, who had missed out on education, accessing flexible curriculums, and 35 young people from S3 and S4 access learning through our Virtual Learning Environment; all of our secondary schools have been working with Edinburgh College and Industry partners in developing vocational curriculum offers for 2024-25. • Over 30,000 children and young people benefitted from opportunities from the Wider Achievement and Lifelong Learning service. This includes free music lessons, participation in bands and orchestras, free Active Schools programmes, free or low-cost youth work and other family learning and outdoor opportunities. Screen Education Edinburgh specialises in developing learners from areas of deprivation and low-income backgrounds, those with disabilities, and from diverse backgrounds. Community Sports Hubs use sport to engage young people at risk of entering the criminal justice system and helping them find a different pathway. • Connected Communities Edinburgh Grants Programme for 2024-27 aims to address poverty and enhance equalities through three workstreams - health and wellbeing, learning outcomes and youthwork, with organisations able to apply for 3-year funding. <p>Priorities for next year include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to develop staff skills and professional learning, continue implementation of the Wider Achievement Framework for schools, and develop city wide youth and children’s work opportunities based on need • Continue to improve our use of data to track attainment, attendance and achievement and respond effectively • Review and revise procurement and policies for school uniforms • Secure further funding to develop Discover More – Chill n Chat! to widen the opportunities and engagement to term time for parents and carers experiencing in work poverty and who and cannot attend the holiday programmes. • Develop Multiply (UK Shared Prosperity Funded) offering adults on low income or not in work support with numeracy and literacies to help improve their employability and confidence. • Develop Health and Wellbeing provision to further focus on wellbeing linked to poverty such as physical activity, childhood obesity and mental health. |

B: Maximising support from social safety nets

| Action | Progress in 2024 and priorities for 2025 |
|---|--|
| <p>Maximise uptake of benefits entitlements and other income support</p> | <p>During the last year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advice service providers across the third and public sector provided advice and support to 20,373 individuals, with £23,824,024 financial gains for people across Edinburgh. This does not include the impact of income maximisation services within Housing Associations and employability projects. • The Council invested £500,000 to reduce child poverty, providing £150,000 in additional money and debt advice services; £200,000 to support poverty prevention, including data analytics tools to improve benefits uptake, and information toolkits to help frontline workers find the support their clients need; and £150,000 to provide immediate support to households in financial need through additional capacity for the Council's welfare and benefits team. • The Council has reviewed its advice services and has worked with partners to better align advice services across Edinburgh, including the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), Social Security Scotland (SSS), housing providers and NHS Lothian. • The Edinburgh Advice Network was launched to support a joined up approach to advice services across the city, and to establish better partnership engagement sessions, with regular meetings and opportunities to share resources and training. A co-ordinator has been recruited and will be in post for one year. • We have continued to raise awareness of illegal money lending through the Affordable Credit Action Plan; and the Edinburgh Partnership has formally joined the Scottish Illegal Money Lending Unit's (SIMLU) Loan Shark Charter. Training sessions on illegal money lending, delivered by SIMLU, have continued, engaging at least 16 different organisations and agencies across various sectors. • NHS Lothian Charity has a small hardship fund distributed via the Income Maximisation services provided in hospital settings. Funds are used to support patients and their families with food, travel, clothing whilst in hospital care <p>Priorities for next year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering a targeted outreach programme of communication and support activities to promote uptake of benefits entitlements. • Continue to respond to the recommendations of the Review of Welfare Rights and Debt Advice Services in Edinburgh, including the work of the Edinburgh Advice Network • Further developing the city's cash first approach through collaboration between all money and welfare advice as part of the work funded by Scottish Government's Tackling Child Poverty Cash First Fund • Work towards greater parity between the statutory and third sector – pay, security via longer term funding, pensions supported by job evaluation; and introduce Advisor and Support Worker roles to maximise use of limited pool of trained staff. • Reviewing the city's Preventing Problem Debt action plan |

| Action | Progress in 2024 and priorities for 2025 |
|---|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a commissioning specification for Edinburgh Integration Joint Board grants, which fund around a third of advice services • Improve the quality and consistency of data to support more effective monitoring and evaluation • Continue work to investigate options for provision of catering in NHS Lothian sites in partnership with social enterprises. This is focused on working with local partners to utilise buildings, deliver a service and then reinvest profits for community benefit, whilst providing a catering offer for staff, patients and visitors |
| 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 2024 the Edinburgh Partnership partners have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued to make it easier for people to access support by automating entitlements for free school meals and clothing grant awards. Over recent years these improvements have seen a significant increase in access to this support, with over 9,000 free school meal payments and nearly 8,400 clothing grant awards made in 2023/24 • Delivered £162.4m in housing benefit, £24.4m in Council Tax Reduction and £6.9m in Discretionary Housing Payment funding to low income families in Edinburgh • Administered the Scottish Welfare Fund in Edinburgh, including 29,500 Crisis Grant applications to a total value of £2.399m, and 7,876 Community Care Grants, to a value of £1.784m • Worked with a range of partners including Edinburgh University to develop ways of identifying people at risk of poverty at an earlier stage, using existing administrative data • Explored resources to provide people with access to support and funding, including Lightning Reach, a financial support portal, which is currently being piloted in one area of the city by the Family and Household Support service. • Been testing new approaches to ending poverty through successful bids for Scottish Government funding through the Child Poverty Accelerator Fund, building on the successful Discover! programme • Worked with partners to develop a Cash First approach to supporting people in a crisis, using Scottish Government funding. • Continued to develop the Menu for All network, established to deliver the Ending Poverty-Related Hunger in Edinburgh strategy, and led by Edinburgh Community Food. <p>Priorities for next year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to develop ways to identify people at risk of poverty and ways to provide support at an early stage • Develop a way to ensure that accurate, up to date information on sources of support are readily available to staff, volunteers and citizens |

| Action | Progress in 2024 and priorities for 2025 |
|--|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue the Cash First project, including developing actions in response to the mapping of food crisis supports in the city and carrying out tests of using a cash first approach in a number of settings. Continue to develop and consolidate the Menu for All network |
| <p>Help people to prevent homelessness and other crises</p> | <p>Homelessness and access to affordable housing continues to be the biggest and most visible driver of poverty in Edinburgh in 2024, as illustrated by the Council's declaration of a Housing Emergency in 2023. Reducing homelessness in the city is one of the key priorities in our Housing Emergency Action Plan and we are continuing to deliver our Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan with actions to prevent homelessness, ensure temporary accommodation meets the needs of the household, support people to access settled accommodation as quickly as possible and reduce rough sleeping.</p> <p>During the last year we have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevented homelessness for 461 households, supported 685 households to move on from temporary accommodation, answered 4,511 Advice Line calls and delivered 45 homelessness prevention training sessions. Established the Early Intervention Team in December 2023, to reach out to all households who contact homelessness services who are not immediately roofless, offering a meeting to identify opportunities to prevent homelessness. Continued to change the mix of temporary accommodation stock to meet the needs of the household, including an additional 60 beds in homeless accommodation with support; and increasing the number of households accessing homeshare accommodation. In line with the Housing Emergency Action Plan, increased the number of homes let to homeless households and reduced the number of void properties. Allocation levels for social rent to homelessness households were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 747 (67%) of Council homes (target was a minimum of 70%) 515 (53%) of RSL social rented homes (target was a minimum of 50%) Awarded contracts for homelessness support services including Housing First, Street Based Outreach and a Support Hub for rough sleepers. The average number of rough sleepers in the city at the end of March 2024 was 45. Started a pilot to support people experiencing homelessness to access employment: an Encompass employability advisor started in February 2024 and is currently supporting 9 people regularly, focusing on creating and updating CVs, exploring different industries and education options and looking at community activities people can do to increase their confidence, employability and wellbeing. Continued to provide a hospital in-reach service to support inpatients identified as being homeless to register with primary care, engage with the housing system, and gain help with income maximisation |

| Action | Progress in 2024 and priorities for 2025 |
|--------|--|
| | <p>Priorities for 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the Council and partners in the city are prepared for the forthcoming homelessness prevention duties including the duty on public sector bodies such as health and social care and the police to 'ask and act' in relation to someone's housing and homeless situation alongside the continued development of homelessness prevention activity to intervene earlier. |

C: Reducing the Cost of Living

| Action | Progress in 2024 and priorities for 2025 |
|--|---|
| <p>Deliver decent homes that people can afford to live in</p> | <p>The Council is the largest affordable housing developer in the city. Our Housing Emergency Action Plan is wide ranging and includes actions aimed improving access to housing and housing advice, improving the supply and quality of housing across the city and preventing harm and improving the experience of tenants in Council housing.</p> <p>Actions and progress over the last year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing affordable housing: working towards a 25,000 target - since 2017, around 9,700 new affordable homes have been approved (668 in 2023/24) and around 9,000 completed (934 in 2023/24); challenges include increasing costs and reduced funding. Despite the challenges posed by a 24% cut in Affordable Housing Supply Programme funding, a further 587 new affordable home approvals and 836 completions are projected in 2024/25. • Funding for Affordable Homes: with the support of £8.7m of UK Tariff funding and £8.36m of Scottish Government ULTRF funding, a total of 90 new homes were approved for purchase to provide settled accommodation for Ukrainian families. • Managing stock: the average time to re-let our properties was higher in 2023/24 compared to 2022/23 (134 compared to 106 days), stemming from a backlog built up during the COVID pandemic. Actions to date reduced voids by a quarter by Summer 2024. • Regulation of short term lets to increase access to housing: the Edinburgh Short-term Let Control Area came into force in September 2022, allowing us to control the number of properties that change use from residential properties to short-term lets and we have implemented short term let regulation enforcement. • Improving quality: delivering digital tools to make it easier for tenants to report issues, request repairs and schedule appointments; for the service to track repairs through the Total Mobile system; and improvements to the environment of neighbourhoods. Health and safety improvements underway include lift and fire door replacement, CCTV upgrades and cladding replacement. • Energy efficiency: we are working to deliver a Whole House Retrofit (WHR) programme by 2028/29 to bring social housing across the city to the highest energy standards. This will reduce energy demand and tackle fuel poverty whilst also supporting climate justice. The |

MTIS project above has made over 900 homes more energy efficient, benefiting over 670 council tenants and 230 private residents with lower energy bills and reduced energy consumption.

Priorities for 2025:

- Continue dialogue with Scottish Government about the need for additional funding and to inform the introduction of rent control.
- Establish a strategic Housing Partnership, as part of the Edinburgh Community Planning Partnership structure, to ensure a citywide community planning focus on the housing and homelessness issues facing the city
- Consult with Council tenants on investment priorities to support the development of the 2025/26 Council's housing services budget
- Reduce the time to re-let our homes
- Continue to progress the WHR programme in both low rise and multi-storey blocks through strategic investment on area-based regeneration.

Action Progress in 2024 and priorities for 2025

Provide targeted support for rising energy costs

Rising energy costs in recent years have increased the urgency of additional support to help households on low incomes in Edinburgh avoid having to face the 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.

Actions during the past year have included:

- **Energy Advice Service** secured savings for Council tenants of more than £206,000 in 2022/23 - around £428 for each household engaged
- In autumn/winter 2023 **Home Energy Scotland** advisors attended 50 clinics at the mass vaccination site in Ocean Terminal. In total almost 2,000 people were supported, with around 10% requesting further, ongoing support. HES are seeking to expand their reach and presence at clinics in 2024, taking this good practice across South East Scotland.
- The Council's **warm and welcoming** 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.

Work on all these initiatives will continue during 2025.

Improve access to affordable childcare

Access to affordable childcare can be key to families being able to escape from poverty particularly for women and lone parents, who want to work. However, the cost of childcare is rising and there are waiting lists for places.

