Public Document Pack



Meeting Thursday, 27 March 2025

Time 10.00 am – For a Tour of the Edinburgh Remakery

11.00am - 1.00pm - For the Edinburgh Partnership Board Meeting

Venue The Edinburgh Remakery (13A Newkirkgate, Edinburgh, Scotland, EH6

6AD)

Edinburgh Partnership Board

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THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Thursday 12 December 2024 – 2.00pm – McHattie Room, Saughton Park, Edinburgh

MINUTE

Board members present

Dona Milne (in the chair)	NHS Lothian
Cllr Alys Mumford (substituting for Councillor Bandel)	City of Edinburgh Council
Councillor Margaret Graham (substituting for Councillor Day)	City of Edinburgh Council
Cllr Christopher Cowdy (substituting for Councillor Whyte)	City of Edinburgh Council
David Robertson	Police Scotland
Murray Dalgleish	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Ken Robertson	Edinburgh Association of Community Councils
Bruce Crawford	Edinburgh Voluntary Organisation's Council (EVOC)

In attendance

Paul Lawrence	City of Edinburgh Council
Taylor Ward	City of Edinburgh Council
Derek McGowan	City of Edinburgh Council
Gillie Severin	City of Edinburgh Council
Linda Lees	City of Edinburgh Council

Carey Fuller	City of Edinburgh Council
Chris Adams	City of Edinburgh Council
Kate Kelman	Capital City Partnership
Julie Dixon	Edinburgh Napier University
Jess Pearson	NHS Lothian

1. Welcome and Meeting Protocols

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

2. Declaration of interests

None.

3. Minute

Decision

- 1) To request the 'Edinburgh Federation of Community Councils' was amended to 'Edinburgh Association of Community Councils'.
- 2) To otherwise approve the minute of the 3 September 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 1 Update LOIP Priority 1 'Enough Money to Live On'
- Action 3 Transformation and Improvement Programme
- Action 4 Poverty Related Hunger Edinburgh Plan Update
- Action 5 Review of Neighbourhood Networks
- Action 6 Housing Emergency
- Action 7 Transformation and Improvement Programme
- Action 10 Edinburgh Transformation and Improvement Plan
- Action 11 Poverty Prevention
- Action 13 Proposal for Housing Partnership Establishment
- Action 14 Becoming a Trauma Informed Partnership



- 2) To note the Land and Assets group terms of reference were being drafted.
 - 3) To note the remaining outstanding actions.

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

A proposal for a new strategic Edinburgh Partnership model following an engagement programme run over the summer of 2024 was presented.

Decision

- 1) To note that on 5 September, partners agreed to engage with colleagues and stakeholders across he city on how community planning could be strengthened.
- 2) To note the feedback from this engagement.
- 3) To agree the proposed future model for strategic community planning along with a high-level timeline.
- 4) To note that further work was now required to strengthen community planning in local areas working.
- 5) To note that this paper would also be subject o consideration by individual partners at their governance boards.
- To request the terms of reference for the management group were brought to the next Edinburgh Partnership Board Meeting.
- 7) To request information on the expectations of Community Councillors were outlined.

6. End Poverty in Edinburgh Annual Progress Report 2024

The fourth annual overview on progress made by Edinburgh Partnership in response to the calls to action made by the Edinburgh Poverty Commission was presented.

Decision

- 1) To approve the fourth annual report on partnership actions delivered in response to the Edinburgh Poverty Commissions calls to action.
- 2) To note that the report had been prepared in line with and would be published as a part of statutory requirements under the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act.
- 3) To note that a further report on priority partnership action on poverty prevention would be considered.

- 4) To note that future development of all action would be informed by the findings of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission interim review of progress towards end poverty targets.
- 5) To note that Edinburgh Partnership Board members met the Edinburgh Poverty Commission in special session during November 2014 as part of this review process.
- To note officers were happy to hold member briefings, specifically on food related poverty and initiative for breakfast clubs in schools.
- 7) To request a briefing note on gender budgeting within the Council was circulated.

7. Briefing Paper: Update on the Ending Poverty Related Huger Strategy

An update was provided on progress with the implementation of the Ending Poverty Related Hunger Strategy, and described the work undertaken through the Scottish Government's Cash First Fund in relation to the strategy, following a successful bid by partners.

Decision

- To the progress update, and that this had been facilitated through the additional resources provided through the Scottish Government's Cash First Fund.
- 2) To 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.
- 3) To recognise that this work formed 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.
- 4) To consider sustainable funding offers to promote stability in service provision for citizens experiencing food insecurity.

8. Edinburgh Partnership Poverty Prevention Programme Update

A proposal was presented for a new Edinburgh Partnership Poverty Prevention Programme, which included findings from initial scoping workshops and proposed next steps for the programme's delivery.

Decision

- 1) To 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.
- 2) To note the work carried out to date and findings emerging from initial workshops.

- 3) To agree proposed next steps for development and delivery of an Edinburgh Partnership Poverty Prevention Programme.
- 4) To agree that this work would be delivered through the proposed new Edinburgh Partnership Management Group and structures set out as part of the Partnerships' Transformation and Improvement programme.
- 5) To note that development of this programme would 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.
- To 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.
- 7) To agree that, as a part of this programme, partners would work together to develop options for mitigation of risks associated with potential changes to the EIJB's grants programme.
- 8) To note the staff resource requirements needed to deliver this programme, and agreed for each partner to identify and nominate team members to support this work.
- 9) To request more focus on physical wellbeing strategies was included in the next update.

9. Community Justice Annual Activity Return 2023/24

The Community Justice Annual Activity Return 2023/24 was presented, as completed by the Edinburgh Community Safety and Justice Partnership on behalf of the Edinburgh Partnership.

Decision

- 1) To approve Edinburgh's Annual Return for 2023/24.
- 2) To request information was provided on if there was an impact on the prison service and if preventative measures were keeping people out of prison.
- 3) To circulate data on the homelessness population in the prison service.

10. Edinburgh Joint Strategic Need Assessment Update

A proposal was presented to the Edinburgh Children's Partnership on the 29th October 2024 for a children and families focussed JSNA, all four recommendations were agreed. A separate piece of work was ongoing to

bring together the wider range of resources on the needs of the population in Edinburgh into a single online location.

Decision

- 1) To note the update in relation to work.
- 2) To agree to receive a final version of the Children's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment in March.

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

An update on the CLD Plan 2024-27 and the work undertaken by the new CLD partnership was presented, and set out the context, progress, challenges and next steps.

Decision

- 1) To approve the report.
- 2) To agree to receiving a further report in June 2025, with an update on progress of year 1 of the CLD Plan 2024-27.

12. Local Employability Partnership – October Summit

An outline on the headlines of the Edinburgh Local Employability Summit which took place on the 2nd October 2024 was presented, which included conversations with guest speakers and expert testimony and recommendations with next steps.

Decision

- 1) To note the series of Summits that the Local Employability Partnership was holding.
- 2) To note the complexities facing people who were currently out of work benefits.
- To agree the recommendations which would be taken forward by the Local Employability Partnership and the LOIP2 Group.

13. Housing Partnership Update – 12 December 2024

An update was provided on the progress in establishing a new Housing Partnership as a sub-group of the Edinburgh Partnership Board as agreed at the meeting on 3rd September 2024.

Decision

To note the progress to date.



14. Dates of Future Meetings

Decision

To note the next meeting would be held on 27 March 2025.



Rolling Actions Log

Edinburgh Partnership Board

25 March 2025

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Actual comple tion date	Comments
1 Page 11	12.12.23	Update – LOIP Priority 1 – 'Enough Money to Live On'	 The board will take a strategic look at Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) support for parents, to enable them to work and learn. A session will be held in February, to look at provision and pressures on ELC in relation to the Council's Poverty Prevention Board. 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@ed inburgh.gov.uk	Ongoing		Actions 1 and 2 closed on 12.12.24 Update March 2024 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 how to better achiever

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Actual comple tion date	Comments
Page			Home Energy Scotland. 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.				a collaborative approach. The group will reconvene in April and a progress report will be submitted to the Board in June.
N 2	12.12.23	LOIP Priority 1 – Loan Shark Charter Mark	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. b) To roll out communications	Kate Barlow: Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership. kate.barlow@nhslothia n.scot.nhs.uk	March 2025	March 2025	Recommended for Closure March 2025 The Affordable Credit and Preventing Problem Debt action plan was reviewed with the Edinburgh Advice Partnership at Jan's meeting and agreed the following

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completio n date	Actual comple tion date	Comments
Page 13			about Credit Unions as alternative methods of borrowing. 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.				future actions: 1) Organise annually for representatives from relevant credit unions and community banks 2) Continue to liaise with the Scottish Illegal Money Unit to: deliver their illegal money lending training for front line staff particularly advisors; and raise the awareness of this through supporting their annual raising the awareness campaigns and circulating their resources. Update December 2024 Edinburgh is a

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Actual comple tion date	Comments
Page 14							recipient of the Charter Mark as from Feb 2024. NHS Lothian has done some work raising staff awareness of the NHS Credit Union Update June 2024 A briefing will be circulated to all members. Update March 2024 Comms work has been delayed until March 2024. Further updates to follow.
3	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	Executive Director of Children, Education and Justice Services Lead Officer: Linda Lees	June 2025		December Update: To bring the CLD 1 year Implementation plan to EPB in due

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completio n date	Actual comple tion date	Comments
			be provided annually to the EPB.	linda.lees@edinburgh. gov.uk			course.
4 Po	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 discuss a co-chair role and establish the Terms of Reference for advancing the work.	Director of Public Health, NHS Lothian / Chief Executive, City of Edinburgh Council Lead Officer, Dona Milne Dona.Milne@nhs.scot	Ongoing		Currently drafting Terms of Reference. Draft will be presented for comment when available.
Page 15	03.09.24	Becoming A Trauma Informed Partnership	 To agree members would complete initial awareness training by December 2024. 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		
6	12.12.24	Edinburgh Partnership Transformation and Improvement	To request the terms of reference for the management group were brought to the next	Executive Director of Corporate Services Lead Officer: Gillie Severin / Michelle Mulvaney	June 2025		The Terms of reference will be provided when available.

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Actual comple tion date	Comments
		Programme – Progress Update 12 December 2024	Edinburgh Partnership Board Meeting. 2) To request information on the expectations of Community Councillors were outlined.	gillie.severin@edinbur gh.gov.uk / michelle.mulvaney@e dinburgh.gov.uk			Communication with Community Councils is ongoing.
Page 16	12.12.24	End Poverty in Edinburgh Annual Progress Report 2024	 To note officers were happy to hold member briefings, specifically on food related poverty and initiatives for breakfast clubs in schools. To request a briefing note was circulated on gender budgeting within the Council. 	Executive Director of Corporate Services Lead Officer: Chris Adams chris.adams@edinburg h.gov.uk	March 2025	March 2025	Recommended for Closure Business Bulletin to Finance & Resources Committee regarding Scottish Womens Budget Group available here - 6.1 - FR Business Bulletin.pdf
8.	12.12.24	Edinburgh Partnership Poverty Prevention Programme Update	To request more focus on physical wellbeing strategies was included in the next update.	Executive Director of Corporate Services Lead Officer: Chris Adams chris.adams@edinburg h.gov.uk	TBC		

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Actual comple tion date	Comments
9.	12.12.24	Community Justice Annual Activity Return 2023/24	To request information was provided on if there was an impact on the prison service and if preventative measures were keeping people out of prison. To circulate data on the homelessness population in the prison service.	Executive Director of Children, Education and Justice Services Lead Officer: Carey Fuller Carey.Fuller@edinbur gh.gov.uk	March 2025	March 2025	Recommended for Closure Information circulated to members 19 March 2025.

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THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

Edinburgh Partnership Poverty Prevention Programme update:

Living well locally – mitigating poverty across Edinburgh through whole system reform

Edinburgh Partnership Board March 2025

- What we are trying to achieve Edinburgh Poverty Commission's findings
- Our response
- Understanding "the what" a model of relational practice
- Understanding "the how" moving from individual efforts to whole system working
- Proposed next steps

Edinburgh Poverty Commission findings

The right support in the places we live and work

- We have concluded that Edinburgh needs to ensure people in all parts of the city have local, safe, welcoming community spaces where they can connect with others, access the right support for them and make progress at the right pace.
- In implementing new models of support, the city should aim for small teams, drawing staff from statutory, third and business sectors operating at a neighbourhood level using simple existing methods to connect, assess need and build on assets. We should build on shifts in how and where services operate, have confidence to try new approaches that successfully remove the barriers people face, evaluate and alter plans to change direction if we need to and spread successful practice across the city.
- There is no one sector or organisation which can manage all the support individuals and communities require on their own. Statutory and third sector support organisations in the city need to work better together in a way that is planned, comprehensive and responds to the strengths and voices of communities.

Our response: Living well locally networks

The strategy

To tackle poverty and help people live better lives, we want to embed a place-based partnership approach across city, with city partners and the third sector working together better to reshape the way we support citizens.

What does this mean?:

A model of working that delivers the right support in the places we live and work. Reducing confusion, complexity and stigma. Building trust, confidence and agency. Adopting a more liberated model of relational practice for service and support provision.

How can this be done?:

We see pockets of this in action in some areas. To build on this we need to connect, communicate and understand where additional support is needed to expand the approach. We need to move from individual exemplars of practice to local ecosystems that work and grow together. We need to foster system change through continual learning and incremental change, with a central "sense making" function helping to drive this forward.

What are we asking for?:

- Approval of the proposed model
- Partnership resource to support next steps

Understanding "the what" – a model of relational practice

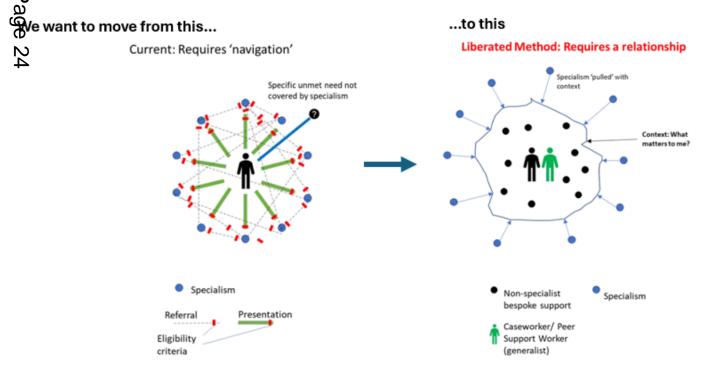
Relational practice emphasises the importance of building relationships, it is about putting "people before programme" and understanding that "relationships precede actions"

Understanding "the what"

From Family Household Support, to Edinburgh Family Support Partnership to Team Around the Community to Total Craigroyston, to NESSie to The Ripple and more, the heart of these approaches is based around relational practice.

Relationships require time to build and trust to maintain, which is why working with people through trusted anchor organisations and supporting those is so critical.

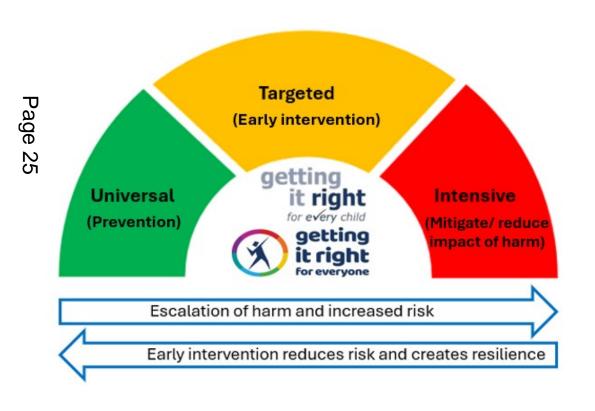
Relational practice is also about appropriate challenge. To thrive, people must decide learn to live well in a way that is best for them. This won't happen if they are "rescued" so high support also requires high challenge. Again trust is critical but it also involves looking at risk appetite and necessitates community connections.

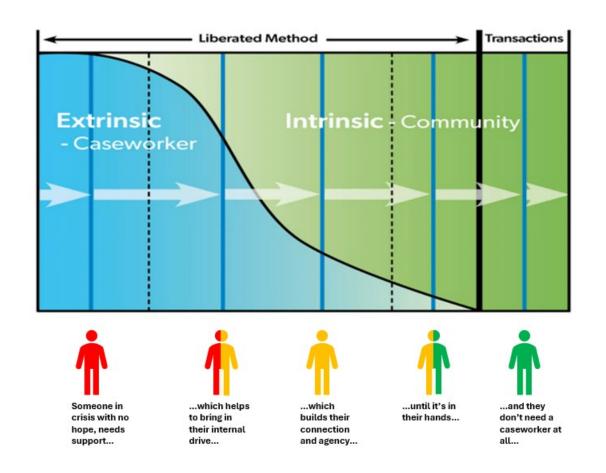




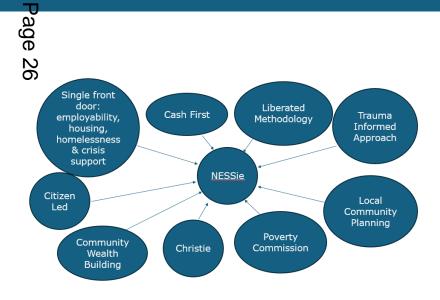
Understanding "the what"

Partnership working isn't just about city partners and third sector working together – it's also about working in partnership with the people who are needing support so that we **help people access their own capacity to thrive**. The ability to link into local community is a crucial enabler of this.

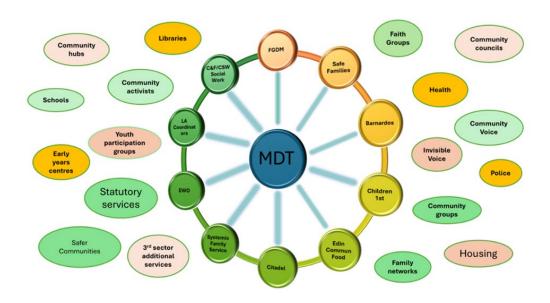




Understanding "the how" – moving from individual efforts to whole system working

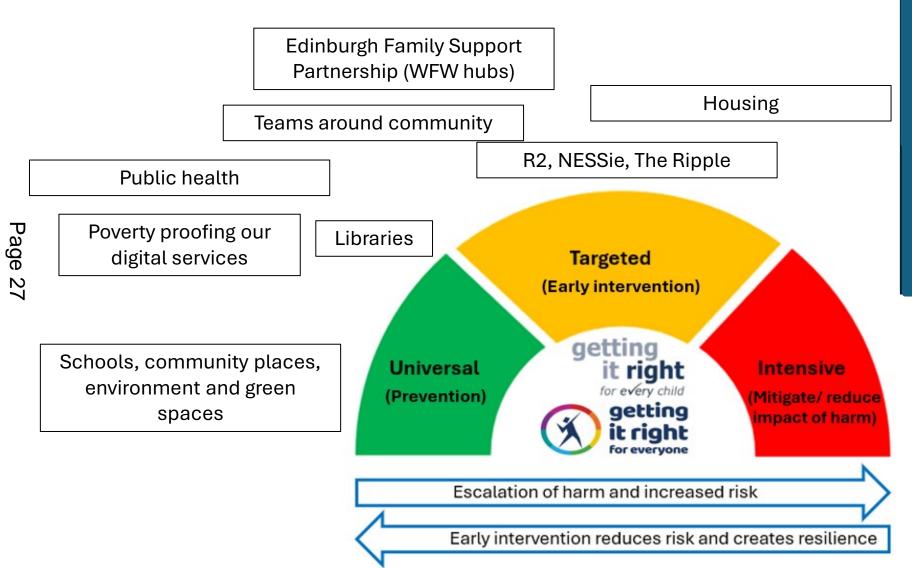


NESSie



Edinburgh Family Support Partnership

Understanding the whole system



While only a snapshot, this highlights some the different parts of the system. For system reform, these need to work and evolve together and, in some cases, fully integrate.

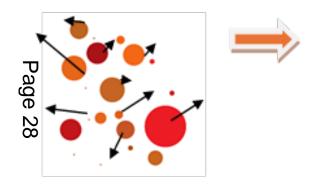
We need to understand what this picture is for each community and tie our support into it in the way that works best for them and us.

High/complex needs individuals/families/households

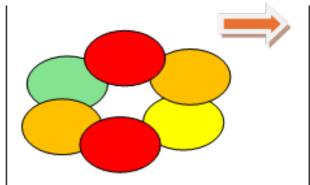
Willow Service (Women's Justice Centre)

Moving from individual efforts to a connected system

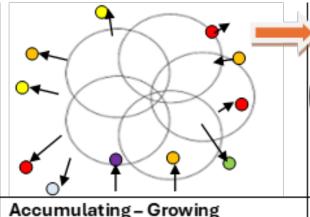
To do this we need to support the evolution from small discrete systems to local ecosystems to a city-wide system that is not uniform but is connected. By setting out this vision, we can then work together to change incrementally, learning as we go, which will inform our underpinning strategies, e.g. data, funding & commissioning, workforce planning, evaluation.



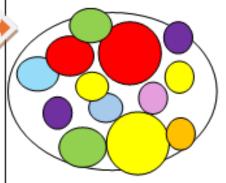
Individual tests of change Current approach and the processes to tests of change siloed and isolated people.



Connecting - Collaborating
Moving to more intended
collaborating, communicating,
connecting, about the shared
issues, and consequential
responses.

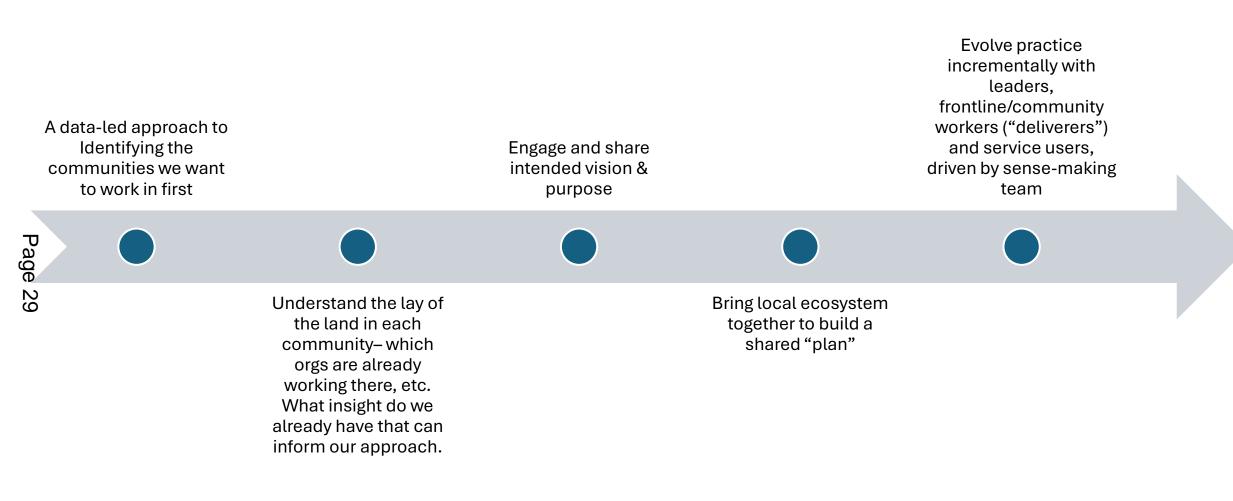


Developing interconnected spaces of intel, knowledge, about different approaches with new tests of change emerging. Understanding the skills and skill development that has been necessary.



Transform and system reform
This will emerge as a reality
through this development
process. It systemises the active
collaboration and sharing of
knowledge.