Actions to address this issue during the past year, and for continued delivery in 2025, include:

- Continued delivery of the Council's **Early Years Expansion Plan**, 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.

| Action | Progress in 2024 and priorities for 2025 |
|--------|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edinburgh's new Affordable Childcare for Working Parents service launched on 1 August 2024 following a review. Four childcare providers are contracted to allow the Council to subsidise places for working parents experiencing poverty or where the cost of childcare pushes them into poverty. Parental Employability Support (PES) officers work with parents to assess their eligibility for the subsidy, offer support around a range of barriers that they may be facing, and link them in with the Council's Advice Shop to ensure they are accessing all financial support available to them. • Funding provision of creche places for parents engaged in training for employment • Funding the development of a childcare information website for parents along with an investigation into a flexible childcare booking system in response to feedback from parents that finding childcare is confusing and stressful • A parent-led childcare pilot funded through the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund, to co-produce and sustain a model of parent-led out of school care provision across Edinburgh |

| Action | Progress in 2024 and priorities for 2025 |
|--|--|
| <p>Improve digital inclusion and access to affordable transport</p> | <p>A lack of digital skills and access 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.</p> <p>Key actions over the last year include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued work by the Edinburgh Partnership, led by People Know How, to develop a charter on digital inclusion to ensure equity of access for workforces and the public across Edinburgh Continued delivery of actions in the Council's Digital and Smart City Strategy on digital skills and inclusion As part of our work to introduce a wide range of services online, we are using evidence including the Accessible Housing Study to shape online forms and are providing support for people who need to develop digital literacy skills. Staff are available to support online application, with paper application still available where preferred. Through the Empowered learning Programme we have rolled out personal digital devices for every school pupil from P6 to S6 with 27,500 new iPads issued to pupils/teachers, refreshed iPads for up to 12,000 pupils/teachers and expanded connectivity through additional wireless access points in schools. Upgrading the People's Network Service across all libraries with 155 computers with improved connectivity and more reliable access; Wi-Fi printing has been introduced, widening access to printing facilities in libraries Providing the citywide Get Online Digital Skills Programme with volunteers supporting people to improve their digital skills on a 1-2-1 basis at their local library <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. The Council continues to implement actions through the City Mobility Plan.</p> <p>Over the past year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first review of the Plan was published in February 2024. and states that we will build on recent investments to ensure that our public transport continues to be reliable, safe, affordable and convenient. A key finding of the review was that public transport remains comparatively more affordable in most cases than the other three comparator cities (Dundee, Aberdeen, Glasgow). Scottish Government schemes 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. |

D: Making it easier to find help

| Action | Progress in 2024 and priorities for 2025 |
|--|---|
| <p>Deliver integrated, ‘no wrong door’ approaches to service delivery and prevention of poverty</p> | <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></p> <p>Towards this long-term challenge, actions delivered during this year have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Six projects have been funded through the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund</u> to support the whole system transformational change needed to reduce the need for crisis intervention and move towards prevention and early intervention: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Family Hub Collaborative which will provide bespoke holistic whole-family support throughout the early years ○ The Parent Infant Partnership focusing on the first 1,000 days of a child’s life, where the level of risk and need is high ○ The Edinburgh Family Support Partnership will focus on providing families with early and preventative help in their local community ○ The Whole Family Wellbeing Hub to support families with a child or young person with a disability ○ Youth Work and Mental Health Hubs (Time to Talk) supporting and improving young people’s mental health and well-being ○ Parent-led affordable out of school childcare to increase resilience and capacity within existing out of school care providers and deliver pilot parent-led out of school provision in one part of the City • Continuing to deliver welfare advice services in the Edinburgh acute hospitals, making access easier for families who may struggle to engage with community based services, or who may find they are experiencing financial difficulties as a result of their child’s illness or hospital stay. The advisers also offer advice and support a range of issues in addition to benefits, including finance, immigration, employment, housing and debt These services are funded until the end of September 2025. • Implementing the new Edinburgh Children’s Partnership Plan which 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 collect data (including on priority family groups) to help us to understand how well our services are reaching families most likely to be living in poverty. <p>Priorities for next year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue the actions above to drive significant public sector reform in Edinburgh to support early identification of families in need of support, and effective interventions that prevent harm and support improved outcomes for people and services. |

| Action | Progress in 2024 and priorities for 2025 |
|---|---|
| <p>Provide the support people need, in the places they live and work</p> | <p>Actions carried out in 2024, and for further development in 2025, 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"> • We have opened a new citizen space at Tynecastle community wing which provides new, convenient, and welcoming space for people to access Council services and receive advice locally • We are continuing to embed the 20-minute neighbourhood approach and have a number of projects ongoing to deliver integrated and co-located services. The MacMillan Hub (incorporating a library, early years centre, skills hub, and art facility) and the new Maybury Primary School and Community Hub (with integrated health centre and GP surgery) which are due to open in Autumn 2024; and we are consultation on designs for both Dalry and Portobello town centers. • Team Around the Learning Community pilots in Liberton and Craigmillar High Schools continue aiming 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. • Work is ongoing in two areas as part “A good place to live” to improve the outcomes of the most vulnerable children, young people, and their families: in Liberton, the work is aligned with the Team Around the Learning Community (TALC), with progress made in better understanding the distinct populations in the “new” and “old” neighbourhoods, as well as the patterns of poverty and inequality in the area which will inform actions; while the focus of work in Craigmillar has been the engagement with children and young people, getting their insights on living in the area and using these to develop an action plan. Learning from this engagement with children and young people has been developed into a guide which will be rolled out citywide to support partners in similar initiatives. |
| <p>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> | <p>Building on the successful 1 in 5 child poverty awareness programme developed in Edinburgh schools, and the Money Counts Training for Council and partner agencies, work this year has focused on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reviewing, aligning and streamlining the range of poverty and prevention-related training offered to staff, including homelessness prevention and Money Counts Training for Council and partner agencies. Updating content to include taking a cash first approach, trauma informed and stigma. ○ We have updated the Money Counts Training programme to include a cash-first approach, prioritises immediate financial assistance to those in need, taking a trauma-informed approach and reducing stigma; delivering 13 training sessions to 203 front-line staff from 47 different organisations across the city, including a bespoke session for the Care Experienced nursing team. Evaluation feedback showed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 93% felt that ‘the course was appropriate for my role and responsibilities’ ○ 89% felt that ‘the course has made me more aware of the causes and impact of poverty’ |

| Action | Progress in 2024 and priorities for 2025 |
|--------|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 81% felt that 'I feel more able to identify people experiencing money worries and poverty as a result of taking part in the course' ○ 81% felt that 'I feel more confident to have a conversation with people about their money worries as a result of taking part in the course' ○ 90% felt that 'I feel more informed about where to signpost people for more information and support around a range of money worries'. <p>○ Working with people with lived experience and partners from Capital City Partnership to develop a short film to be used as part of staff training on people's experiences of living in poverty and seeking help</p> <p>Priorities for the next year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Through our successful bid for Scottish Government funding (CPAF round 2), we will test an approach to the development of easily accessible training and toolkits to challenge poverty related stigma among colleagues across the statutory and third sectors across the City of Edinburgh. ○ Continue to review, develop, update and align training materials, and link to wider UNCRC work ○ Prioritise training to support key frontline workers to support early intervention and prevention of poverty, focusing on uptake by key NHS teams, including those working in acute services ○ Continue to explore opportunities for sharing resources and training capacity between the Council, NHS, Health and Social Care Partnership and third sector |

CASE STUDY: TESTING INNOVATION – CASH FIRST APPROACHES TO END THE NEED FOR FOODBANKS

Partners made a successful bid to the Scottish Government for funding to work towards ending the need for foodbanks in Scotland.

Edinburgh's project, **Menu for All - Joining Food & Support Access Edinburgh**, aims to develop a clear overview of emergency food provision in the city, how the cash first approach is understood and being used by providers, and what actions need to be taken to embed the approach to help lift people out of poverty. A number of tests of change will also be done to look at how cash first might work best in practice.

Progress to date includes:

- Recruitment of a co-ordinator, whose activities have been to visit providers and find out directly from them about current approaches and challenges
- The mapping of current provision was commissioned and is now complete, with findings and recommendations under development, for discussion with stakeholders.
- A number of tests of change are being developed to test cash first approaches in practice. These include improving and integrating systems that already exist, creating new referral pathways for support, offering a cash payment where appropriate to learn if these approaches together increase engagement in wraparound support; while the second test focuses on infant food security.

CASE STUDY: TESTING INNOVATION – INCOME MAXIMISATION AND WRAP AROUND SUPPORT

Investment secured through the **Scottish Government Child Poverty Accelerator Fund (CPAF)** has been used to deliver test of change projects for income maximization outreach support in Edinburgh during 2024.

This funding, of £80,000, has been used to:

- Trial methods to promote and extend the **Discover! Programme** (Holiday programme for families living in poverty).
- Fund Screen Education Edinburgh to create an information video for Discover!
- Trial and launch **Chill and Chat services**. Four Chill and Chat hubs are currently being rolled out across the city, with activities being offered informed by families who attended Discover! These aim to improve family resilience and confidence and encourage take up and impact of the main Discover! Programme.
- Test ways of embedding **income maximisation advice workers within support services targeted at families with disabled adults or children**. This includes a trial of early intervention outreach work in midwifery and health visitor services and in early years settings.

Appendix 1: Poverty in Edinburgh

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 the latest official estimates relate to the period to Spring 2023. In line with Scottish Government guidance, where possible data are presented as three-year rolling averages to maximise reliability. As a result, it should be noted that the most current period for which data is available (2020-23) includes the period affected by the covid pandemic and the cost of living crisis, as well as temporary measures taken by governments to support household incomes during those periods.

For this analysis, 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.

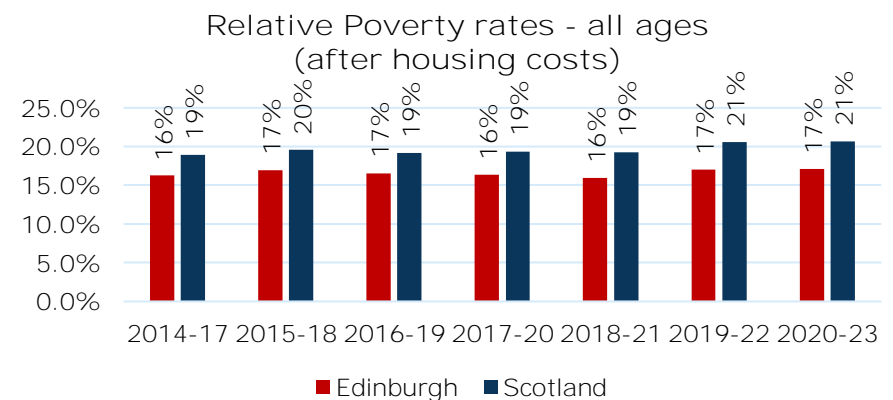
In Scotland in 2023 this meant that **a couple with 2 children** are in poverty if their household income after tax and housing costs falls below **£534 per week (£27,800 per annum)**, or **£191 pw for a single person with no children (£10,000 per annum)**.

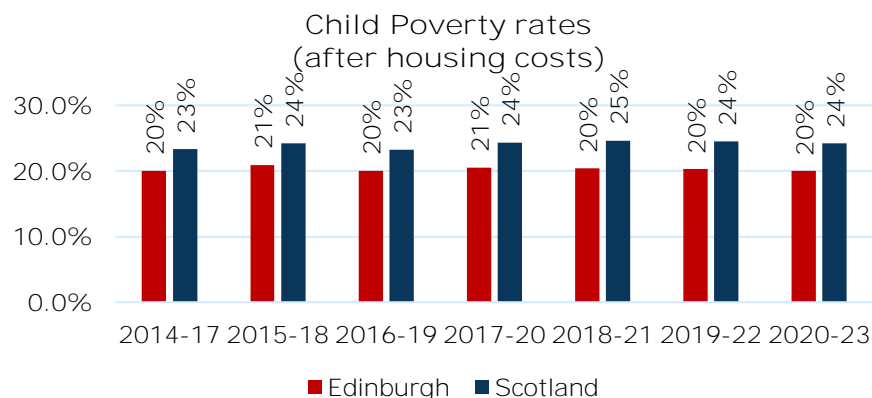
Trends in headline poverty rates remain unchanged

An estimated **17% of people** in Edinburgh were living in poverty in the period to spring 2023, accounting for over 87,000 individuals^{viii}. These included over 17,200 children, **or 20% of all children in the city**. 10% of all Edinburgh residents (including 14% of all children) had been living in poverty for three of the past four years.^{ix}

These data show that headline poverty rates have remained relatively unchanged in recent years. All age poverty rates in Edinburgh have risen by 0.5 percentage points in the period since 2020, for instance, while child poverty rates have fallen by a similar amount. These are trends largely in line with Scotland wide averages.