Making it work in practice – what we need to do next



This is not about imposing an approach. It is about pulling together what's already happening and learning and growing with the shared goal of systemic reform.

- Co-sign a "Statement of intent" that commits to working together on the approach and can be used to engage communities.
 - Build a joint engagement strategy and communications plan
 - Continue engagement with Local Community Planning Partnerships, Neighbourhood Networks, Community Councils to ensure they're involved with ongoing development and work together to clarify roles
- Pull together a programme view of "building blocks" for prevention, e.g. data, third sector funding, evaluation
- Gather case studies of upstream prevention and the gaps
- Scope "sense-making" function

•Page•30

• Sense making in action - tie in the learnings/questions from work already underway to partner corporate support services

Agenda Item 5.2



Edinburgh Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Update

27th March 2025

1. Executive Summary

This report sets out a proposal for new content to be included on the Edinburgh Partnership website (Appendix A) as well as a process for the new Community Planning Partnership Management Group to agree future JSNA topics of interest (Appendix B). The draft content of the Children and Young People's JSNA (Appendix C), which will be taken for final sign-off at the Edinburgh Childrens' Partnership (ECP) on 22nd April, is also included. The deep dive and data appendices are still being finalised but will be included in the version for the Children's Partnership. It is intended that the recommendations from this JSNA, which include a range of recommendations on the Building Blocks of Health which would benefit those of all ages, are used to inform the development of a wider Edinburgh Community Planning Partnership Performance Framework.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Management Group is recommended to:
- Approve the draft content of Data and Intelligence to be published on the Edinburgh Partnership Board website, subject to final input from data and intelligence partners.
- ii. Approve the process by which future JSNA topics will be decided, subject to final input from data and intelligence partners.
- iii. Agree in principle the recommendations from the Children and Young People's JSNA, noting that the final overall report will be signed off at the April Edinburgh Children's Partnership meeting.
- iv. Agree that the recommendations from the Children and Young People's JSNA should be used to inform the development of a wider Edinburgh Community Planning Partnership Framework.

3. Appendices

Appendix A: Proposed data and intelligence content for inclusion on the Edinburgh

Partnership website

Appendix B: Proposed process for the new Community Planning Partnership

Management Group to agree future JSNA work

Appendix C: Background to Edinburgh Partnership data and intelligence work

4. Contact

Flora Ogilvie, Consultant in Public Health, NHS Lothian, flora.ogilvie@nhs.scot

Appendix A: Proposed data and intelligence content for inclusion on the Edinburgh Partnership website

It is proposed that the content below is added to a page titled 'Data and intelligence' accessed from the 'menu' tab of https://www.edinburghpartnership.scot/ in between 'community planning family' and 'news'. The proposal is for additional information to be added to this site as and when available, with an annual review of the overall page to decide if there is a need for any historic information to be removed and / or the layout updated to reflect any new priorities.

Data and intelligence

The work of the Edinburgh Partnership is underpinned by national and local data and intelligence, with key links to relevant data and reports collated on this webpage. The Partnership also has a process for conducting Joint Strategic Needs Assessments on topics where additional insight is required. If there is a link to data or intelligence that you think should be added to this page, please get in touch.

The Edinburgh Partnership is committed to taking action to improve access to the <u>building blocks of health</u>, which are key <u>determinants of health inequalities</u>. Data and intelligence is therefore listed under these 'building block' headings. In addition, links to 'general information' and information on 'specific population groups' are also provided below.

General information

City of Edinburgh Council Statistics and Data

City of Edinburgh Council Open Spatial Data Portal

NHS Lothian Public Health Reports

Edinburgh IJB Joint Strategic Needs Assessments

Scottish Community Planning Outcome Profiles

Scottish Burden of Disease Study: Health Loss in City of Edinburgh

Scottish Public Health Observatory

Scotland's Census Interactive Maps

Scottish Schools Health and Wellbeing Census: Edinburgh City Supplementary Tables

Lothian Public Health Survey Results

Edinburgh Partnership Survey Results



Money and Resources

Money and resources are important to unlock access to other building blocks of health, including participation in society. In addition to having **enough money to meet basic needs** such as housing, nutritious food and adequate heating, having **savings to fall back on** or access to **affordable credit** to be able to respond to unforeseen expenses are also important to avoid stress and negative impacts on mental wellbeing. Information on local people's access to money and resources is included in the Lothian Public Health Survey and Edinburgh Partnership Survey reports above, with some additional sources of information listed below.

End poverty in Edinburgh annual report

Review of Welfare Rights and Debt Advice in Edinburgh

Housing

Quality, **affordable**, **stable and secure** housing are all important for reducing health inequalities. Information on local people's housing circumstances is included in the Lothian Public Health Survey report above, with some additional sources of information listed below.

EHSCP Housing JSNA - finalised but not yet online, need to add link

North Edinburgh Parent's Action Group: North Edinburgh's Housing Emergency Report

Education and Skills

Education and skills opportunities provide an important **foundation for good mental wellbeing** as well as influencing **future quality of life**, through opportunities for future employment and access to the other building blocks of health. Information on local people's levels of education is included in the Lothian Public Health Survey report above, with some additional sources of information listed below.

Census 2022 Report: Lothian education, labour and travel to work

Dashboard of primary school pupils' demographics, attendance and attainment

Dashboard of secondary school pupils' demographics, attendance and attainment

Dashboard of special school pupils' demographics, attendance and attainment

Scotland's school health and wellbeing census including Edinburgh data tables



Good work

Good work should provide **reliable employment**, **job satisfaction** and **fair pay**, **and work-life balance**. Information on local people's access to good work is included in the Lothian Public Health Survey report above, with some additional sources of information listed below.

Census 2022 Report: Lothian education, labour and travel to work

Out of Work Benefit Claimant Counts for Edinburgh and the City Region

Integrated Regional Employability and Skills Programme Impact Report

Transport

Safe, environmentally sustainable transport opportunities are important to promote good health and reduce inequalities, including by providing opportunities for physical activity and protecting people from road danger, air and noise pollution. It also enables connection to education, employment and other services and opportunities, as well as reducing greenhouse gas emissions to reduce climate change. Information on local people's satisfaction with the transport environment in their neighbourhood is included in the Edinburgh Partnership Survey report above, with some additional sources of information listed below.

Edinburgh City Mobility Plan

Census 2022 Report: Lothian education, labour and travel to work

Police Scotland: Location-specific road traffic collision data

City of Edinburgh Council: Air quality annual progress report

Food

Healthy food needs to be **accessible**, **affordable**, and **better advertised** in order to promote good health and reduce health inequalities. Information on local people's access to healthy food is included in the Lothian Public Health Survey and Edinburgh Partnership Survey reports above, with some additional sources of information listed below.

Interactive map including density of takeaway and supermarket retailers

Mapping of emergency community food provision in Edinburgh

Add survey report on infant food insecurity in Edinburgh when finalised



Surroundings

Clean air, green space, safe neighbourhoods and healthy retail environments are all important for reducing health inequalities. Information on local people's satisfaction with the quality and safety of their neighbourhood is included in the Lothian Public Health Survey and Edinburgh Partnership Survey reports above, with some additional sources of information listed below.

Edinburgh Council: Local air quality management information

Edinburgh Council: Open space audit

NHS Lothian: Biodiversity audit

Scottish Crime and Justice Survey data

Scottish Children's Reporter Data on involvement in the Children's Hearing System

Police Scotland: Edinburgh City Division Scrutiny Report

Police Scotland: Ward-level crime data

Interactive map of alcohol, food, gambling and tobacco retailers and woodlands

Community

Connection, companionship, good relationships and a sense of belonging are all important determinants of health and inequalities. Information on people's connections to others, loneliness and sense of belonging are included in the Lothian Public Health Survey and Edinburgh Partnership Survey reports above, with information on children and young people's connections to friends, family and community included in the Scottish School Health and Wellbeing Census Edinburgh City additional data tables which are also linked above.

Specific population groups

Children and young people

Add CYP JSNA when complete

Ethnic minority populations

EHSCP: Health and care needs of people from minority ethnic communities

Census 2022 Report: Lothian ethnicity, national identity and religion

Capital City Partnership: Ethnicity and employment in Edinburgh



Disabled people

Census 2022 Report: Lothian health, disability and unpaid care

NHS Lothian: Impact of poverty on disabled people

Sexual orientation and transgender status

Census 2022 Report: Sexual orientation and trans status or history

Carers

EHSCP: Carers Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

Care experienced children and young people

Census 2022 Report: Lothian health, disability and unpaid care

Appendix B: Proposed process for the new Community Planning Partnership Management Group to agree future JSNA work on key topics where additional insight is required

It is proposed that the following form is completed by anyone who would like to propose that the Edinburgh Partnership undertake a new piece of data analysis, research or needs assessment. All requests received in the previous 3 months can be discussed at the Edinburgh Community Planning Partnership Management Group (ECCPMG) with the group deciding which pieces of work should be prioritised.

A new Data and Intelligence Working Group will be created, replacing the previous EHSCP JSNA group. This group will ensure that data and intelligence work agreed or requested by the ECCPMG is coordinated and linked to any related individual Partner data and intelligence work where relevant. A Terms of Reference for this DIWG will be drafted and brought to the next ECCPMG for approval.

ECCPMG Data and Intelligence Proposal Form
1.Date of ECCPMG
2.Topic of proposal
3. Rationale for work
4.Brief description of proposed work
5.Existing data & intelligence that this will build on
6.Timescale / deadline for completion
7.Proposed output
8.Lead Strategic Partnership (if applicable)
9.Lead partner
10.Other partners involved / involvement requested
11.Proposal for wider stakeholder engagement
12. Resource required
Lead Strategic Partnership decision (if applicable)
ECPPMG decision
ECPPMG reporting requirements

Appendix C: Edinburgh Children and Young People's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment



Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

Children and Young People in Edinburgh

March 2025
Public Health and Health Policy

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Summary and Recommendations

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. Children's Services Planning Statutory Guidance states that Children's Services Plans should incorporate a robust, evidence-based JSNA which identifies the needs of the current population of the children and young people in its area. In line with current national and local priorities for a greater focus on prevention and early intervention, this JSNA focusses on identifying opportunities to support children young people and families to develop and maintain good health and wellbeing.

In addition to information on demographics and some key health outcomes for children, young people and families in Edinburgh, the JSNA also reports on the extent to which Edinburgh its supporting children, young people and their families to access the <u>Building Blocks of Health</u>, that are set out in the Health Foundation's evidence-based framework. The report also makes reference to Scottish Government's <u>Children, Young People and Families Outcomes Framework</u> - core wellbeing indicators; <u>SHANARRI</u> and <u>UNCRC</u>.

This JSNA takes a further 'deep dive' into three specific areas of particular interest to the Edinburgh Children's Partnership; Homelessness, Additional Support Needs and Universal Access to Healthy Environments and Opportunities i.e. the things that Edinburgh offers to all children and young people in addition to statutory health, education and social care services. Each of these 'deep dive' sections describe current levels of need as well as an assessment of opportunities for changes that could be made to better meet those needs.

Demographics

Edinburgh's population has a smaller proportion of children compared to national averages but a high number of young adults, influenced by the city's large student community. Although overall deprivation is less severe than in other areas in Scotland, significant pockets of socio-economic disadvantage remain, particularly in specific neighbourhoods. This uneven distribution underpins the persistent health inequalities seen among children and families.

Early Years & Health Outcomes

Key indicators show that there are low rates of smoking at maternity booking appointments overall, although rates are much higher in some geographical areas. Rates of maternal obesity are however of greater concern across the city, with over a quarter of women recorded as obese at maternity booking. The majority (71%) of babies are being breastfed at 6-8 weeks, although less than half are exclusively breastfed. Additionally, inequalities in developmental outcomes and immunisation uptake point to the need for targeted early intervention, particularly in deprived areas.

Health Outcomes and Behaviours

Children's health is influenced by a complex set of factors involving genetics and environment, including socio-economic factors, as shown by data on premature mortality and ill health. The leading causes of ill health among children under 15 are similar in both

Edinburgh and Scotland. Skin conditions such as eczema, respiratory illnesses like asthma and congenital birth defects are the greatest contributors to years lost to disability across the life course. For young people aged 15-24, the most common contributors are mental health disorders, headache disorder and musculoskeletal disorders. Rates of healthy weight and dental health in primary school children are better than the Scottish average but are still patterned by deprivation. National survey data shows a significant number of older children and young people of reporting issues with mental health and wellbeing.

Building Blocks of Health

The Health Foundation's framework for understanding the building blocks of health provides a comprehensive lens through which we can explore the elements that influence children and young people's health and wellbeing in Edinburgh.

- Money and resources: Poverty among families in Edinburgh has remained relatively stable over the past decade, consistently affecting around 1 in 5 households with children.
- **Good Work:** While there has been a decrease in the number of families experiencing in-work poverty in Edinburgh, the percentage of families who are in work but still on low incomes is consistently higher than the Scottish average.
- **Housing:** The private rental market has become increasingly unaffordable, with average monthly rents reaching £1,500 and 11.2% of family households reported experiencing fuel poverty in 2023.
- Surroundings: While levels of air pollution are generally lower that in other major cities, there is no safe level of air pollutants, and work to address the main source of this (road traffic emissions) should continue. In Edinburgh we are fortunate to have a large number of public greenspaces, however the quality, perceived safety, and play-value of these environments will differ across the city, and safe, assessible travel routes are essential to allow all children to access the full range of spaces. Overall, 78% children and young people from P5 to S6 reported feeling safe in the area that they live, all or most of the time, with 67% reporting that they think their area is a good place to live, however these levels were lower in deprived areas.
- Transport: Data from a national evaluation of the Young Person's Free Bus Travel Scheme shows the high update of the scheme within Edinburgh, with 83% take up amongst young people, however only 1 per cent of children and young people currently report travelling to school by cycle, and around a quarter are still being driven to school.
- **Food:** Seven percent of young people from P7 to S1 reported that they, often or always go to bed hungry, with a further 25% saying they sometime do. A survey of health professionals working with children and families in Edinburgh found that 25% report supporting a family experiencing infant food insecurity on a weekly basis.
- Education and skills: Primary one attainment data over the areas of listening, talking, literacy, numeracy, reading and writing shows that more children in Edinburgh as a whole, are meeting the expected curriculum of excellence (CfE) levels compared to Scotland, with just under half of young people reporting that they 'enjoyed learning at school', compared to 20% that didn't.
- **Community:** The majority of young people (65%) reported having an adult in their life who they could trust and talk to.

Deep Dive - Homelessness

Homelessness affecting children and young people in Edinburgh is a complex issue, with many direct and indirect impacts on their health, wellbeing and prospects. Systemic causes include unaffordable housing, a shortage of social housing and the financial pressures of the cost of living. Edinburgh faces a unique housing emergency with the highest private rental costs nationwide and a lower proportion of social housing. These factors, combined with economic pressures and relationship breakdowns, have led to a sharp rise in homelessness. Increasing numbers of households with children are staying in temporary accommodation, spending extended periods (averaging over 1 year) in unstable and sometimes unsuitable housing conditions.

<u>Impacts on Children and Young People:</u>

The experience of homelessness can have a profound impact on children's physical, mental and social development. Challenges include:

- Sleep, Nutrition and Hygiene: Poor living conditions disrupt sleep, lead to nutritional inadequacies and compromise hygiene, contributing to further health issues.
- Limited Play and Exercise: Overcrowding and inadequate facilities reduce opportunities for safe play and physical activity, crucial for development.
- Mental Health: Instability, frequent relocations and perceived unsafe living conditions foster anxiety, social isolation and emotional distress.
- Access to Healthcare: Repeated moves disrupt continuity of care, affecting both physical and mental health outcomes.

Youth homelessness is also an issue, with an increasing number of young people presenting as homeless. Care experienced young people and those facing additional vulnerabilities (e.g. disabilities, neurodiversity) may require additional and targeted support.

It is recognised that significant work is ongoing within Edinburgh both to address the causes of homelessness as well as to support those experiencing homelessness, and it is important that the needs of children, young people and families continue to be a key consideration.

Deep Dive - Additional Support Needs

The percentage of pupils requiring Additional Support Needs (ASN) is rising nationally and in Edinburgh. National data shows that 36.7% of pupils now require support with an additional need — a 31.4% increase over the past 15 years. In Edinburgh, the percentage of children with ASN has risen sharply since 2017, now exceeding national figures by approximately 10%. The spectrum of ASN includes social, emotional and behavioural difficulties (SEBD), autistic spectrum disorder, language and communication support and mental health problems. Notably, gender differences exist—with boys more frequently receiving support in most categories except for young carers or mental health problems.

There is a strong link between deprivation and higher prevalence of ASN. Data reveals that schools with a lower average SIMD (Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation) score tend to have a higher proportion of pupils with ASN. Factors such as poverty, adult disability, parental stress, low birth weight and family breakdown are thought to contribute to this complex relationship. Children with ASN generally face an attainment gap compared to their peers, with lower rates achieving 1+ SCQF Level 5 upon leaving school. These challenges can

affect long-term earning potential and contribute to intergenerational cycles of disadvantage.

Initiatives such as the CEC Transformation of Inclusion Services and the ongoing inclusion review in Edinburgh aims to strengthen classroom support, improve resource allocation and enhance inclusive learning environments. Additionally, NHS Lothian and the four Lothian local authorities are working on a pan-Lothian Neurodevelopmental Framework to streamline pathways for children with neurodevelopmental profiles.

Deep Dive - Universal Offer of Access to Healthy Environments and Opportunities

It is important that every child in Edinburgh has access to the resources needed for health, wellbeing, education, leisure and culture, as part of a preventative approach to supportive healthy childhoods and adolescence, and the building blocks for a healthy adult lives.

- Public Libraries: Although libraries serve as vital hubs for literacy and support, a significant proportion of children are not currently making use of these opportunities
- Active Schools & Physical Activity: Participation in school-based sports and activity initiatives is uneven, with vulnerable groups potentially underrepresented.
- Bikeability: Cycling training programmes are in place, yet participation varies, particularly in more deprived areas, partly due to challenges with volunteer support and resource constraints.
- Free Bus Travel: There is high uptake of the national Free Bus Travel Scheme, although a lack of local data on how it is impacting children's sustainable travel and independent mobility choices.
- Culture, Leisure & Out-of-School Care: These services support holistic development. However, data gaps make it difficult to fully assess how well these offerings meet the needs of vulnerable children.
- Youth Work is highlighted as an effective a model for delivering equitable support, in particular supporting children and young people who might not otherwise have access to paid-for opportunities in the city.
- Data and Evaluation Challenges: A recurring theme is the need for improved data collection and sharing protocols. Current data is fragmented, making it hard to evaluate service reach, user satisfaction, and impact, especially for groups facing higher levels of disadvantage.

The current understanding of the 'Universal Offer' to children and young people in Edinburgh is unclear, with differing opinions on what it should encompass. Data to evaluate current services are available to varying degrees, with potential to strengthen and share in order to assess how these services are meeting the needs of children and young people, as well as to consider opportunities for children and families to be supported to make connections between different parts of the offer.

Recommendations:

Early Years, Health Behaviours and Outcomes

- 1. Ensure that City Plan 2040 and other relevant local policies includes requirements for public spaces to support key aspects of early years and children and young people's development, including smoke free public places; walkable neighbourhoods to support active travel and healthy weight and independent mobility; as well as breastfeeding-friendly and wider child- and youth-friendly outdoor environments.
- 2. Support the most vulnerable families to access structured play and childcare opportunities as early as possible, as well as supporting key settings such as libraries, leisure centres, museums and galleries to provide an accessible, inclusive and welcoming offer to early years families who might not otherwise use those spaces.
- 3. Support all staff working with early years children and families in Edinburgh to feel able to raise key topics of smoking, healthy weight, breastfeeding, healthy development and immunisations as part of routine supportive conversations they are having with families.
- 4. Explore options for protection from harmful commercial determinants of health such as exposure to advertising for the retail of health-harming commodities including tobacco, alcohol and foods high in fat, sugar and salt, which are a key determinant of young people's health behaviours and health corresponding outcomes.
- 5. Continue to ensure that children and young people in schools and other settings such as youth work have access to relevant health promoting information and confident staff who can support them to engage with relevant services in relation to key health topics of healthy eating, physical activity, tobacco, alcohol, substance use, sexual health and wellbeing and mental health and wellbeing.
- 6. Ensure a joined up and effective approach to the provision of opportunities and support for young people's mental health and wellbeing, including through access to physical activity, youth work and mental health and wellbeing services, including those currently provided through Whole Family Wellbeing Fund, Connected Communities and Community Mental Health Grant programmes.

Building Blocks of Health

- 7. Money and resources: Ensure an accessible and equitable system of welfare advice is available in the city, to enable families with children to get appropriate help with money worries as early as possible, including ensuring all those working with children and families have the confidence to ask about money worries and signpost to relevant sources of support.
- 8. Good work: Further explore options to support parents into 'good work', including options to expand flexible, affordable childcare in the local areas where this could make the biggest difference.

- 9. Housing: Continue to prioritise the needs of children and families in the allocation of housing, including ensuring that when temporary accommodation is needed mitigations are put in place to minimise adverse impacts on children and young people.
- 10. Surroundings: Ensure that equitable access to high quality, child and young people friendly greenspace for playing, is prioritised as part of all development and regeneration opportunities in the city.
- 11. Transport: Improve the transport environments around schools, prioritising those in the most deprived areas, and continue to encourage uptake and use of Free Bus Travel as well as exploring options for equitable access to bicycles and effective cycle training.
- 12. Food: Continue to support pathways to food security, while also supporting emergency food providers to consider options for a Cash First approach wherever possible.
- 13. Education and skills: Continue the development and evaluation of the Team Around the Community (TAC) approach to ensure children and young people, including those with additional support needs, have access to the full range of relevant support in the communities around their schools.
- 14. Communities: Ensure that learning from the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund and other programmes of community based work are embedded in routine mechanisms for supporting communities to improve access to key services.

Homelessness:

- 15. Map existing key services and opportunities for children and families against the locations where families in temporary accommodation are commonly housed to identify any gaps in locally accessible services and opportunities and potential mitigations.
- 16. Building upon existing data sharing with health visitors and schools, consideration of an improved two-way feedback system between housing, social work, healthcare and education to ensure better coordination and support for families embedding the GIRFEC, UNCRC and The Promise principles.
- 17. Improve data transparency between agencies regarding the number of relocations families receive, with the objective of reducing the need to move families between temporary accommodation placements.
- 18. Explore opportunities for policy change to allow families in the homelessness system to maintain registration with current primary care services when relocating to temporary accommodation in order to retain continuity of care.

Additional Support Needs

19. Develop a multi-agency roll-out of an ASN-informed approach, taking learning from other approaches such as trauma-informed, to ensure that additional support needs can be better accommodated within a wider range of non-specialist environments and opportunities.

Universal Offer

- 20. Carry out further work to develop and agree a Universal Offer of access to healthy environments and opportunities for children and young people, taking a UNCRC and GIRFEC perspective to inform its scope and development and recommending the targeting of specific interventions to groups proportionate to need.
- 21. Continue to support the delivery of Youth Work in the city, recognising the key role it has to play in supporting children and young people to access a wider range of opportunities, support, and services and take learning from the Youth Work approach to ensure other services, opportunities and environments provide the same inclusive and welcoming approach to young people, in line with the principles of GIRFEC, UNCRC and The Promise.

Overarching Recommendations:

Across all the sections of this JSNA, three themes continually appeared. These were embedding the voices of children and young people in the development and improvement of local environments, opportunities and services; for the system to make better use of data, and its collection, to further improve services to support children, young people and families; and capacity building around neurodiversity and trauma-informed practice.