Analysis by the Institute of Fiscal Studies notes that these trends are driven by general stagnation in household incomes and earnings from employment across the UK during the period covered by the pandemic and cost of living crisis, with incomes for the poorest households falling at a similar rate to those of middle income households^x.





Despite these flat trend, Scottish Government analysis does suggest that policy interventions taken by local and national partners have likely been successful in preventing a further increase in child poverty in recent years.

This analysis indicates that in the absence of a package of local and national actions, child poverty rates in Scotland would be 4 percentage points higher than the actual rate recorded in 2021/22, rising to an expected 10 percentage points by 2024/25^{xi}.

Of this impact, around 60% is attributed to the effect of the Scottish Child Payment with the remaining impact resulting from range of interventions including those delivered by local government and partners (including Free School Meals; School Clothing Grant; Council Tax Reduction; Discretionary Housing Payments; and employability services).

If applied to Edinburgh on a pro-rata basis, this modelling could mean that this policy package:

- **Helped keep 2,300 children out of poverty in 2022**
- **With around 1,000 of this impact attributable to actions delivered by local partners.**

National and local 2030 targets will be challenging to meet

While the impact of key headline policies such as the Scottish Child Payment are expected to increase over time as roll out continues, the assessment of most commentators – including the Scottish Poverty and Inequality Commission^{xii}, and Fraser of Allander Institute^{xiii} – is that without significant additional action the Scottish Government is unlikely to meet the child poverty targets it set for 2030.

To meet the headline targets set by Scottish Government and the Edinburgh Poverty Commission will need:

- A **14 percentage point reduction** in child poverty rates across Scotland as a whole over the 7 years from 2023-2030
- A **10 percentage point reduction** in child poverty rates in Edinburgh over the same period, and
- A **7 percentage point reduction** in all age poverty rates in Edinburgh

In broad numeric terms these imply a need for actions to lift at least:

- **36,000 people, including 8,600 children out of poverty over the 7 years from 2023-30 in Edinburgh alone.**

These are challenging targets to meet, particularly in a fiscal and macro-economic environment in which most forecasters project an upward pressure on poverty rates over the next few years.

Based on current policy assumptions, recent analysis by the Resolution Foundation projects relative poverty rates across the UK to **rise by 1 percentage point over the period 2024/25 to 2029/30**. Transposed to Edinburgh, this would equate to **an additional 5,000 people** falling into poverty^{xiv}.

This outlook is driven by assumptions of:

- Slow productivity growth across the UK economy
- Slow growth in the real value of earnings from work
- Continued freezes to personal tax thresholds
- The cost of housing rising faster than earnings
- Continued freezes to Local Housing Allowances
- Continued roll out of 2 child limit policies, all of which result in
- Worse than average income growth trends for families with children and for poorer households.

Under these assumptions real household incomes the poorest fifth of households in the UK are projected to be 7% lower in 2030 than they were in 2022.

The experience of poverty is becoming more severe over time

Research published by Joseph Rowntree Foundation in 2023^{xv} 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.

At the same time, the biannual Destitution in the UK report published by Heriot Watt University finds a rapid increase over recent years in the number of UK households who are going without essentials such as shelter, food, heat, light, clothing, or basic toiletries^{xvi}. The analysis estimates that **12,200 households experienced destitution in Edinburgh in 2022, a 23% increase over the period since 2019**^{xvii}.

These trends show that headline poverty data can mask significant changes in the way that poverty impacts on people’s lives and wellbeing

and is confirmed by other local datasets showing large and increasing numbers of Edinburgh citizens regularly going without basic essentials such as food and shelter.

Data from NHS Lothian estimates that **12.6% of people across Edinburgh and Lothians experienced food insecurity in 2023** – meaning they worried they would run out of food because of a lack of money or resources. In Edinburgh, this rate would be the equivalent of almost **65,000 people**. These rates are even higher among people living in low income areas of the region, where **over a quarter of households** worry about running out of food for their families^{xviii}.

The same data source found that **14.2%** of people in Edinburgh and the Lothians experienced a time when they were **unable to heat their home or cook food** because of a lack of money or resources in 2023. In Edinburgh, this rate would be the equivalent of **over 70,000 people**.

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 households are at a far higher risk of poverty than the population at large.

Child Poverty rates by priority group, Scotland

| | 2020-23* |
|---|----------|
| All children | 24% |
| 3 or more children in the household | 38% |
| Disabled household member(s) | 27% |
| Youngest child in the household is under 1 (2018-21 data) | 34% |
| Minority ethnic household | 43% |
| Single parent in the household | 38% |
| Mother under 25 in household (2015-18 data) | 55% |

*: unless otherwise stated. Some breakdowns are not available for every period.

As noted in previous reports, analysis also shows a **higher overall risk of poverty faced by women**. This arises partly through a close link 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.

In addition to these analyses, data from the Destitution in the UK 2023 report further shows more detail on the distribution of destitution and very deep poverty by household type, showing that:

- single people aged between 25 and 44 remain the key group who experience destitution across the UK
- two thirds of people in destitution have a chronic health problem or disability
- Black, black Caribbean and African households account for over 12% of all people experiencing destitution, but only 4% of the population as a whole
- Migrant populations account for over 20% of all households experiencing destitution in Edinburgh.

Spatial inequalities in poverty risk across Edinburgh are wide.

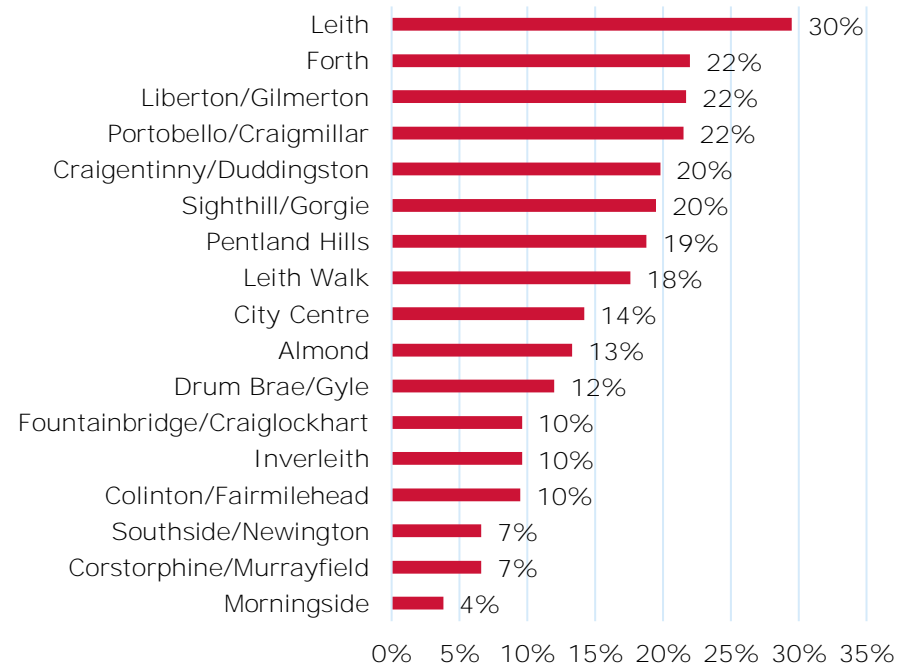
Data published in 2024 by DWP illustrates the wide inequalities in child poverty risk across small areas in Edinburgh. At electoral ward level, poverty rates in Leith are recorded at levels six times that estimated in Morningside^{xix}.

This data, it should be noted, are presented on a ‘before housing costs’ basis and using a different methodology to the Scotland and Edinburgh

estimates shown above. As such they are likely to understate the preferred ‘after housing costs’ measure by around 5 percentage points in each ward on average.

Overall, these 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 by electoral ward (Before Housing Costs), 2023



Appendix 2: Key Progress Measures

| Table A1 Progress against headline Edinburgh Poverty Commission and Scottish Government Targets | | | |
|---|---|---|----------------------------------|
| Edinburgh Poverty Commission Targets^{xx} | 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 | <i>2017-20</i> 16% (all ages); 21% (children) | <i>2020-23</i> 17% (all ages); 20% (children) | +1% (all ages) -1% (children) |
| 2. No one has to go without the basic essentials they need to eat, keep clean and safe, and stay warm and dry | <i>2019</i> 9,900 individuals | <i>2022</i> 12,200 individuals | +23% |
| 3. No-one lives in persistent poverty. | <i>2016-20</i> (Scotland data only) 11% (all ages) 13% (children) | <i>2019-22</i> (Scotland data only) 10% (all ages) 14% (children) | -1% (all ages) +1% (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 |
| Scottish Government Child Poverty 2030 Targets^{xxi} | | | |
| Fewer than 5% of children should live in absolute poverty | <i>2017-20</i> 21% (Scotland data only) | <i>2020-23</i> 21% (Scotland data only) | Stable |
| Fewer than 5% of children should live in combined low income and material deprivation | <i>2016-20</i> 13% (Scotland data only) | <i>2020-23</i> 10% (Scotland data only) | -3% |

Table A2: Progress measures by EPC call to action^{xxii}

| Fair Work that provides enough to live on | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Unemployed Edinburgh citizens ^{xxiii} | 6,900 | 12,500 | 9,000 | 7,100 | 11,300 |
| Universal Credit claimants ^{xxiv} | 14,425 | 37,935 | 32,423 | 34,538 | 39,314 |
| No. Living wage accredited employers in Edinburgh ^{xxv} | 334 | 422 | 526 | 640 | 720 |
| Edinburgh Employers Recruitment Incentive – uptake of places (all ages) | 28 | 43 | 89 | 104 | 56 |
| No One Left Behind Funding: number of young people who were supported | 168 | 161 | 266 | 903 | 1,284 |
| Number of people supported by City of Edinburgh Council funded employability programme | 3,719 | 3,761 | 3,842 | 4,148 | 4,948 |
| % of Council suppliers of new regulated tendered contracts that are committed to paying real living wage in delivering Council services | 70% | 79% | 87% | 82% | 96% |
| | | | | | |
| A decent home we can afford to live in | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 |
| Total number of applicants on EdIndex register | 23,998 | 20,564 | 21,013 | 23,550 | 25,226 |
| Demand for social housing – number of active bidders | 7,099 | 7,213 | 6,339 | 11,150 | 12,303 |
| Average bid per property | 203 | 201 | 140 | 185 | 242 |
| Number of affordable homes approved | 1,930 | 1,285 | 1,251 | 734 | 668 |