- 22. Work as a Community Planning Partnership to systematically embed children's voices in the planning of spaces, opportunities and services, including through City Plan 2040 and as well as in future Community Plans and Children's Services Plans.
- 23. Work as a Community Planning Partnership to consider priorities areas where improved data collection, sharing or analysis would enable us to make more informed policy decisions and service improvements
- 24. Consider further workforce development including on neurodiversity and trauma-informed practice to ensure frontline staff across all services working with children, young people recognise and respond to the individual needs of each child, young person and family in a compassionate, adaptable and supportive way.

Acknowledgments

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Background and Introduction

A <u>Joint Strategic Needs Assessment</u> (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. 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.

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. Children's Services Planning Statutory Guidance states that Children's Services Plans should incorporate a robust, evidence-based JSNA which identifies the needs of the current population of the children and young people in its area. In line with current national and local priorities for a greater focus on prevention and early intervention, this JSNA focusses on identifying opportunities to support children young people and families to develop and maintain good health and wellbeing. It is not intended to provide a detailed assessment of the level of need for all individual children's services in the city.

A collaborative approach was taken in the collation, analysis and presentation of evidence in this document, including analysis of the published literature, national and local data, as well as informal interviews with key public and third sector stakeholders. In order to avoid repeated requests for engagement with those with lived experience, information on lived experience was drawn from existing reports as well as via stakeholder interviews. High level information on relevant service delivery is included, however this document does not aim to provide a comprehensive picture of all services available to children and young people in the city, nor does it aim to comment on the service performance.

In addition to information on the demographics and some key health outcomes for children, young people and families in Edinburgh, the JSNA also reports on the extent to which Edinburgh is supporting children, young people and their families to access the 'Building Blocks of Health', that are set out in the Health Foundation's evidence-based framework. The report also makes reference to Scottish Government's Children, Young People and Families Outcomes Framework - core wellbeing indicators; SHANARRI and UNCRC. There are 'deep dive's' into three areas of particular interest to the Edinburgh Children's Partnership; Homelessness, Additional Support Needs and Universal Access to Healthy Environments and Opportunities. Each of these 'deep dive' sections describe current levels of need as well as an assessment of opportunities for changes that could be made in order to better meet those needs. Visual presentations of data such a graphs and charts have been included in the appendices for reference.

It is recommended that this become a 'living document,' where topic areas not currently covered in depth could be proposed for inclusion in future iterations, as part of a continuous, iterative approach to the use of JSNAs across the wider Community Planning Partnership.

Demographics

Demographic data is vital for guiding many aspects of strategic planning. By understanding the population dynamics, especially the patterns of distribution of families and children across different areas, the city can better plan for healthcare, education and community services as well as the infrastructure needed for thriving communities such as housing, recreational spaces, amenities and transportation networks. This knowledge allows for more strategic and efficient use of resources, ensuring that Edinburgh keeps pace with the growing needs of young families.

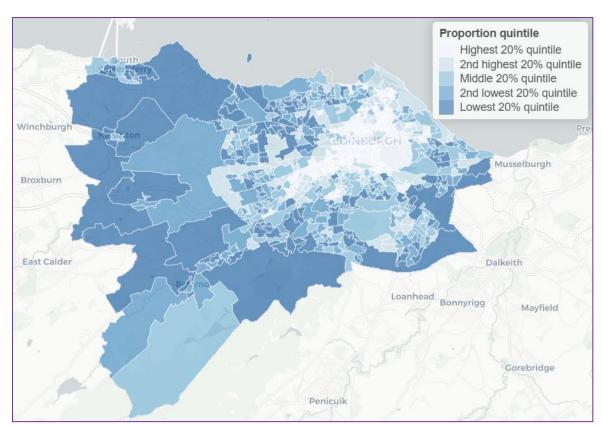
Edinburgh's population, as revealed by the 2022 <u>Scotland Census</u> shows some distinct trends compared to the national averages (Figure 1, appendix 1). While the city has a smaller proportion of children relative to the rest of Scotland, it has a notably higher number of young adults, likely due to the large student population that comes to study in the city. The peak age of this group is 23, and after this age, the proportion of individuals drops below the national average, continuing into older adult age groups. Notably, the city's population is dominated by adults aged 18-45, which coincides with the reproductive age group of women (<u>typically 15-44 years of age</u>).

When we examine the population of children in Edinburgh by individual year of age, there are slightly higher numbers of children in each of the years between five and fifteen, compared with the years below five and over fifteen. (Figures 2 and 3, appendix 1).

Additionally, the concentration of family households in the city is predominantly located on the outskirts where the communities with the highest proportion of family households are situated outside the city centre (*Map 1 below*). This could be influenced by a variety of factors including housing costs being lower on the peripheries of the city as well as a potential desire for access to green space and less traffic dominated environments.

The high number of school-aged children, particularly in the early years, highlights the continued demand for children's services including education, health and social services, as well as out-of-school opportunities, including youth work and more formal care, such as after-school and holiday clubs.

Fertility trends in Edinburgh align with broader national patterns. In 2000, the highest fertility rates in Scotland were for women aged 25-29, but by 2023, the highest fertility rate was observed in women aged 30-34, suggesting a trend towards women having children later in life. In line with this, Edinburgh's birth rates have decreased slightly, from nearly 50,000 in 2019 to under 46,000 in 2023 (Figure 4, appendix 1). Nationally, fertility rates have continued to decline, reaching their lowest point in 2023 at 45 live births per 1,000 women of childbearing age. Predictive models forecast a steady decline in the number of children aged 5-14 in Edinburgh over the next 15 years, with increases in the under-5 and 15-24 age groups, reflecting the city's evolving demographic landscape.



Map 1 – SIMD Quintile, Edinburgh

Demographic data also provides insights into areas of inequality within the city. This indicates that although Edinburgh is less deprived compared to the national average, significant pockets of deprivation still exist, particularly in certain neighbourhoods within the peripheries of the city, including Craigmillar / Niddrie in the North East; Liberton / Gilmerton in the South East; Westerhailes in the South West and Pilton / Granton in the North West the city (Figure 5-7, appendix 1).

The distribution of family households, which includes children under 18, reflects the overall distribution of Edinburgh's population. However, a deeper analysis shows that while 30.9% of all family households are located in the least deprived areas (SIMD 10), within the most deprived areas (SIMD 1) family households with children account for a higher proportion of households than in other SIMD areas.

The data on children in need of support, such as those on the Child Protection Register (CPR) and the number of looked after children in Edinburgh highlights the importance of tailored services for vulnerable children. Whilst the rate of children on the CPR and the number of looked after children have decreased in recent years, the number of children and young people receiving social work support has been rising, reflecting a shift in balance towards supporting families more informally instead of on a formal statutory basis (Figures 8-10, appendix 1).

-

¹ Note – terminology used locally would be 'Care Experienced Young People'

With birth rates decreasing, there may be fewer children in Edinburgh in future, however that does not necessarily mean an overall lower level of need. If poverty rates remain high, and the current trend in increased diagnosis of additional support needs continues, there may be increased number of children and families requiring a range of support to maximise their health and wellbeing. By prospectively exploring these changing needs, we have an opportunity to consider actions we can take now to ensure our city's offer is as prevention-focussed and inclusive as possible, in order to reduce the potential number of individual needs that might needs to be supported in future. This is crucial to ensuring that all children, regardless of background or ability, continue to have the opportunity to thrive in Edinburgh.

Early Years

The early years of a child's life, including the critical period in the womb, are widely recognised as the most formative phase for a child's development. During this time, children undergo rapid physical, emotional, cognitive and social development, which lays the foundation for their long-term health, educational achievements and overall life outcomes.

Research consistently shows that positive interventions during this period—whether they focus on nutrition, health, play, education or support systems—can significantly improve the likelihood of children achieving their potential. Some key interventions, such as smoking cessation or maternal healthy weight interventions will need to take place in the pre-birth or even pre-conception phase, and therefore need to be supported by a range of stakeholders in the wider Community Planning Partnership system.

This early investment is essential not only for promoting individual wellbeing but also for preventing the development of more significant health, social and educational issues later in life. Intervening early to address developmental challenges, health risks or socio-economic inequalities can help mitigate long-term negative consequences and reduce inequalities. By monitoring key indicators for early years development, we can assess the effectiveness of current policies, identify emerging needs, and make informed decisions about the support required to ensure the best possible outcomes for the next generation.

This section provides information on five key indicators for the health and development of children under five in Edinburgh, as well as information of the areas of the city where younger parents are offered additional support through the Family Nurse Partnership programme:

Maternity Smoking Status

The proportion of pregnant women in Edinburgh who smoke at the time of booking (typically between 8-10 weeks of pregnancy) is consistently lower than the national average in Scotland. Over the past three years, the percentage of smoking mothers in Edinburgh has been around 7%, compared to 11% across Scotland (Figure 11, Appendix 1). Smoking during pregnancy can lead to serious risks for both mother and baby, including stillbirth, preterm birth, respiratory issues, and long-term psychological challenges for the child. However despite a relatively low average rate, rates vary significantly across the city.

Second-hand smoke exposure also poses a significant health threat to wider members of the household. Edinburgh has an effective Quit your Way service, with pathways established within midwifery to discuss the benefits of smoking cessation and refer women to local Quit your Way support. This pathway could be bolstered by a more routine discussion of smoking as a health harm within a wider range of contacts, with a particular focus in the areas where we know smoking rates are higher. In addition, it is important that families are supported to reduce sources of stress, including money worries, which might increase their chance of smoking.

Maternal Obesity

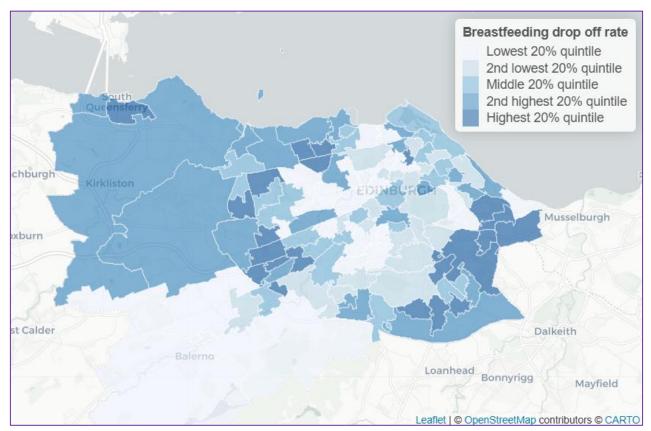
The percentage of pregnant women in Edinburgh categorised as healthy weight at their antenatal booking appointment has decreased from just over 50% to less than 50% between 2021-2024. The proportion of women categorised as overweight has remained relatively stable and the obese group has increased to around 20%. When compared with data for Scotland, the trends are similar to those in Edinburgh, however Edinburgh has a greater proportion of pregnant women in the healthy weight category (around 8%) than Scotland and around 9% fewer in the obese category (Figures 12-13, Appendix 1).

This gradually worsening trend has well evidenced <u>implications</u> for the health of the women and foetuses during pregnancy and in later life for the women and children affected. A growing body of evidence suggests that a <u>whole systems approach</u> to healthy weight is necessary to combat the environmental, societal and individual factors causing obesity. This involves targeted interventions such as <u>NHS Lothian weight management services</u> as well as a combination of many systems changes which facilitate healthier lives for everyone such as health promoting built environments.

Breastfeeding Drop-Off Rate at 6-8 Weeks

The <u>WHO recommend</u> exclusively breastfeeding babies for the first 6 months of life, after which complementary feeding should be introduced while continuing to breastfeed for up to 2 years and beyond. The <u>benefits of breastfeeding</u> to mother, baby and society as a whole are well established however, many mothers and lactating people report not meeting their breastfeeding goals. Work within NHS Lothian is ongoing ensure all mothers and lactating people are able to meet their breastfeeding goals, including by ensuring access to breastfeeding friendly spaces in key settings, as well as ensuring the needs of breastfeeding parents are considered in the design of the wider built environment.

Rates of babies having been ever breastfed are relatively high, although inequalities do exist where higher affluence is associated with greater likelihood to breastfeed. However, the rate of babies that are still exclusively breastfeeding at their 6-8 week check-up was less than half of all babies (45.2%) in Edinburgh in 2023/24. The drop off rate, representing the proportion of babies who were breastfeeding and then stopped before their 6-8 week check-up has been dropping from 21.3% in 2017/18 to 15.6% in 2023/24. The map below (Map xxx) represents the links between drop off rate and deprivation and shows which areas had the highest breastfeeding drop off rates compared to the areas with the lowest rates. The pattern is mirrored in the SIMD map (Figure 8) with pockets of highest drop off rates in Edinburgh's more deprived areas.



Map 2 - Breastfeeding drop off rate at 6-8 weeks by datazone Source: Child Health Systems Programme Pre-School, Public Health Scotland

Work is already underway in other parts of Lothian to provide enhanced place-based support through the Delivering Early Breastfeeding Support (DEBS) programme, and there is the potential for this to be initiated in parts of Edinburgh with the highest breastfeeding drop of rates. As with smoking it is also important that specialist support is bolstered by a more routine discussion of healthy maternal and infant feeding practices within a wider range of contacts, including ensuring families are supported to access affordable or emergency sources of nutrition, in addition to wider welfare advice, where appropriate.

Developmental Concerns at 27-30 Month Review

Early language development and communication skills are important indicators, at a population level, of the wellbeing of children due to the strong links with outcomes in later life. The 27-30 month child health review is a universal assessment offered to every child once they reach the appropriate age. It offers an opportunity for provision of health promotion, parenting support and identification of families who may require additional support. The review records the outcome of a developmental assessment looking at 9 domains (social, emotional, behavioural, attention, speech language & communication, gross motor, fine motor, vision and hearing) and specifically whether there are one or more concerns in relation to the domains mentioned.

Data shows that children from the most deprived areas of Edinburgh are 10% more likely to present developmental concerns compared to those from least deprived areas. The

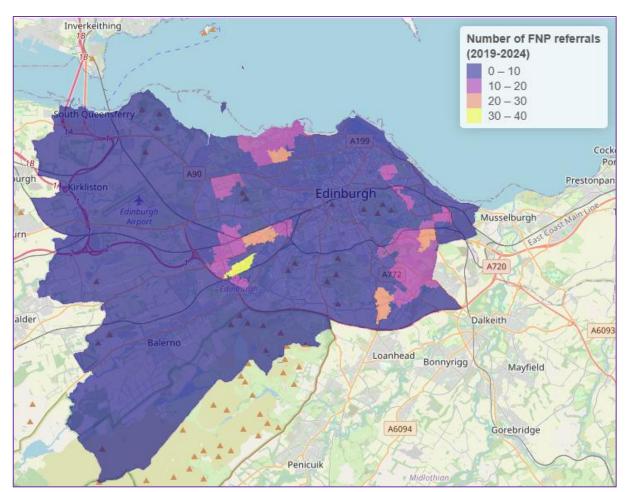
inequality gap is not showing noticeable improvement in the 5 years analysed (Figure 14, Appendix 1) and therefore in order to help close the attainment gap and prevent developmental challenges in the future, early intervention programmes which support families in the most vulnerable communities should be prioritised.

Uptake of Immunisations

Vaccination is one of the most effective measures for preventing illness, disability and death and reduces health inequalities associated with infectious diseases. However, while uptake for the MMR1 vaccine (at age 1) is near the 95% target for effective immunity within a population, the uptake for later vaccinations, including the MMR booster and the 4-in-1 preschool booster, remains below the 95% target (Figure 15, Appendix 1). The low uptake of these vaccines among preschool children poses a risk to the individual children who remain unimmunised as well as herd immunity and overall public health. Specific work is ongoing within the immunisation service to understand and address barriers to continued uptake of childhood immunisations, however there is also an opportunity for all those coming into contact with families to have a supportive conversation about the benefits of vaccination as well as to consider any practical barriers such as scheduling or travel to vaccination appointments that families might need support with.

Family Nurse Partnership

The Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) programme is offered to young people aged 19 and under, and those up to age 25 who were or are care-experience. It is an intensive programme in which specially trained nurses work with young, first-time mothers to prepare them for motherhood and throughout the first two years of their child's life. Map 3 shows the number of clients who were supported on the Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) programme in different areas of the city over the time period 2019-2024. Areas with higher numbers of FNP-supported clients may indicate parts of the city where continued higher levels of resources and support might be beneficial for young families, beyond the initial two years where they are supported by Family Nurses from the FNP programme.



Map 3 – FNP Supported Clients, Edinburgh 2019-2024

Recommendations – Early Years

- Ensure that City Plan 2040 and other relevant local policies includes requirements
 for public spaces to support key aspects of early years, children and young people's
 development, including smoke free public places; walkable neighbourhoods to
 support active travel, healthy weight and independent mobility; as well as
 breastfeeding-friendly and wider child- and youth-friendly outdoor environments.
- Support the most vulnerable families to access structured play and childcare
 opportunities as early as possible, as well as supporting key settings such as
 libraries, leisure centres, museums and galleries to provide an accessible, inclusive
 and welcoming offer to early years families who might not otherwise use those
 spaces.
- 3. Support all staff working with early years children and families in Edinburgh to feel able to raise key topics of smoking, healthy weight, breastfeeding, healthy development and immunisations as part of routine supportive conversations they are having with families.

Health Outcomes and Behaviours

Health outcomes for children are a crucial aspect of public health analysis, as they provide valuable insights into the effectiveness of interventions aimed at improving long-term health and reducing health inequalities. These outcomes provide a snapshot of the current state of public health, but it is important to remember that some may take years or even decades before the impacts of current interventions influence longer-term outcomes.

Children's health is influenced by a complex set of factors involving genetics and environment, including socio-economic factors. Effects that emerge early in life can go on to influence health and wellbeing outcomes in adulthood, therefore improving health outcomes for children is a key part of efforts to improve whole population health and reduce longer-term health inequalities.

The data from the Scottish Burden of Disease Study highlights the primary causes of early death and illness in children and adolescents using the outcomes 'Years of life lost' (YLL) and 'Years of healthy life lost to disability' (YLD).

Leading Causes of Death in Children and Young People

Data on Years of Life Lost (YLL) (Figures 16-19, Appendix 2) reveals that greatest number of life years lost in the under 15 population in Edinburgh are due to deaths during the neonatal period (the first 28 days after birth) or due to congenital birth defects. Notably, young males in Edinburgh experience a higher rate of early death from lower respiratory infections and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) than females in the city. Additionally, diarrhoea and other common infections are significant contributors to early death in both sexes. For girls, the rates of early death from diarrhoea and other infections are comparable to deaths from nutritional deficiencies and unintentional injuries, which are notably higher than the rates seen across Scotland.

Among young people aged 15-24, the leading causes of YLL are self-harm, interpersonal violence and drug use disorders. However, young men in Edinburgh face a higher risk of drug-related deaths compared to females, while young women are disproportionately affected by self-harm and interpersonal violence, though these rates remain lower than the national averages.

More details on causes of death in young people, including comparisons with other local authority areas are available via Public Health Scotland's interactive tool Scottish Burden of Disease Interactive Visualisation Tool.

Leading Causes of Ill Health

Years of Life Lost to Disability (YLD) measures the impact of illness and disability on quality of life. The leading causes of ill health among children under 15 are similar in both Edinburgh and Scotland. Skin conditions such as eczema, respiratory illnesses like asthma (more common among boys) and congenital birth defects are the primary contributors.

For young people aged 15-24, the most common causes of YLD are mental health disorders, headache disorder and musculoskeletal disorders. Drug and alcohol use make up a smaller proportion of YLD, similar to rates of skin disease and asthma. (Figures 20-23, Appendix 2)

Primary 1 BMI Statistics

The percentage of children in Edinburgh classified as having a "healthy weight" in Primary 1 (P1) tends to be higher than the Scottish average. In 2023/24, 17.8% of P1 children were identified as being at risk of overweight or obesity (Figure 24, Appendix 2). A notable disparity exists, however, between the most and least deprived areas of Edinburgh, with a 13.2% difference in the rates of children with risk of overweight or obesity. This highlights the marked health inequalities in the city, discernible from an early age and reflects broader socio-economic disparities. It is important to recognise that children's weight is influenced by a wide range of factors, and the evidence base shows that a 'Whole System Approach' is required to support children and families to achieve healthy weight, with recommended actions for local authorities set out by Obesity Action Scotland.

Dental Health

The National Dental Inspection Programme data demonstrates that children in Edinburgh show a higher rate of "no obvious decay experience" compared to the Scottish average, with over 75% of P1 children and over 80% of P7 children being free from noticeable dental decay, missing or filled teeth (Figures 25 &26, Appendix 2). This however indicates that over 20% of Edinburgh's P1 and over 15% of P7s are experiencing dental decay and that in 2022/23 P1s were more likely to experience this than P7s. Disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic are noted, however, work within NHS Lothian on the Childsmile programme has played an important part in bringing dental decay in children down and addressing barriers to dental health in deprived areas.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

The 2021-22 Health and Wellbeing Census, using the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ), paints a concerning picture of mental health among children and adolescents in Edinburgh. Over half (56.6%) of female respondents in S2-S6 scored as having raised levels of mental health and wellbeing difficulties, while the rate for males was lower (34.5%) but still substantial. The data indicates that mental health challenges are more pronounced in younger secondary school children, with an increased level of reporting of difficulties among girls and children with caring responsibilities. These issues are compounded by socio-economic factors, with a higher percentage of children from the most deprived quintile (51%) scoring as having raised levels of difficulties, compared with those from the least deprived quintile (41%). A slight socioeconomic trend was also seen for a range of other self-reported outcomes, with those in the least deprived quintile being less likely to agree or strongly agree that they are cheerful, more likely to agree that there are lots of things they worry about, and less likely to agree that they are often or always feeling confident. (Figures 27-30, Appendix 2)

Smoking, Alcohol and Substance Use

Data from the <u>Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey</u> (SALSUS) highlights trends in smoking and alcohol use among 13- and 15-year-olds (Figure 31 & 32,

Appendix 2). This includes information that while smoking rates have declined, the use of ecigarettes has risen. There is limited evidence of the long-term health impacts of vaping on children and young people, however there is a <u>UK commitment to further research on this topic</u>. In the interim however, PHS produced a consensus statement on e-cigarettes, which includes that access to e-cigarettes needs to be controlled carefully; they are not products for children or non-smokers, however also includes that health professionals should advise smokers about the different ways they can quit and which are most effective and that they should not turn anyone away because they choose to use e-cigarettes. There is no routinely available data on substance use in children and young people, however data on drug deaths in Lothian do not show any drug-related deaths in children and young people, with the average age of drug related deaths being 43. More information on drug related deaths is available in the NHS Lothian Drug Related Deaths Annual Report.

Edinburgh's young people are less likely to have consumed alcohol compared to the national average, although they are more likely to view trying alcohol as socially acceptable. The survey also shows an increase in excessive drinking among 15-year-olds in Edinburgh over time (Figure 33 & 34, Appendix 2). More information on alcohol use in Edinburgh is available in the NHS Lothian Alcohol Health Needs Assessment.

Sexual Health, Wellbeing and Teenage Pregnancy

Young people's access to sexual and reproductive health information, education and services was disrupted during the pandemic, and we have still not seen young people's attendance at sexual health services recover to pre-pandemic levels. In addition, teenage pregnancy rates in Edinburgh and Scotland have generally been on the decline, but a slight uptick was observed in 2022, following a sharp decline during the COVID-19 pandemic. Edinburgh also has a higher proportion of terminations compared to deliveries than Scotland overall (Figures 35-37, Appendix 2). It is important to acknowledge that for some young women, teenage pregnancy can be a planned and positive life choice, despite societal stigmas, but equally important to ensure that children and young people have access to age-appropriate information on sexual health and wellbeing including contraception to allow them to make informed choices and access support where required.