| | | | | | |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Number of affordable homes completed | 1,443 | 1,087 | 1,041 | 1,215 | 934 |
| Homes for social rent completed – total | 648 | 252 | 247 | 451 | 385 |
| Homes for social rent completed – local authority | 208 | 92 | 70 | 54 | 177 |
| Number of households assessed as homeless | 3,355 | 1,929 | 2,399 | 3,287 | 3,434 |
| Number of households who seek housing advice who do not go on to present as homeless | 1,708 | 1,521 | 1,288 | 1,143 | 1,546 |
| The number of households in temporary accommodation (at 31 March) | 3,570 | 4,431 | 4,722 | 4,431 | 4,969 |
| Percentage of households in unsuitable temporary accommodation (as at 31 March) | 22% | 25.1% | 25.3% | 25.7% | 27.0% |
| | | | | | |
| income security that provides a real lifeline | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 |
| Council Advice Shop – number of individual welfare rights clients in year | 3,800 | 5,752 | 7,265 | 3,075 | 3,709 |
| Council Advice Shop - total financial gain | £ 11,497,227 | £ 8,524,682 | £ 6,971,968 | £ 6,725,935 | £ 7,634,849 |
| Council tax reduction scheme – average caseload per year | 32,467 | 35,282 | 32,946 | 31,327 | 31,080 |
| Discretionary housing payments | 7,427 | 8,205 | 7,806 | 7,766 | 7,682 |
| Number of free school meals payments in school year | 5,950 | 8,828 | 8,994 | 9,576 | 9,064 |
| Number of clothing grant awards in school year | 5,337 | 8,301 | 9,773 | 9,013 | 8,371 |

| | | | | | |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Scottish Welfare Fund – no. applications for Crisis Grants | 16,367 | 35,923 | 32,616 | 31,647 | 29,500 |
| SWF – no. applications for Community Care Grants | 5,377 | 8,320 | 8,503 | 8,450 | 7,876 |
| | | | | | |
| Opportunities that drive justice and boost prospects^{xxvi} | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 |
| % parents receiving funded Early Learning and Childcare through their preferred model of delivery. | - | - | 74.1% | - | 91.2% |
| Low attendance: % of Primary pupils whose attendance is less than 85% | - | 10.6% | 14.0% | 11.2% | 9.6% |
| Low attendance: % of Secondary students whose attendance is less than 85% | - | 17.2% | 19.1% | 20.2% | 19.7% |
| Literacy (all pupils) - The % of pupils in Primaries 1, 4 & 7 who achieve their expected Curriculum for Excellence level | - | 73.8% | 77.0% | 77.3% | 78.2% |
| Literacy (Lowest SIMD Quintile) - The % of pupils in Primaries 1, 4 & 7 who achieve their expected Curriculum for Excellence level | - | 57.3% | 62.5% | 64.4% | 65% |
| Numeracy (all pupils) - The % of pupils in Primaries 1, 4 & 7 who achieve their expected Curriculum for Excellence level | - | 80.4% | 83.0% | 83.7% | 84.1% |
| Numeracy (Lowest SIMD Quintile) - The % of pupils in Primaries 1, 4 & 7 who achieve their expected Curriculum for Excellence level | - | 65.1% | 71.4% | 72.3% | 73.0% |

| | | | | | |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| 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% | 68.2% | |
| 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% | 44.9% | |
| Positive destinations for school leavers - all pupils | 92.5% | 95.1% | 96.1% | 95.3% | |
| Positive destinations for school leavers - Lowest SIMD Quintile | 88.9% | 91.7% | 94.7% | 93.8% | |
| | | | | | |
| Connections in a city that belongs to us | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 |
| Proportion of people living in areas with low levels of public transport ^{xxvii} | 10% | - | - | - | 13% |
| No. CEC homes connected to fibre-to-the-property (FTTP) infrastructure ^{xxviii} | 1,515 (7.7%) | 8,917 (45%) | 15,449 (83%) | - | 19,880 (80%) |
| | | | | | |
| Equality in our health and wellbeing^{xxix} | 2017-2019 | 2018-2020 | 2019-2021 | 2020-2022 | |
| 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 ^{xxx} | 534.6 | 539.3 | 547.2 | Not available | |
| | 2015-2019 | 2016-2020 | 2017-2021 | 2018-2022 | |
| 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 | |
| | 2017-2019 | 2018-2020 | 2019-2021 | 2020-2022 | |
| 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 | |
| | 2018/19 | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | 2021/22 | 2022/23 |
| Child Development: difference in the % of 27-30 month reviews with any developmental concern between SIMD quintiles 1 and 5 ^{xxxi} | 14.9 | 13.4 | 13.3 | 11.7 | 18.1 |
| | 2018/19 | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | 2021/22 | 2022/23 |
| Mental Health: difference in the % population prescribed drugs for mild to moderate mental health prescriptions between SIMD quintiles 1 and 5) | 9.8 | 9.7 | 9.4 | 9.3 | NA |

-
- ⁱ [‘A Just Capital – Actions to End Poverty in Edinburgh’](#) Edinburgh Poverty Commission, September 2020
- ⁱⁱ 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](#) – and the Scottish Government - <https://data.gov.scot/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
- ⁱⁱⁱ [The Living Standards Outlook 2024 • Resolution Foundation](#)
- ^{iv} https://researchportal.hw.ac.uk/files/103278482/Technical_Report_Destitution_in_the_UK_2023_ProofedFinal2.pdf
- ^v [Children in low income families: local area statistics 2014 to 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- ^{vi} <https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/documents/s74160/Item%206.4%20-%20DRAFT%20EP%20Poverty%20Prevention.pdf>
- ^{vii} <https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/documents/s74856/7.11%20-%20Sustainable%20Procurement%20Strategy%20Annual%20Report%20-%202024%20-%20V2.pdf>
- ^{viii} 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](#) – and the Scottish Government - <https://data.gov.scot/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
- ^{ix} <https://data.gov.scot/poverty>
- ^x [Living standards, poverty and inequality in the UK: 2024 | Institute for Fiscal Studies \(ifs.org.uk\)](#)
- ^{xi} [4. Results - Child poverty cumulative impact assessment: update - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)
- ^{xii} https://povertyinequality.scot/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Child_Poverty_Delivery_Plan_progress_2023-2024_Scrutiny_by_the_Poverty_and_Inequality_Commission.pdf
- ^{xiii} [Child poverty statistics update Scotland 2022/23 | FAI \(fraserofallander.org\)](#)
- ^{xiv} [The Living Standards Outlook 2024 • Resolution Foundation](#)
- ^{xv} [Poverty in Scotland 2023 | JRF](#)
- ^{xvi} [Destitution in the UK 2023 | Joseph Rowntree Foundation \(jrf.org.uk\)](#)

xvii https://researchportal.hw.ac.uk/files/103278482/Technical_Report_Destitution_in_the_UK_2023_ProofedFinal2.pdf

xviii [NHS Lothian Public Health Survey Results](#)

xix [Children in low income families: local area statistics 2014 to 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

xx 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

xxi 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.

xxii All data from All data from City of Edinburgh Council records unless listed below

xxiii Unemployment levels are from ONS Annual Population Survey, via [NOMIS](#)

xxiv Universal Credit claimant numbers (as at June) via [DWP](#)

xxv 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.

xxvi Opportunities: school attendance, attainment, and destination rates via [Scottish Government School Education Statistics](#)

xxvii Figure for 2019-20 revised to use new methodology

xxviii Between 2021-22 and 2023-24, the stock list was revised to include dwellings which had been missed and so the total (denominator) increased.

xxix 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](#).

xxx 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 \(www.gov.scot\)](#))

xxxi Data source: [Early Child Development - 27-30 Month Review Statistics - Review by SIMD for Council Areas - Scottish Health and Social Care Open Data \(nhs.scot\)](#)

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THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

Briefing Paper : Update on the Ending Poverty Related Hunger Strategy

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This paper provides an update on progress with the implementation of the Ending Poverty Related Hunger Strategy, and describes the work undertaken through the Scottish Government's Cash First fund in relation to the strategy, following a successful bid by partners.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Board is recommended to:
- i. Note the progress update provided below, and that this has been facilitated through the additional resources provided through the Scottish Government's Cash First Fund.
 - ii. Recognise the valuable roles played by the Cash First Co-ordinator and third sector partners, particularly Edinburgh Community Food, who lead the implementation of the strategy.
 - iii. Recognising that this work forms part of the city's actions to end poverty in Edinburgh consider what resourcing, support and direction the Edinburgh Partnership Board can give to this workstream.
 - iv. Consider sustainable funding offers to promote stability in service provision for citizens experiencing food insecurity.

3. Main Report

- 3.1 Responding to a call to action from the Edinburgh Poverty Commission and recognising that food poverty spans all three of the LOIP priorities, the Edinburgh Partnership commissioned the development of a strategy for Ending Poverty Related Hunger in Edinburgh.
- 3.2 The strategy was approved by the Board in March 2023. By approving the strategy, Edinburgh Partnership members committed to ensuring that:
- **No one in Edinburgh needs to go hungry due a lack of money**, that
 - When do people 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**, and that

- **Community food initiatives** are available in all parts of Edinburgh which give people access to affordable, nutritious food, build people's **wellbeing**, improve **skills and confidence**, and play a role in prevention and early intervention by helping people access the wider supports and social interaction they need to get by
 - **All supports are non-stigmatising**
- 3.3 The Ending Poverty Related Hunger in Edinburgh Strategy forms part of the End Poverty in Edinburgh Action Plan, a comprehensive series of actions across the drivers of poverty, developed in response to the [Edinburgh Poverty Commission's call to action](#).
- 3.4 In approving the strategy, the Board noted that a steering group had been set up to establish the Edinburgh Food Network (now called Edinburgh Menu for All), that it would be led by Edinburgh Community Food and that it would deliver the actions specified in the strategy. The Board also agreed to receive updates on progress.
- 3.5 To date, the implementation of the strategy has been supported in-kind by staff across the statutory and third sector organisations.
- 3.6 Implementation has been further boosted by the award of Scottish Government Cash First [£200k over 2 years Managed by EHSCP on behalf of partners]. The funding has been used to:
- 3.6.1 Commission the mapping of emergency and community food provision in Edinburgh from the Diffley Partnership
 - 3.6.2 Employ a Cash First Co-ordinator from April 2024 until October 2025, who works to support the LOIP1 workstream, the Ending Poverty Related Hunger implementation plan and the tests of change funded through SG Cash First funding

Progress update: Cash First project - mapping

- 3.7 The mapping carried out by Diffley shows that there are at least 99 different emergency and community food projects in the city provided by more than 38 organisations for people experiencing food insecurity. These include foodbanks, food pantries, food parcel delivery services, community meals and cafes. This reflects a fragmented provision which can result in difficulty knowing where to get help in a crisis. Organisations find it challenging to know where to signpost or refer people for additional supports. There is a lack of access to weekend or out-of-hours provision for people experiencing food insecurity.
- 3.8 Three significant risks that were identified for the sector:
- 3.8.1 Unstable funding: only 5 of the 38 organisations have funding in place for 2025/2026.
 - 3.8.2 The supply chain is reliant on donations from various organisations, primarily through Fareshare. All organisations report a significant reduction

in food donations which results in organisations purchasing additional food. Directly related to this point, a key stakeholder has subsequently highlighted that donated food can lack nutritional value, balance and variety.

- 3.8.3 The workforce is heavily reliant on volunteers which posed challenges around workforce retention, training, and knowledge of wider supports for individuals.
- 3.9 Challenges identified included language, with one providing citing language barriers as the biggest challenge they face, reflecting the changing demography of the city. Aligned with this point on language is the need to consider culturally appropriate foods.
- 3.10 The report included five recommendations for next steps, which align with the Ending Poverty Related Hunger Strategy:
 - 3.10.1 Work with organisations to create a standardised data set to give a clear understanding of need and inform evidence-based decision making.
 - 3.10.2 Support service development and quality improvement, with a focus on dignity, nutrition, hygiene, and climate action.
 - 3.10.3 Support services to cooperate on plans, pool resources, develop and build connections with additional supports e.g. through a 'Community Hub Model'; and alongside this, having one place to find out about additional supports.
 - 3.10.4 Recognising the risks of funding reductions and increasing costs, encourage longer-term funding decisions to allow for strategic planning, innovation, and development. Additionally seek to promote social enterprises models and a mechanism to raise additional, unrestricted funds to lessen the risk of unsustainable funding.
 - 3.10.5 Integrate the sector with wider poverty alleviation and prevention work. The Edinburgh Menu for All Network seeks to connect food and support. An important next step will be to consolidate and expand the work of this network to input into collective, city wide efforts around poverty prevention and avoid duplication.

Progress on the implementation of the wider strategy

- 3.11 Edinburgh Community Food are continuing to lead the work to develop and support the Edinburgh Menu for All Network, and the implementation of the strategy.
- 3.12 A core group with representatives from the statutory and third sector meets on a monthly basis to discuss progress.
- 3.13 Progress to date has included:
 - 3.13.1 Delivery of the mapping by Diffley and incorporation of findings into the strategy implementation plan (see above).

- 3.13.2 Allocating additional Welfare Rights Advisor support in food bank/ food insecurity using one off funding from the Council
- 3.13.3 Engagement by the Co-ordinator with 5 groups of people with direct experience of food insecurity through food pantries, foodbanks, toddler groups and a mother and baby sessions to seek their views and awareness of existing referral pathways to crisis supports, barriers to accessing supporting and Cash First.
- 3.13.4 Organising and holding 4 network events to raise the profile of Edinburgh Menu for All, and to increase collaboration and connection to support the implementation of a Cash First approach, including the work by ECF to create a Cash First toolkit, (sessions on dignity and stigma and trauma-informed response and understanding a Cash First approach), creating a space for honest dialogue where there is resistance from providers. Event planning has taken account of areas of particular interest or concern to stakeholders e.g. trauma informed practice.
- 3.13.5 A working group led by colleagues from ECF and NHS Lothian Public Health are taking forward work on quality and standards, spanning food hygiene and nutrition, and on taking a dignified approach to supporting people who seek help. More broadly, the network connects with national and UK wide food systems and initiatives.
- 3.13.6 Two tests of change of a cash first approach are at an early stage of implementation:
- 3.13.6.1 Cash First approach in Family and Household Support teams, led by the Cash First Co-ordinator: two sites are being compared – one with the potential for provision of small sums of cash, and both sites providing access to benefits advice through on site Advice Shop staff, financial wellbeing portal and drop in and visiting support.
- 3.13.6.2 Emergency Infant nutrition: led by NHS Lothian, a survey of relevant **professionals, volunteers** and **parents/carers of babies aged 12 months or under** was carried out to inform the development of an emergency pathway to access infant feeding support and linked to wider income maximisation to make sure that families and professionals are aware of the support available.
- 3.13.7 Through networking across Scotland, the Cash First Co-ordinator has been considering models of good practice, toolkits and training which can be considered and developed for use here through shared learning. Examples include partnering with the community sector in Dundee to expand on their training on challenging stigma, trauma informed practice and signposting and referring for an Edinburgh context.

Role of the Cash First Co-ordinator

- 3.14 Funded through the Scottish Government's Cash First fund until October 2025, the Co-ordinator has provided expert capacity in beginning to build an effective, collaborative network of emergency and community food providers, which embeds the wrap around support crucial to addressing poverty with staff and volunteers who are trauma informed and equipped to engage with people in effectively
- 3.15 However, as the Diffley report highlights by illustrating the scope, scale and fragmentation of the provision in the city, and the risks and challenges faced by providers, there is a considerable amount of work still to do.

Next steps

- 3.16 The actions to end Poverty Related Hunger form part of the wider work underway to develop a poverty and prevention strategy and will fall within the scope of the Edinburgh Partnership Transformation and Improvement Plan.
- 3.17 Recognising that this work forms part of the city's actions to end poverty in Edinburgh, the Board is asked to consider what further resourcing, support and direction can be given to this workstream.
- 3.18 Consider sustainable funding offers to promote stability in service provision for citizens experiencing food insecurity.

4. Contact

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APPENDIX 1 – Key recommendations from the Mapping of Emergency and Community Food

- 4.1.1 Working with organisations to create a standardised data set to allow there to be a clearer understanding of need to inform evidence-based decision making.
- 4.1.2 Supporting service development and quality improvement, with a focus on dignity, nutrition, hygiene, and climate action. As many organisations make up the sector, there is an opportunity to develop a centralised resource or training package to promote service development and quality improvement for different organisations.
- 4.1.3 Services to connecting with one another to cooperate on plans, pool resources and build connections with additional supports. Creating or integrating as part of an existing 'Community Hub Model' with organisations co-locating allowing access to various supports in one place for people in that community. Alongside this, having one place to find out about additional supports.
- 4.1.4 Encourage longer-term funding decisions to allow for strategic planning, innovation, and development. Additionally seek to promote social enterprises models and a mechanism to raise additional, unrestricted funds to lessen the risk of unsustainable funding.
- 4.1.5 Integrate the sector with wider poverty alleviation and prevention work. The Edinburgh Menu for All Network seeks to connect food and support An important next step will be to consolidate and expand the work of this network to input into collective, city wide efforts around poverty prevention and avoid duplication.



THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

Edinburgh Partnership Poverty Prevention Programme update

12 December 2024

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 It is recommended that members of the Board:
 - 1.1.1 Note that on 3 September the Board agreed to the development of a new roadmap of partnership actions needed to make substantive progress towards prevention of poverty and other harms
 - 1.1.2 Note the work carried out to date and findings emerging from initial workshops
 - 1.1.3 Agree the proposed next steps for development and delivery of an Edinburgh Partnership Poverty Prevention Programme
 - 1.1.4 Agree that this work will be delivered through the proposed new Edinburgh Partnership Management Group and structures set out as part of the Partnerships' Transformation and Improvement programme
 - 1.1.5 Note that development of this programme will be further informed by the findings of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission Interim Review process, and that initial discussions with the commission to this purpose were held during November 2024
 - 1.1.6 Note that findings to date highlight the potential loss of the EIJB grant programme as a significant risk to the sustainability of third sector activity needed to support this programme, with particular concerns raised over the potential loss of grant funding for income maximisation activity
 - 1.1.7 Agree that, as a part of this programme, partners will work together to develop options for mitigation of risks associated with potential changes to the EIJB's grants programme
 - 1.1.8 Note the staff resource requirements needed to deliver this programme, and agrees for each partner to identify and nominate team members to support this work.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report proposes a new Edinburgh Partnership Poverty Prevention Programme, including findings from initial scoping workshops and proposed next steps for the programme's delivery.

3. Background

- 3.1 In September 2024 the Edinburgh Partnership Board agreed proposals for the development of a new roadmap of partnership change actions needed to make substantive progress for prevention of poverty and other harms.
- 3.2 During October and November officers have led actions to scope out the first stages of this roadmap, including
 - 3.2.1 Discussion of the proposal as part of the Edinburgh Partnership Boards 5th November meeting with the Edinburgh Poverty Commission, and
 - 3.2.2 Officer led workshops and discussions across five workstreams agreed by the Board in September
- 3.3 This report provides an update on findings from that scoping stage, a proposed structure for future work, and proposed next steps for the development and delivery of an Edinburgh Partnership Poverty Prevention Programme.

4. Main report

- 4.1 Officer led workshops and discussions took place during October and November 2024 engaging with partnership leads across all five of the poverty prevention workstreams agreed by the Board at its September 2024 meeting – Core Services, Income Maximisation, Health and Wellbeing, Economic Inclusion, and Area based anti-poverty alliances.
- 4.2 The findings emerging from these workshops show that:
 - 4.2.1 There is considerable evidence of good practice, both in established services and in existing tests of change, already underway across the city in each of these areas of need
 - 4.2.2 Initial workshops have identified a number of proposals for additional innovative actions to improve poverty prevention, through new interventions and through improved joint working between partners
 - 4.2.3 Existing partnership structures and networks provide an important building block for delivering prevention actions
 - 4.2.4 But there is a recognised need for improvements in the way this work is co-ordinated, communicated, and supported as a cumulative programme of change across the partnership

- 4.2.5 And there is a recognised need for additional dedicated transformation support to drive the system wide reforms needed to deliver long term change in the way Edinburgh partners works together to prevent poverty. Without such support there is a risk that the pressures of delivering short to medium term objectives will delay work on long term change priorities.
- 4.2.6 All workshops and all partners are keen to improve the way poverty prevention services proactively reach out to households in their own communities to understand where targeted, person/household centred support could prevent an escalation of need
- 4.2.7 Partners emphasised the need to ensure that support is led by the individuals and agencies with which a person in need has the strongest and most trusted relationship, and that lead colleague has access to the networks and knowledge they need to introduce specialist support in the most effective way.
- 4.2.8 All workshops identified a need to make better, and better co-ordinated, use of data to support targeted interventions and outreach. Discussions highlighted the need for, and opportunities to, improve data sharing across operational teams, share best practice and experiences arising from innovations in use of predictive analytics, and embed findings from the partnership's JSNA work into this poverty prevention programme.
- 4.2.9 All workshops identified a need to find better ways to make use of professional insights and relationships to ensure effective early intervention. Much of the innovation work already underway focuses on making use of such 'soft' knowledge gathered through people working with citizens every day - in schools, housing offices, health, or other community settings.
- 4.2.10 In doing so, workshops identified a need for common approaches to trauma informed and poverty awareness across all workstreams
- 4.2.11 All workshops identified the potential loss of the EIJB third sector grants programme as a significant risk to the sustainability of third sector organisations currently delivering key elements of poverty prevention work in the city. In particular, workshops highlighted the potential loss of grant funding for income maximisation activity as a key risk to the ability of the partnership to meet its poverty prevention ambitions.
- 4.2.12 In response to this risk, partners identified a need for short term responses to mitigate these risks, alongside a longer term need to review current approaches to third sector funding in general. Strong, responsive, and innovative third sector organisations are critical to the delivery of any poverty prevention programme and work is needed to ensure that funding provided by partners delivers the impacts needed, and supports sustainable, long term relationships with community organisations. As a first step, one proposed approach to these issues is being considered by [City of Edinburgh Council's](#)

[Policy and Sustainability Committee](#) on 10th December, which recognises a need for further partnership action.

- 4.3 Building on these findings, a revised draft structure for an Edinburgh Partnership Poverty Prevention Programme is in development for further discussion with partners built around:
 - 4.3.1 A single programme of place based poverty prevention tests of change, based in different communities and led through different community anchors – school clusters, social housing providers, community sector collaborations, multi-agency hubs - but with a common set of shared principles and practices, and common approaches to evaluation and learning.
 - 4.3.2 These tests of change will seek to make sure that people in Edinburgh are able to live well in their own communities, with support services that understand their needs and are able to provide early and easy access to help that prevents poverty related crises before they arise.
 - 4.3.3 Three thematic poverty prevention workstreams focused on Income Maximisation, Economic Inclusion, and Health and Wellbeing which will provide city wide prevention actions, as well as ensuring place based projects have access to the key specialist poverty prevention supports needed by households.
 - 4.3.4 A single Change Management Team established to lead and drive this programme on a day to day basis. This team will focus on ensuring strong communication and collaboration across all tests of change and thematic workstreams, as well as leading workstreams on common approaches to
 - 4.3.4.1 Data sharing and use for targeted interventions
 - 4.3.4.2 Using evaluation and learning to drive long term system change as a result of this programme of work
 - 4.3.4.3 Building the financial case needed to embed long term change
 - 4.3.4.4 Trauma and poverty aware service delivery
 - 4.3.4.5 Review of partnership approaches to third sector funding for poverty prevention actions
- 4.4 An outline of this programme, and a timeline for delivery are provided in Appendix 1 to this paper.
- 4.5 It is proposed that this programme and the work of the change management team are led through the new Edinburgh Partnership Management Group and structures set out as part of the Partnerships' Transformation and Improvement programme.
- 4.6 It is further proposed that the development of this programme is taken forward in alignment with and as part of the proposed development of a refreshed Edinburgh Partnership Local Outcome Improvement Plan and integrated performance framework.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 If the approach is agreed by the board, next steps will focus on work needed to move this programme from an initial scoping stage to a design and delivery stage. This will include:
- 5.1.1 Further engagement with partners to test and strengthen the draft structure and approach set out in this paper, and define priority actions for implementation through 2025/26. This work will be carried out alongside next steps in the development of the EP Transformation and Improvement Programme to ensure clear lines of governance and responsibility for poverty prevention actions.
 - 5.1.2 Work with partners to develop options for mitigation of risks associated with potential changes to the EIJB's grants programme, and begin work towards long term review of partnership approaches to third sector funding in Edinburgh.
 - 5.1.3 Identification of the staff resources needed to establish the change management team, and specialist support needed across each workstream. As a part of this process, City of Edinburgh Council will be recruiting to fill a vacant post within the Council's Community Planning team.
 - 5.1.4 Establishment of initial principles for selection, progress, and resourcing of place based test of change projects – including geographical focus
 - 5.1.5 Establishment of shared principles, best practice and opportunities around data sharing, learning and evaluation for the programme
 - 5.1.6 Begin work to establish cross programme processes for data sharing, evaluation and learning. This will include incorporation into the programme of the findings of the Children's JSNA report planned for publication in March 2025
 - 5.1.7 Establishing links with the emerging Community Wealth Building Anchors Network to stimulate discussions around key topics that will support poverty prevention, e.g. procurement and commissioning approaches, workforce planning, and asset use.
 - 5.1.8 Engage with participants of previous tests of change with similar approaches to understand lessons learned
 - 5.1.9 Explore if partners would like to establish any other tests of change from a different "feed" organisation, e.g. health, police, university
- 5.2 Further updates on this programme are planned for discussion with the board throughout 2025.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 The programme aims to create greater efficiencies through improved collaborative working and better targeting of resources. However, there will be a need to ensure the implementation and delivery of the approach can be resourced with this having to be met by partners from existing budgets.