These challenges are acknowledged in the <u>Scottish Government's Sexual Health and Blood</u>
<u>Borne Virus Action Plan 23-26</u> where young people are recognised as a priority. In Lothian, the Healthy Respect team continue to work to improve young people's sexual health and wellbeing, this includes providing access to clear and inclusive information for both young people and those who work with them via our <u>Healthy Respect website</u>, as well as delivering training to the young people's workforce, including teaching staff.

Youth Violence

There is no routinely available data on overall levels or trends of youth violence in Edinburgh however there are some concerns about the impact of this within certain communities. Data from the Scottish Children's Reporter shows that the number of children involved in the Children's Hearing System due to an 'offense' has decreased significantly over time, from a peak of 900 in 2005/06 to a low of 111 in 2021/22, with numbers having risen slightly to 139 in 2023/24. There is no data on the number of offences that were 'violent' however information on the grounds of referral to the Children's Hearing System (including offense

and non-offense grounds) showed that in 2023/24 102 children were referred due to the child's conduct being harmful to themselves or others.

Recommendations – Health Outcomes and Behaviours

- 4. Explore options for protection from harmful commercial determinants of health such as exposure to advertising for the retail of health-harming commodities including tobacco, alcohol and foods high in fat, sugar and salt (HFSS) which are a key determinant of young people's health behaviours and corresponding outcomes.
- 5. Continue to ensure children and young people in schools and other settings such as youth work have access to relevant health promoting information and confident staff who can support them to engage with relevant services in relation to key health topics of healthy eating, physical activity, tobacco, alcohol, substance use, sexual health, mental health and wellbeing.
- 6. Ensure a joined up and effective approach to the provision of opportunities and support for young people's mental health and wellbeing, including through access to physical activity, youth work, mental health and wellbeing services, including those currently provided through Whole Family Wellbeing Fund, Connected Communities and Mental Health Grant programmes.

Building Blocks of Health

Health is shaped by a wide range of factors, many of which extend beyond the healthcare system itself. The Health Foundation's framework for understanding the **building blocks of health** provides a comprehensive lens through which we can explore the diverse elements that influence individual and collective wellbeing. These eight building blocks of - money and resources, good work, housing, surroundings, transport, food, education and skills, and communities - interact in complex ways to either promote or undermine health.

This chapter will explore each of these building blocks, examining the available data relating to Edinburgh and their significance in shaping both short-term and long-term health outcomes.

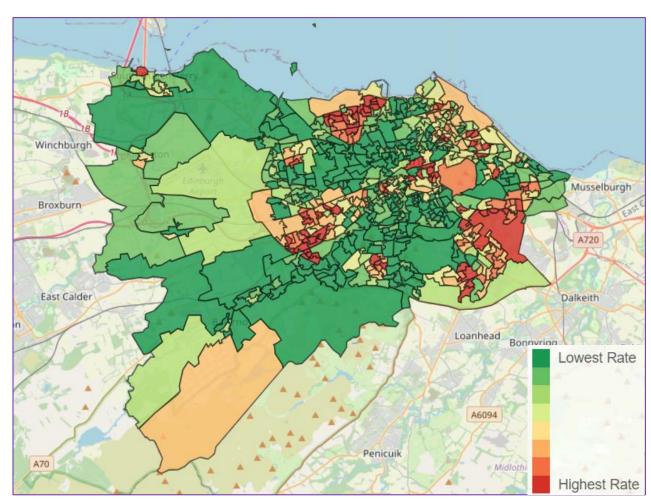
Money and Resources

Poverty among families in Edinburgh has remained relatively stable over the past decade, consistently affecting around 1 in 5 households with children. Map 4 shows the areas of the city that are most impacted by child poverty, with the highest proportion of affected families living in areas such as Craigmillar / Niddrie; in the North East of the city Liberton / Gilmerton in the South East; Westerhailes in the South West and Granton / Pilton in the North West, as well as in some areas of the City Centre and Leith.

While efforts to address child poverty have made important strides, the rates of child poverty have not changed substantially, indicating that progress has been slower than hoped. Scottish Government conservatively estimates that child poverty percentage rates are 4% lower than they would be otherwise, due to actions such as Scottish Child Payment increase, free school meals, school clothing grant and council tax reduction. It is estimated that around 2,000 children in Edinburgh—roughly 2% of the 4% reduction—have been lifted out of poverty due to <u>local delivery of government-funded actions</u>.

Notably, Lothian Public Health Survey Data (Figure 6, Appendix 1) demonstrates that although family households in the most deprived areas—those in the lowest SIMD decile—represent only 6.7% of all family households in Edinburgh, the overall child poverty rate in the city remains high at 20% (Figure 36, Appendix 3). This indicates that a significant proportion of children in poverty do not reside in the areas conventionally considered the most deprived, highlighting the complex nature of poverty in the city.

There is a range of work ongoing in the city to support children and families living in poverty, more detail on which is set out in the End Poverty in Edinburgh Poverty Annual Report. While the long term goal is of course to reduce the number of families who experience poverty in the city, a shorter term priority is to make it easier for families with money worries to access appropriate and joined up support.



Map 4 - Percentage of children in poverty, Edinburgh, 2020/21 (relative income measure of children in low income families before housing costs)

Source: Children in low income families: local area statistics 2014 to 2021 - GOV.UK

Good Work

For many people, high quality, well paid, secure work is a way out of poverty. While Scotland's overall unemployment rate is at an historic low, many families are still facing significant financial struggles, even when parents are in work. The fact that children in these households are living in poverty despite their parents being employed is concerning, as it indicates that work alone is not enough to ensure financial stability for families. While there has been a decrease in the number of families experiencing in-work poverty in Edinburgh, the percentage of families on low income that are in work is consistently higher than the Scottish average, at 65.2% in 2022/23 in Edinburgh compared to 62.4% in Scotland (Figure 37, Appendix 3).

Caring responsibilities, particularly for mothers, are a barrier to full participation in the workforce. This is a <u>particular issue for lone parents</u>, of which 92% are headed by women. Many single-parent families are underemployed, meaning parents are working fewer hours or in lower-paid roles, limiting their ability to provide financially for their children. The economic pressures of balancing paid work and unpaid care have long been a source of gender inequality. Mothers, particularly those with young children, are often forced to make significant sacrifices in their careers due to a lack of affordable childcare and flexible working

options. This "motherhood penalty" leads to lower earnings, fewer career opportunities, and less job security, all of which have a ripple effect on children's wellbeing. In Edinburgh, female unemployment has risen from 2.3% in 2022 to 3.4% in 2024, narrowing the gap between Edinburgh's unemployment rate and the national rate in Scotland (Figure 38, Appendix 3).

Affordable childcare is essential for many families to maintain steady employment, but for those in low-income households, it can be prohibitively expensive. The Scottish Government's provision of 1,140 hours of free childcare per year for 3-to 5-year-olds is a critical support. The percentage of 3 and 4 year olds registered with local authority early learning and childcare centres in Edinburgh shows a drop from 95% pre-COVID pandemic to 90-92% in the years following the pandemic. This pattern was not seen in the Scotland rates which are slightly higher overall (Figure 39, Appendix 3). A 2023 survey showed that 56% of respondents accessed their funded hours through local authority settings and 44% in private partner provider settings. However, this data does not take into account private childcare arrangements outside of nursery settings such as, childminders and informal childcare through family and friends as well as the importance of out-of-school childcare provision for school-age children.

The impact of the barriers to childcare is evident in a 2022 survey of families accessing standard childcare and those relying on subsidised childcare through Edinburgh's Affordable Childcare model of support. The survey found that 46% of low-income families using subsidised childcare would not have been able to work without this support (Figure 40, Appendix 3). For these parents, access to affordable childcare is a key enabler of financial stability as well as improved health and wellbeing outcomes for their children (Figure 41, Appendix 3). However, families accessing non-subsidised childcare face significant challenges, including inflexible hours and high costs, which prevent them from expanding their work hours or pursuing career growth. One respondent said, "Availability is low/non-existent, and the cost outweighs the benefits of working," highlighting how the lack of access to affordable, quality childcare in Edinburgh can restrict parents' ability to earn. This inevitably will impact on children's prospects and opportunities in the future.

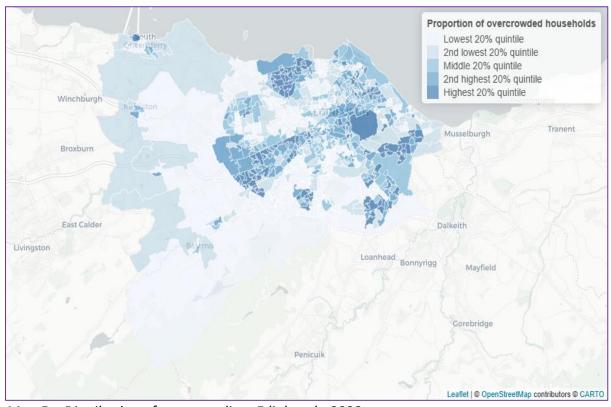
In some areas of the city, there is also an issue that a high proportion of adults report never having been in work. This can impact on children and young people in two key ways, firstly because children whose parents are not in work may be less likely to benefit from early enrolment in formal childcare; while <u>national analysis has also shown that children with non-working parents may also lack support to meet their educational potential and enter the labour market in adulthood.</u>

A range of work to tackle the issue of parental unemployment is already ongoing in the city, as part of Capital City Partnership's Joined up for Jobs approach. This includes addressing the barriers to stable, well-paid employment for parents including ensuring that affordable, flexible childcare options for pre-school and out-of-school childcare are available. These need to be promoted and made affordable and accessible to all families, particularly those in more deprived areas.

Housing

Affordable, stable, and quality housing is crucial for the health and wellbeing of everyone, particularly children and its affordability directly impacts a family's financial stability. Studies have shown that housing affordability is a key driver of poverty and inequality in Scotland and increased supply of affordable housing is crucial in reducing child poverty. In Edinburgh, the private rental market has become increasingly unaffordable, with average monthly rents reaching £1,500 compared to £1,100 in Glasgow and even less in other cities like Aberdeen and Dundee (Figure 42, Appendix 3). The proportion of households living in privately rented accommodation in Edinburgh is higher than the national average at 23.1%, compared to 12.9% across Scotland (Figure 43, Appendix 3).

The financial pressure caused by housing costs—both for rent and utilities—has both direct and indirect effects. For families, it means less disposable income for essential items like nutritious food or healthcare, which are vital for children's development. The impact of poor housing affordability can be especially profound for children, as stress and anxiety related to housing instability can impact their wellbeing, while frequent moves may damage engagement with health, other local services and weaken relationships in the local community. The Health Foundation state that households with children in the private rented sector are more likely to have moved home multiple times and that there is an association between moving more frequently and poor self-rated health.



Map 5 – Distribution of overcrowding, Edinburgh, 2022

Source: Scottish Census 2022

Lack of affordable housing can also lead to overcrowding. In 2022, 2.7% of households in the city had an occupancy rating of -1 or less, meaning they were one bedroom short of what would be considered appropriate for the number of people living in the home. While 2.7% is

not a large proportion of the population, certain parts of Edinburgh are experiencing significant overcrowding, with up to 11% of households in specific datazones facing this issue (Figure 44, Appendix 3). These areas also coincide with higher levels of overall area deprivation (Figure 45, Appendix 3), which may amplify the risks for children if they experience both and overcrowded home environment as well as lower levels of health promoting factors in their surrounding neighbourhood. Research has shown that children in overcrowded homes are more likely to experience stress, anxiety, and depression, have poorer physical health, and attain less well in school.