7. Equality and Poverty Impact

- 7.1 This proposal will contribute positively to the public sector equality duty and priorities of the End Poverty Edinburgh Plan.

8. Climate and Nature Emergency Implications

- 8.1 This programme will support partnership work to ensure that people experiencing poverty are not disproportionately affected by actions needed to meet the climate and nature emergency.

9. Risk, policy, compliance, governance and community impact

- 9.1 These proposals aim to strengthen community planning by delivering improved outcomes in the city, particularly for those experiencing the greatest poverty and inequality.
- 9.2 Delivery of the programme will be overseen by the new Management Group.

10. Background reading/external references

- 10.1 [Poverty Prevention, Edinburgh Partnership, September 2024](#)
- 10.2 Edinburgh Partnership - Transformation and Improvement Programme, December 2024
- 10.3 Edinburgh Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Update, December 2024
- 10.4 [Supporting the Third Sector in Edinburgh, City of Edinburgh Council Policy and Sustainability Committee, December 2024](#)

11. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Proposed Edinburgh Partnership Poverty Prevention Programme



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Appendix 1: Draft Edinburgh Partnership Poverty Prevention Programme

Draft Edinburgh Partnership Poverty Prevention Programme

Supporting all citizens to live well in Edinburgh through an overarching strategy of prevention and early intervention

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Tests of change incorporating embedded specialist support through thematic workstreams:

- **Income Maximisation**
- **Economic Inclusion**
- **Health and Wellbeing**

Working across the city with shared principles and practice.

Conduit of information of key topics, eg income max, health & wellbeing, employability (supported in time by AI knowledge bank)

Adopt focused evaluation and learning practices within and across all tests of change throughout. Collaboration to support identification and understanding of shared insights is key to evolving a sustainable model.

This then enables us to build transformation from the ground up as well as support from top down.



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Timeline

- **September to December 2024**
 - EP Board commission a refreshed road map for poverty prevention
 - Programme inception and scoping
 - Thematic workshops
 - Draft programme design
 - **Output: EP Board update, December 2024**
- **January to March 2025**
 - Refine programme design and complete action planning
 - Progress delivery of initial place based tests of change already established
 - Deliver options for mitigation of risks associated with potential loss of EIJB grant programme
 - Establish Change Management Team and reporting, management structures
 - Establish year 1 (2025/26) priority actions for delivery
 - **Output: EP Board update, March 2025**
- **April to September 2025**
 - Programme delivery phase
 - Embed findings of Edinburgh Poverty Commission Interim Review into short and long term programme planning
 - Establish and embed cross programme processes for data sharing, evaluation and learning, trauma and poverty aware service delivery
 - Design and launch long term review of Edinburgh Partnership approaches to support for the third sector
 - **Output: EP Board update, September 2025**
- **October to December 2025**
 - Programme delivery phase
 - Embed programme delivery within annual poverty reporting cycle for Edinburgh Partnership Board
 - Establish and prepare priority actions for Year 2 (2026/27)
 - **Output: EP Board Annual Poverty Progress Report, December 2025**



THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

Community Justice Annual Activity Return 2023/24

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Edinburgh's Community Safety and Justice Partnership (CSJP) is responsible for completing Community Justice Scotland's Local Area Annual Return Template (the Annual Return) on behalf of the Edinburgh Partnership (community planning). The completed Annual Return (link at Appendix 1) contains examples of local community justice activity in 2023/24.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Board is recommended to:
- i. Approve Edinburgh's Annual Return for 2023/24; a link to the document is provided at Appendix 1.

3. Main Report

- 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 Performance Framework](#).
- 3.2 CJS considers each local authority's community justice activity and progress made locally against the national outcomes and indicators set out in the Performance Framework and provides feedback, including any recommendations for future activity returns. It also publishes an annual national community justice report based on the local area submissions.
- 3.3 Activity detailed in Edinburgh's 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
- 3.4 Local activity carried out in 2023/24 included:
- Prison gate pick-ups - partnership working between the Scottish Prison Service, NHS Lothian, and Edinburgh and Midlothian Offending Recovery and Support

Service (Third Sector) supported individuals to navigate their transition from custody to community. This included offering gate pick-ups so that individuals who needed additional supports for example, to access healthcare or register with a GP on release, were encouraged and accompanied to do so on the day they left custody. 26 gate pick-ups took place in the reporting period.

- Support for families - Eligible Edinburgh residents were supported to maintain relationships with their relatives/ loved ones in Scottish prisons through the Travel Service delivered by Sacro. The service manages a team of volunteer drivers, co-ordinating free personalised transport to prison visitors who may find it difficult to travel for example due to vulnerability, age, cost and/or the remote location of their destination prison. Visits are key to supporting those in prison to maintain family and social networks; this can have a positive impact on mental health and wellbeing as well as providing motivation to desist from offending.

3.5 Challenges in 2023/24 included:

- The Council declared a Housing Emergency in November 2023 citing significant pressures on the housing market including homelessness rates and housing costs. The acute shortage of affordable housing/ bed spaces presents a significant challenge to delivering [Sustainable Housing on Release for Everyone](#). Most prison leavers are unsuitable for 'tourist accommodation' further reducing their options. In some cases, despite engaging with the Prison Outreach Officer prior to release, people have had to be signposted to Streetwork/ Simon Community for out of hours/ emergency supports. Demand for spaces at supported hostel accommodation for individuals also exceeds capacity.
- The Council welcomed additional Scottish Government funding in 2023/24 allocated to local authorities for commissioning services to support community justice outcomes. However, the late notification of the award coupled with the short-term nature of the funding and Third Sector spend criteria continued to present challenges in relation to service planning, recruitment, roll out, and delivery of services within the required time frame.

3.6 The Annual Return has been approved by CSJP members. Once approved by the Edinburgh Partnership, it will be submitted to CJS.

4. Contact

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Appendices:

Appendix 1; [Community Justice Local Area Annual Return 2023/24](#)





THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

Edinburgh Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Update

12th December 2024

1. Executive Summary

The Report below on a proposal for a children and families focussed JSNA was presented to the Edinburgh Children's Partnership (ECP) on 29th October 2024, with the ECP agreeing to all four recommendations.

A separate piece of work is also ongoing to bring together the wider range of resources on the needs of the population in Edinburgh, into a single online location, as set out in a previous paper to the Edinburgh Partnership Board in September 2024.

2. Recommendations

2.1 The Board is recommended to:

- i. Note the update in relation to work.
- ii. Agree to receive a final version of the Children's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment in March 2025.

3. Main Report

3.1 Situation

At the Edinburgh Partnership Board on 03.09.24 it was agreed that public health would progress a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment process, with an initial focus on children, young people and families, recognising that there is a current gap in the collation of information on the needs of this population group. This will be accompanied by a parallel process to bring together into one place the existing JSNAs already produced by the Edinburgh HSCP on other (adult-focussed) topic areas, alongside other sources of data and intelligence. The aim is for these two pieces of work to be completed in early 2025, which will allow for a further discussion on any remaining gaps in insights that need to be addressed to support future community planning partnership work.

3.2 Background

A Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) is a comprehensive process conducted by local councils, NHS boards and other partners to identify the

current and future health and wellbeing needs of their local population.¹ It systematically gathers and analyses a wide range of data, including demographic trends, health outcomes and social determinants of health, to provide a detailed understanding of the community's needs. This data can include statistics on chronic diseases, lifestyle factors, environmental impacts and access to services. A JSNA is critical in informing the planning and commissioning of health and social care services, ensuring that resources are allocated effectively to improve health outcomes and reduce health inequalities. A JSNA can be completed for whole population or specific subgroups of the population.² Edinburgh HSCP has recently completed several JSNA on subgroups of the population.³ With this in mind, we have identified that a further JSNA specifically for children and young people in Edinburgh would be beneficial to support the work of the Community Planning Partnership.

3.3 Assessment

At the Edinburgh Children's Partnership Development Day in October 2024 groups reflected on the current operations and future directions of the Partnership and were asked to specifically identify areas they felt a JSNA could help to support. Notes from the session include comments that the following would be beneficial:

- More strategic focus in all areas e.g. fewer, more significant priorities
- Improved data usage / sharing, including qualitative and predictive data sets
- Understanding of the gaps in service access
- Intelligence to support shared narrative and public communication of that narrative
- Intelligence to support streamlined / joint commissioning of services

Informal discussions at the Development Day also highlighted the following topic areas as being of particular interest as areas of focus within a JSNA, because they are known to be significant areas of need for children and families in Edinburgh, but those where we lack a coherent description of the current offer available in Edinburgh and / or a coherent narrative on the evidence-based actions that can be taken to best meet needs / connect children and families to existing opportunities and services:

- Homelessness
- Additional support needs
- Universal access to healthy environments and opportunities, including youth work

¹ <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a7b88cced915d131105fdff/Statutory-Guidance-on-Joint-Strategic-Needs-Assessments-and-Joint-Health-and-Wellbeing-Strategies-March-2013.pdf>

² [Understanding needs - Reducing health inequalities - Public Health Scotland](#)

³ [Joint strategic needs assessment - Edinburgh Health & Social Care Partnership \(edinburghhsc.scot\)](#)



Participants in the development day were invited to get in touch if there were additional topic areas that they would like to see included in the JSNA, but no further suggestions were received.

3.4 Proposal

- The NHS Lothian Public Health Edinburgh Partnership and Place Team then held an internal Development Day, attended by Public Health Intelligence Colleagues, to further scope the focus on the JSNA, with the following proposal being made:
- The JSNA should be structured around The Health Foundation's evidence-based Building Blocks of Health framework to illustrate key determinants of health, wellbeing and health inequalities, levels of need in relation to each of these within Edinburgh^{4,5,6}.
- The JSNA will however also make reference to wider frameworks and indicators, including the Scottish Government's Children, young people and families outcomes framework core wellbeing indicators; SHANARRI and UNCRRC.
- The JSNA should further focus on a smaller number of specific areas in depth, setting out data, descriptions of current service user pathways and experiences, and opportunities for joint working between Community Planning partners to improve access to and update of opportunities in relation to these topics areas, with a focus on the most vulnerable populations. The currently proposed topic areas are Homelessness; Additional Support Needs; and Universal access to healthy environments and opportunities (including youth work).
- Topics areas not covered in depth in the current JSNA could be proposed for inclusion in a future iteration, as part of the process being explored for a continuous / iterative approach to the use of JSNAs across the wider Community Planning Partnership.
- Due to the short timescale available, the JSNA will use existing insights on service user experience that has already been captured through other pieces of work.
- Engagement with stakeholders working on the three identified topics areas will be required to gain a better understanding of current pathways and challenges in those areas.

⁴ <https://www.health.org.uk/publications/quick-guides/what-builds-good-health>

⁵ <https://www.health.org.uk/publications/how-to-talk-about-the-building-blocks-of-health>

⁶ <https://www.health.org.uk/evidence-hub>



- The JSNA will aim to use a storytelling approach, to inspire readers that change is achievable, even within current financial constraints, including case studies of success where possible.
- The JSNA will commit, not just to describing current needs and challenges but also to making recommendations for specific changes that the Edinburgh Children’s Partnership could commit to in order to better meet these needs.
- An initial draft JSNA will be provided to the Edinburgh Children’s Partnership in January 2025.

3.5 Recommendations

The Edinburgh Children’s Partnership should agree to:

3.6 The Edinburgh Children’s Partnership should agree to:

- Review and agree or propose amendments to the scope set out in the proposal above
- Support the public health team with the information required to compile the JSNA, including data, service pathway information, service user feedback and case studies as appropriate
- Receive, review and propose any amendments to a draft JSNA in January 2024
- Commit to collective ownership of recommendations arising from the JSNA

4. Contact

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THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

Community Learning and Development (CLD) Plan 2024- 27 Update

12 December 2024

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the CLD Plan 2024-27, and the work undertaken by the new CLD Partnership. This includes the developing Implementation Plans and Sub Groups which underpin and are key to the success of the CLD Plan.
- 1.2 The reports sets out the context, progress, successes, challenges and next steps.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Board is recommended to:
 - i. Approve this report
 - ii. Agree to receiving a further report in June 2025, with an update on progress of year 1 of the CLD Plan 2024-27

3. Main Report

Context

- 3.1 Leadership and governance for the CLD Plan lies with the CLD Partnership, reporting to the Edinburgh Partnership. This addresses governance and the legislative requirements for oversight and reporting on progress of the CLD Plan.
- 3.2 The previous CLD report to the Edinburgh Partnership on 11 June 2024, set out the legislative requirements for CLD and highlighted the actions taken to develop the new CLD Plan 2024-27.
- 3.3 HMIE (His Majesties Inspectorate of Education) within Education Scotland carried out Progress Visits to all 32 local authorities over 2023/24. Edinburgh's Progress Visit was in February 2024.
- 3.4 A report on the CLD Plan including an update on the HMI Progress Visit was presented to Education, Children and Families on 16 April 2016 which was

deferred to 11 June 2024 for noting. The 16 April report was referred to GRBV and was presented on 31 October 2024.

- 3.5 Also on 16 June, the new CLD Plan was presented to the Edinburgh Partnership where it was approved, giving the CLD Partnership responsibility for finalising the plan and progressing actions.

This report provides the Edinburgh partnership with an update on the Community Learning and Development (CLD) Plan 2024-27 and the work of the new CLD Partnership.

Progress

- 3.6 The High Level CLD Plan was approved and is published in the Edinburgh Partnership Papers (11 June 2024), Education, Children and Families Committee papers (16 April and 11 June 2024), GRBV Papers (31 October) and for publication on the Education Scotland website.
- 3.7 The CLD Partnership has held 2 in-person workshops to develop the implementation plans which will support delivery and progress of the three-year CLD Plan. Those workshops have begun creating 2 implementation plans, one for Youth Work and one for Adult Learning, each supported by a Sub-Group. There are existing networks already carrying out community engagement, so instead of creating another implementation plan, community engagement activity will be captured and reported to the CLD Partnership.
- 3.8 Council CLD work is also progressing well. Actions and plans are in place to reflect the areas of strength and the areas for development within the HMI Record of Visit. The new Wider Achievement and Lifelong Learning Service Plan articulates with the CLD Plan and actions are complementary

What is Going Well

- 3.9 The CLD Partnership is benefitting from a regular pattern of meetings with key partners. This is further strengthened by secretariat support which was not available to the previous CLD Partnership. An exercise to identify missing partners resulted in the inclusion of a secondary Head Teacher representative, a senior Libraries representative and a Culture representative (still to be confirmed)
- 3.10 Implementation Plans for both Adult Learning and Youth Work are evolving well, are needs led and increasingly data driven. These Implementation Plans will continue to develop KPIs enabling progress to be monitored and reported.
- 3.11 Two Working Groups have agreed to lead on the Adult Learning and Youth Work Implementation Plans. The CLD Partnership agreed that creating a Working Group and Implementation Plan for Community development risked duplicating the work of existing networks. As such, and because Community Development has a place within the existing network of other groups and to avoid duplication, a separate Sub-group for community development is not required at present.



- 3.12 Within the Council, several services are sharing information and where appropriate co-ordinating activity to ensure relevant ongoing council led work is reflected in the CLD Plan and Implementation Plans
- 3.13 The Wider Achievement and Lifelong Learning Service has developed a new Service Plan which ensures CLD Activity that is not part of the Partnership Plan, is likewise captured and reported.

Challenges

- 3.14 The Digital Inclusion Strategy is currently a gap for CLD. With the recent closure of the organisation, People Know How, this remains an area needing addressed. Year 2 of the CLD Plan will consider this and build it into Implementation plans for years 2 and 3 of the CLD Plan.
- 3.15 The ending of Multiply strand of the UKSPF (Shared Prosperity Funding) presents a real challenge for CLD. Due to the timing of the initial release of funds, Edinburgh, like other local authorities experienced delays in setting up programmes and recruiting staff to deliver the work. Excellent partnership work is now underway and is making a real difference developing adult learners' maths and numeracy skills. However
- 3.16 There is no option to carry forward any year 2 (2022/23) underspend and year (2023/24) funding will not be released until evidence of spend can be provided to the UK Government. Staff fixed term contracts will end on 31 March 2025.
- 3.17 Because Community Learning and Development within the Council is split across 2 Directorates, there are some challenges to ensuring Community Learning (in Children, Education and Justice Services) and Community Development (in Place) are coherent and connected.

Next Steps

- 3.18 The CLD Partnership and other Community Planning Partnerships need to identify the best approach to progressing partnership digital inclusion.

Explore the opportunities presented by the ongoing work of the Team Around the Learning Community and its recent change to Team Around the Community, for shared governance, integration and to avoid duplication or unclear reporting mechanisms.

4. Contact

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THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

Local Employability Partnership – October Summit

1. Executive Summary

The Edinburgh Local Employability Partnership (LEP) held a Summit on 2nd October to look at the challenges facing 9,600 citizens in Edinburgh who are eligible to work but not moving into employment despite a well-rounded and designed employability support offer. What can we do collectively to better support them and remove barriers. This was the first in a series of summits and focussed on those out of work, the next will look at individuals who are working but still within the threshold to claim ‘top up’ benefits and the third will focus on the higher-level skills that we required to grow our economy. This briefing paper outlines the main headlines from the four-hour Summit conversations with guest speakers and expert testimony and recommendations with next steps.

2. Recommendations

2.1 The Board is recommended to:

- i. Note the series of Summits that the Local Employability Partnership is holding;
- ii. Note the complexities facing people who are currently claiming out of work benefits;
- iii. Agree the recommendations which will be taken forward by the Local Employability Partnership and the LOIP2 Group.

3. Main Report

- 3.1 Edinburgh has a mature Local Employability Partnership structured around a horizon scanning leadership group and operational Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP). Memberships for both is drawn from stakeholders including The City of Edinburgh Council, Skills Development Scotland, Chamber of Commerce, NHS Lothian, Department of Work and Pensions, Third Sector Interface, Edinburgh College and Edinburgh University.
- 3.2 Edinburgh is performing well as a city. We have a very high employment rate of 82% and are routinely cited as one of the best performing areas within the department of work and pensions at a UK level. However, we do continue to

have 1 in 5 children still living in poverty and 9,600 people on Universal Credit able to work not moving into jobs which is one of the main routes out of poverty. We know the skills landscape has a number of better paid jobs in development and the risk is we do not get this cohort better able to make the progression to work that pays a salary of £30,000 plus.

- 3.3 We have a well-honed and mature service offer developed under the Scottish Approach to Service Design and based around a five-stage strategic skills pipeline model (see appendix 1 and 2). Branded under the open door welcoming of The Edinburgh Guarantee, we offer employability services to all client groups, often bespoke with barrier removals, and placed at the heart of communities and gathering points for ease of access. We also have strong employer engagement, with rolling programme of community job fairs and soft interviews to break down confidence barriers, as well as wrap around support from welfare advice for the transition to work. We are confident the employability offer is as good as it can be.
- 3.4 We undertook a data analysis of the 9,600 universal claimant count. From this, we know that over 40% of the claimant count are declaring a long-term health issue, with much focused around mental health which is very high overall but especially so with young people. Other structural factors, such as lack of sustainable and affordable housing, also play a role. From deeper analysis of those already engaged with services, we saw that the average number of barriers to employment cited has increased year on year, with the average number now as high as nine. These include recognised disability, mental health, low skills, caring responsibilities, and migrant status and being part of a marginalised community. Jobseekers now have a more complex situation that is internal and external to them making a successful transition more challenging.
- 3.5 **Health** - We already know from DWP data that 40% of claimants have a health declaration requiring support with mental health being particularly prominent. The Lothian Population Health Survey presentation also showed stark socioeconomic inequalities in health outcomes especially in areas of deprivation. Young people are less likely to have access to the building block of health and this impacts on successful outcomes. Edinburgh also has the largest sex-difference in work-related stress (higher in females), higher levels of weekly alcohol consumption, and higher levels of precarious employment than neighbouring local authorities.
- 3.6 **Housing** - The Council declared a Housing Emergency on the 2nd of November 2023. 8 other Local Authorities have also declared housing emergencies, along with the Scottish Parliament on 15 May 2024. This crisis has placed those who need the most support under real and increasing pressure. A Housing Emergency Action Plan has been developed with actions across a range of areas. Over 5,000 households are currently in temporary accommodation. Around 1,000 Council homes are void. Reduced by 20% since Jan '24 but



remains a key priority. 24% of homes are in the private rented sector, higher than the Scottish average of 13%, and average private rent is over £1,360 pcm; 35% higher than Scottish average.

- 3.7 **Childcare** - At a national level, 65% of parents are leaving the workforce or reducing their hours due to the cost of childcare. In Edinburgh this is exacerbated due to costs, with Edinburgh prices 15-20% higher than the Scottish average. Access to childcare is also difficult, with 34% parents staying their local provider has a waiting list of 10 months or more. Private nursery costs in Edinburgh are on average £67 a day but can go as high as £90. For a full-time place at £67 a day, that works out at £1400 per month. This is often the full-time salary of one parent. There is access to financial support, including 1140 free hours of childcare and universal credit support, but many parents find it difficult to navigate these costs or know how to fully access them. Even when other financial incentives are accessed, the childcare costs are still high.
- 3.8 **Fair Work / Employer Support** - The Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce conducted a survey of members on behalf of the LEP Summit. Responses were aligned with other employer voices we are capturing, namely that recruitment is challenging and competitive but that the quality of candidates weren't overly an issue it was more finding and, crucially, retaining candidates. Policy issues such as Brexit still impacting recruitment. On Fair Work, we separately heard some employers were now leaving the Living Wage accreditation due to costs. Also, some issues around secure work but a positive response from employers on the need to offer and promote other added benefits of employment, such as flexibility. Employers continue to need support.
- 3.9 The Edinburgh Local Employability Partnership is working in an infrastructure whereby client groups are faced with a multitude of barriers and challenges that impact on their ability to move into and sustain work. There are also challenges with progressing in work to better paid skilled jobs. The obstacles to progression are complex and multi-faceted. Engaged clients are reporting on average nine critical support needs, including a focus on housing, mental health, disability, childcare, and the experience of being a migrant worker from a marginalised group. What emerged from the summit is that there is a wealth of good, positive work going on, but a wider and more joined-up response is required with clearer indicators to track and measure impact.

3.10 Recommendations

- Prioritise the tracking of the 9,600 people on Universal Credit not working through LOIP 2 and understand data trends better. Create a data sub-group of LOIP 2 to support this. Set an agreed target of how much this number should reduce in comparison of other cities.
- Ensure tracking of client group is embedded within the emerging Transformation Programme with cross cutting support to ensure co-working and solutions exist.



- Undertake review of the commissioning process to understand the benefits of contracts verses grants and how a consortia approach could be beneficial to certain challenges and allow alignment with other services better.
- Link closely with Thrive/EVOC for mental health lens approach and their city-wide commissioning of grants programme to coalesce around common challenges.
- Link into all relevant policy work from an employability lens such as the Housing Emergency Action Plan and the refresh of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission.
- Monitor case studies highlighted of pilot initiatives, such as the DWP and Housing work at High Riggs job centre, and the successful example of Ukraine support to migrant workers and what lessons can be learnt for better impact.
- Through the Joined up for Jobs network, ensure that Edinburgh Guarantee branding is used as a single engagement point.
- Through the Joined up for Jobs network, ensure that providers and staff are trained and made aware of additional financial support for childcare services. A training budget should be provided within LEP for other essential upskilling of the network.
- Strengthen Joined up for Business link to LOIP 2 and make employers aware of additional wider support services for transition to work and retaining employees.

4. Contact

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THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

Housing Partnership Update – 12 December 2024

1. Executive Summary

1.1 This report serves as an update on the progress in establishing a new Housing Partnership as a sub-group of the Edinburgh Partnership Board as agreed at the meeting on 3 September 2024.

2. Recommendations

2.1 The Board is recommended to:

- i. Note progress to date

3. Main Report

3.1 Following the City of Edinburgh Council's declaration of a Housing Emergency on 2nd November 2023, the production of a Housing Emergency Action Plan and a Housing Summit convened by the University of Edinburgh in February 2024, the Edinburgh Partnership Board (EPB) agreed to establish a strategic Housing Partnership at its meeting on 11th June 2024. This reflected the Board's intention to prioritise housing and homelessness as a public health issue which would benefit from the EPB brand and the collective strength of its representative bodies.

3.2 A report outlining the proposed membership of the new partnership was put forward and agreed at the EPB meeting on 3rd September 2024. It was agreed that the group would meet quarterly ahead of EPB meetings and duly report into those meeting with progress and actions. Membership was agreed as follows:

Chair: Lynn McMath, University of Edinburgh

Members: Flora Ogilvie, NHS Lothian; Derek McGowan, City of Edinburgh Council
Sean Smith, University of Edinburgh; Beth Watts-Cobbe, I-Sphere

Pat Togher, Edinburgh H&SCP; Amanda Hatton, City of Edinburgh Council

One representative from each of the following:

EVOC; SHAPE; Edinburgh Affordable Housing Partnership; NHS Lothian; Police Scotland; Scottish Fire and Rescue Service; Higher and further education sector

in Edinburgh; Social Security Scotland; Department for Work and Pensions; Skills Development Scotland; Homes for Scotland

- 3.3 The first action of the group, as previously agreed, was to convene an initial meeting with Scottish Government. This was held on 28th October 2024 with Professor Lesley McAra and Lynn McMath from the University of Edinburgh; Derek McGowan from the City of Edinburgh Council; Dona Milne from NHS Lothian; Ewan Aitken from Edinburgh Cyrenians and Gordon MacCrae from Shelter Scotland. Scottish Government representatives were Catriona MacKean from the Better Homes Division and Lauren McNamara from the Scottish Government's Affordable Housing Supply Programme.
- 3.4 The meeting provided attendees an opportunity to discuss progress from the Council and Scottish Government on addressing the city's Housing Emergency and it was agreed that members of the new Partnership would meet again with Scottish Government in the near future.
- 3.5 Following this, the new partnership's first meeting was held on Tuesday 12th November. The minute of this meeting, and attendance, is at Appendix One.
- 3.6 There was a good level of attendance across EPB members along with invited guests from the agencies as outlined above. However, some members were unable to send representatives and attendance at the next meeting is strongly encouraged to ensure a fully rounded Partnership covering all the organisations working to improve the lives of citizens as part of the EPB.
- 3.7 Discussions were robust and the Partnership agreed that the work they undertake will be from a public health perspective with a clear focus on addressing the acute issues being faced in the city in parallel with a prevention approach to tackling the housing emergency.
- 3.8 Terms of Reference will be circulated for agreement and a work programme will be established with agreement that the next meeting in February would be opened up to Scottish government colleagues and the subsequent meeting in May would have a focus on income maximisation opportunities.
- 3.9 There were a number of other actions agreed to take forward the work of this Partnership and progress will continue to be reported to the EPB on an ongoing basis.

4.

- 4.1 Appendix One: Housing Partnership Minutes – Meeting One 12th November 2024

5. Contact

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Minutes of Housing Partnership Board meeting

Tuesday 12 November 2024 at 10.00am

Room 2.01, Old Infirmary Building, Drummond Street, Edinburgh

1. Welcome and Introductions

- In attendance: Lynn McMath (chair, University of Edinburgh), Derek McGowan (City of Edinburgh Council), Flora Ogilvie (NHS Lothian), Sean Smith (University of Edinburgh), Claire Ritchie (EVOC), Ewan Aitken (Edinburgh Cyrenians), Rhiannon Sims (Heriot-Watt University), Jon Turner (Link Housing), Dona Milne (NHS Lothian), Hazel Stewart ,Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership, Valerie (Police Scotland)
- Apologies: Beth Watts-Cobbe (Heriot-Watt University), Murray Tait (Police Scotland), Miriam Craven (Social Security Scotland), Clare Elliott (DWP), Pat Togher (Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership).
- Fiona Kell (Homes for Scotland), Emma Matthews (Skills Development Scotland), Murray Dagleish (Scottish Fire), Amanda Hatton (City of Edinburgh Council) Shelley Hutton (Places for People), Kieran Dougal (Police Scotland).

2. Scope and remit of group

- Established by the Edinburgh Partnership Board (EPB) to examine strategic issues in housing and homelessness providing a single city voice through the EPB
- Chaired by Lynn McMath (LMc)with membership from Edinburgh Partnership board members and invited key organisations from across the city
- Discussion on where this activity fits in regarding the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) and while it sits within Priority one 'enough money to live on' there is understanding that this is likely to change and the group's activity should be reflected more going forward
- The group agreed that the focus of any activity should be through a public health lens and will include homelessness prevention as part of terms reference.

ACTION: LMc and Derek McGowan (DMc) to draft Terms of Reference for circulation to the group.

3. Council update on progress to date

- Over 500 void properties have been brought back into use and the council is working with social landlords to further reduce voids and increase allocation rates to homeless households

- Homelessness population has risen
 - 5,230 households presenting as homeless (approx. 7,200 people) up 300 households since Housing Emergency was declared in November 2023
 - Emerging homelessness is largely due to increases from government refugee and asylum schemes
 - 1 in 6 rough sleepers are not UK nationals
 - 80% of core homelessness: homelessness is due to relationship breakdown (family, romantic, etc.)

ACTION: DMc to share numbers from government asylum schemes

- Prevention focus on being more deliberate around identifying prospective homelessness and early intervention
- Opportunities for data analysis and insight into how people manage finances through postcode analysis from Smart Data Foundry as well as through NHS data and trend analysis through Data Loch
- Review of action plan's first year to Council due in February 2025
- EDI committee established for cultural sensitivity and helping non-English speakers navigate homelessness and housing options
 - Unintended consequence: language access could lead to more people seeking resources and put more stress on system
- Need to think about how the city can turn temporary accommodation into permanent housing for residents
- Council allocations policy is under review to ensure it is fit for purpose, this may for example include changing priorities for people with disabilities, and they are also looking at a review of rents across the city as costs are currently based on property size and not location
- There are active discussions with Scottish Government on funding of new building of social housing; 11,500 homes are needed over the next ten years with a projected funding gap. £600m needed over whole period and only £34m allocated this year.
- There are currently 40,000 homes across social rented sector in the city across all providers.
- Review of housing revenue account guidance is ongoing with Scottish Government
- Special committee of Council being held to suspend allocations policy

ACTION: DMc to share outcome with group

4. Report from meeting with Scottish Government

- Meeting with Scottish Government civil servants to talk about the main points addressed during Housing Summit in February
- The meeting was primarily to update on what has been achieved rather than focus on what can be done by working together going forward

ACTION: Invite Catriona MacKean from SG to the next or a future meeting

ACTION: Share letter sent to First Minister from Lesley McAra following Housing Summit

5. Additional discussion

- No wrong door approach and need for a partnership approach. DMc mentioned that implementing no wrong door may well lead to an increase in presentations as people realise there are alternative routes to seek help. Ewan Aitken (EA) said that if done correctly from start to finish, the cost per person is/should be £2,000 to find housing for those presenting as homeless; can cost up to £40,000 in extreme cases and this does not include other costs such as evictions, medical treatment and so on
- Pathways to homelessness through public institutions was discussed, including through police contact or admissions to hospital. EA shared that Cyreniains now have an in-house team working in local hospitals to support those who are at risk of losing tenancies.
- Particular focus on the need for stopping the pipeline of young people in care/foster care who end up in the criminal justice system and often homeless.
- Possible partnership opportunities with higher or further education, government, and charity sectors to address point of need among young people, whether through education or employment opportunities

ACTION: EA to share research on cost of evictions and No Wrong Door approach

ACTION: Where applicable, members to report back on known costs of homelessness presentations

- Dona Milne (DM) also identified systems failure as being in need of stronger mapping with more examination needs to be done on how the system has failed those seeking help

ACTION: Where applicable, members to report back on areas of system failure to be addressed

- Sean Smith (SS) mentioned that £50 million was promised to fund housing in the city region deal, but Scottish Government converted this to a loan and Jon Turner (JT) commented that funding for house building should be proportional to growth and demand
- DM - NHS Lothian is £10 million short every year and sometimes unable to provide resources to those presenting as homeless

ACTION: DMc to share city homelessness mapping

6. Partner updates on activity

- Rhiannon Sim: Working on Fair Way Scotland year two report
- JT: Looking into how to prevent people from losing tenancies including wraparound care and access to income maximisation
- DM: Land and assets mapping exercise with anchor institutions on EPB with possible social housing options
- Flora Ogilvie (FO): data work on health and living and support for children and families through the Edinburgh Children's partnership
- HS: Capital Investment Strategy including looking at shared services as projections are for only one additional care home over the next 20 years as well as looking at accessible housing to enable access for different needs to facilitate independent living
- V: looking at mapping of support services and land
- Claire Ritchie (CR): needs assessment within the Ukraine community being supported
- EA: SHAPE priority on five areas of homelessness prevention action group
- EA: Cyrenians have an £8m fund to provide women who have experienced domestic abuse with 33 homes plus a social investment fund chaired by Nicola Barclay is aiming to raise £100m

Final discussion around need to map income maximisation activity and decision to prioritise next but one meeting around this topic.

ACTION: Request to DWP and SSS to present at the next meeting.

7. Priorities for next period

- Agreement on terms of reference
- Address actions
- SG invitation to meeting
- Previous review of income maximization

8. Date and time of next meeting

- Doodle poll attached with minute

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