Fuel poverty is another component of housing affordability and quality that has a severe impact on children's health. In Edinburgh, 11.2% of family households reported experiencing fuel poverty in 2023, with 29.8% of those households residing in the most deprived areas - SIMD 1 postcodes (Figures 46 & 47, Appendix 3). The consequences of living in cold homes are particularly concerning for children, as exposure to cold, damp conditions can impair lung function and cognitive development. The Institute of Health Equity's 2024 report stresses that cold homes exacerbate respiratory issues and increase the risk of winter infections, while children living in inadequate warmth are more likely to suffer from mental health symptoms. These conditions, especially in the most vulnerable areas of the city, could affect nearly 30% of Edinburgh's children, creating long-term challenges for their health and wellbeing.

Lastly, the quality of housing itself, particularly issues like damp and mould, contributes to significant health risks. Damp and mouldy homes are associated with respiratory infections, exacerbation of asthma, and other respiratory symptoms. If untreated, these issues can lead to serious health problems, particularly for young children, whose developing respiratory systems are more vulnerable. Although Edinburgh generally has lower levels of homes affected by damp than other areas of Scotland, older housing types are more likely to face these issues (Figures 48 & 49, Appendix 3), further highlighting the disparities in housing quality that impact the city's most vulnerable populations.

A range of work to address homelessness and other housing challenges in the city are set out in Edinburgh's Homelessness Action Plan and forthcoming Housing Strategy. Further insights into the challenges facing children and young people in the homelessness system are included in the 'Deep Dive' section of this JSNA on Homelessness.

Our Surroundings

The environments we inhabit—our neighbourhoods, homes, schools, green spaces and streets - are fundamental to our health and wellbeing. Our surroundings extend beyond geography; they encompass the social, economic, and physical factors that shape health. A place-based approach recognises how these elements interact and influence the wellbeing of those who live, work, learn and play within them.

Clean Air

Poor air quality is cited as a top environmental risk to public health in the UK. Everyone who breathes polluted air is at increased risk of health issues but our most vulnerable populations, particularly children, are the worst affected. Development in the womb and the first years of life is a critical stage when pollutants can impact on the growing body systems

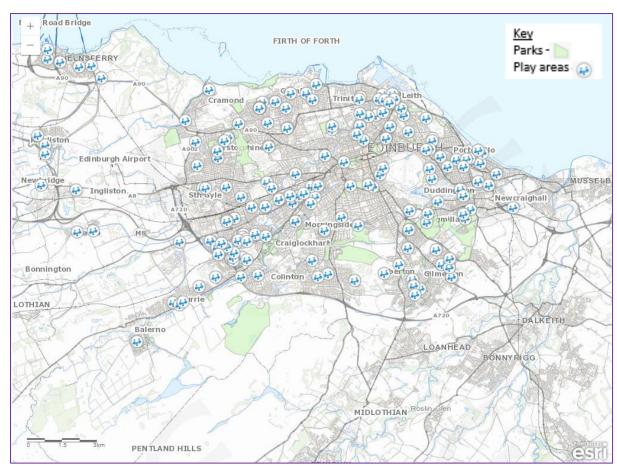
which can last for the entirety of a person's life. <u>Conditions that are exacerbated by air pollution</u> include asthma, chronic bronchitis, heart disease, stroke, diabetes, COPD and cancer, with an estimated mortality burden of 40,000 deaths per year in the UK from outdoor air pollution.

In Edinburgh, the main contributor to air pollution is road traffic emissions with additional contribution from industrial, commercial and domestic sources. Whilst there were no reported exceedances of the Scottish air quality objectives in the Edinburgh Urban Area, based on modelled mean concentrations, there is no defined 'safe' level of exposure to pollutants. Five specific Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) have been identified in Edinburgh. These AQMAs are characterised by recent or historic high traffic or industrial emissions in comparison to the rest of the city and receive particular focus in the Air Quality Action Plan. Long term trends show stable or slightly decreasing levels of air pollution, in line with national trends and the full enforcement of the low emission zones (LEZ) in June 2024 is expected to bring long-term improvements in air quality, however work must continue to progress to improve air quality and protect children and young people from the harms of exposure to both nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter pollution.

Green Space

For children and young people, greenspaces are essential to their growth. Play in natural settings isn't just about having fun—it's about building resilience, developing social skills and learning to connect with the world around them. Time spent outdoors improves their mental and emotional wellbeing, boosting concentration and reducing stress. However, not everyone has the same access to high quality spaces. In Edinburgh, we are fortunate to have a large number of public parks, gardens and other greenspaces, including many play areas (Map 6), sports pitches and exercise equipment as well as alllotments, woodland areas and riverside paths. 35 Edinburgh city parks have received a <u>Green Flag award for high quality</u> and these appear to be spread across the different localities of the city (Map 7, Appendix 3). However inequalities still exist in the accessibility of quality greenspace for children to play, meaning families in more deprived areas miss out on the same benefits of outdoor play and relaxation enjoyed by wealthier areas of the city. In addition to access to open space and play equipment, there are also benefits to children and young people having access to more natural and biodiverse environments for non-structured play. Consideration should be given to how children, young people and families can access these types of environment as well.

As our city grows, generating and preserving quality greenspaces for children to play is crucial for our health, especially for those who have the least access.



Map 6 – Parks and Play areas, Edinburgh, accessed: February 2025

Source: Edinburgh Outdoors Map

Safe Neighbourhoods

In order for children to be able to make the most of the opportunities and services in the wider city, it is essential that they perceive their local neighbourhoods and public places in the wider city as safe, high quality spaces that are accessible, inclusive and welcoming.

Data from the 2021-22 Health and Wellbeing Census gives us an insight into the experience of their surroundings from the perspective of Edinburgh's children. Overall, 78% children and young people from P5 to S6 reported feeling safe in the area that they live, all or most of the time, with 67% reporting that they think their area is a good place to live. However, there is a clear association between children's perception of the area in which they live and the level of deprivation of that area with a 45% difference between the percentage of children in the least and most deprived areas who said the area in which they live is a good place to live. The gap between perception of safety amongst those living in the most and least deprived areas was lower, with 76% in the most deprived quintile saying they felt safe all or most of the time, compared with 94% in the least deprived quintile (Appendix 3, Figure 58).

Healthy Retail Environments

Commercial activities by private companies' impact on our surroundings because they shape the physical and social environment in which we live, grow, work, learn and play. For example, the availability and marketing of health-harming commodities such as tobacco, alcohol and foods high in fat, sugar and salt (HFSS foods) in local communities and digital

spaces which make them easily accessible, more desirable and increases perceived normality of consumption.

NHS Lothian Public Health Survey data shows that across Lothian, people living in the 25% of areas with highest alcohol outlet density had 42% higher odds of risky drinking than those living in areas having no alcohol outlets. Children are a particularly vulnerable group to the commercial determinants of health, because their attitudes towards commercial determinants, such as alcohol, are established during this formative stage when their brains are still developing and due to their increased susceptibility to persuasive messaging around these health-harming products.

In addition, children have less independent mobility compared to adults. They typically spend most of their time outside of school close to home making them dependent on their local surroundings. A recent Scottish study found that children living in the most deprived areas were nearly five times more likely to encounter off-sales alcohol outlets than those in the least deprived areas and almost three times more likely to be exposed to on-sales outlets such as pubs and bars. Furthermore, 31% of children's exposure to off-sales outlets in deprived areas occurred within 500 meters of their homes, compared to just 7% in less deprived areas. Across all areas, children experienced 22–32% of their exposure to alcohol outlets within 500 meters of schools, with a higher proportion of this exposure coming from off-sales outlets in more deprived areas.

Working collaboratively around spatial planning to coordinate local policies that foster healthy environments can have a profoundly positive impact on the health and wellbeing of our city's children and young people. There are a range of opportunities within the planning systems and other key policy areas to improve access to quality greenspace, improve air quality and design safer streets that enable communities to live healthier, more connected lives.

Transport

Safe, environmentally sustainable transport opportunities are important to promote good health and reduce inequalities, including by providing opportunities for physical activity and protecting people from road danger, air and noise pollution. It also enables connection to education, employment and other services and opportunities, as well as reducing greenhouse gas emissions to reduce climate change.

Data on children's travel in the city shows that that nearly half (42%) of all school age children have less then 2km to travel to their place of education, with 65% having less that 5km to travel. For primary school age children, average distances are even lower, with 65% having less than 2km to travel and 79% having less than 5km to travel. Unfortunately despite these low distances, National data shows over 30% of primary age children and nearly 20% of secondary age children still report travelling to school by car.

Data from a Scotland-wide evaluation of the <u>Young Person's Free Bus Travel Scheme</u> shows the high update of the scheme within Edinburgh, with 83% take up amongst young people. Continued encouragement to young people to take up and make use of this is important not just to support sustainable travel to school, but because the evaluation has shown a wider

range of benefits to children and young people. This included 83% of respondents age 12-15 reporting that the scheme gave them more independence and 34% of all respondents saying they'd been able to access new opportunities and activities as a result of the schemes. The evaluation also reported data from focus groups where girls and young women reported that free bus travel had enabled them to feel safer when traveling at night (Figure 63, Appendix 3).

Only 1 per cent of children and young people currently report travelling to school by cycle. Cycling Scotland provides information on which schools currently offer 'bikeability' training in Edinburgh. The latest data does not show any schools in the city delivering level 3 training, which is what would be required for children to be confident and competent to cycle on roads with traffic (the level of skill they would likely need if they are to be able to cycle for daily travel in adulthood in a city such as Edinburgh).

It is important to remember that children's transport behaviours are significantly influenced by the infrastructure that is designed for and the travel behaviours of the adult population. Data from the 2022 census shows that amongst adults travelling to work in Edinburgh, 25% do so by driving, with 15% travelling by bus, 12% on foot and 4% by bicycle and 39% working from home. While much of our transport network has historically been designed to support travel by car, lower-income households are much less likely to have access to a car.

Improving access to environments that enable sustainable travel, particularly around schools, and supporting children and young people to choose these healthy modes by default are essential in order to reduce inequalities in a range of outcomes. In addition, supporting the next generation to travel sustainably is a key part of achieving Edinburgh's commitment to addressing the climate emergency, including the target for a 30% reduction in car km by 2030.

Food

Nutritious food is essential for our health, playing a crucial role in children's development and overall wellbeing throughout life. Everyone should have the ability to access and afford sufficient healthy food to maintain good health. However, this is not the reality for many people in Scotland, as <u>food insecurity for households with children has been increasing</u> in recent years, meaning these families experience hunger and live with the uncertainty of how they will access enough food to meet their basic needs.

This is particularly problematic for households with infants for multiple reasons. For a baby to survive and thrive, they must have access to either breastmilk or infant formula on demand 24 hours per day. It is recommended to exclusively breastfeed however, <u>Feed UK survey</u> findings suggest food insecure women are more likely to stop breastfeeding due to concerns over milk quality due to poor maternal diet. The cost of formula milk rose by 18-36% depending on the brand between December 2021 and December 2023 and benefits available to low income families with a baby have not kept up with inflation, putting these families at higher risk of food insecurity.

Results from an NHS Lothian survey of professionals working with families in Edinburgh revealed that 89% of 77 respondents have supported a family experiencing infant food

insecurity with 25% reporting this happens every week. Given the extent of the issue, work is on-going to strengthen pathways to support people in emergency situations and with wider holistic welfare rights advice.

Data from the Health and Wellbeing Census 2021-22, reveals race inequalities in the levels of food insecurity experienced by children and young people from some ethnic backgrounds in Edinburgh. In this pupil survey, 11.6% of African, Black or Caribbean pupils in P7-S6 classes answered that they 'always' or 'often' go to school or bed hungry, compared to 6% of White Scottish or White British pupils (Figure 65, Appendix 3). When assessed by stage, younger pupils in this age group tend to be more likely to experience food insecurity than their older counterparts, with 70.4% of pupils in S5 never going to school or bed hungry compared to 62.2% of P7s. Overall, 32.4% of all pupils always, often or sometimes go to school or bed hungry, suggesting that food insecurity is a problem experienced by more than a third of children in this age group.

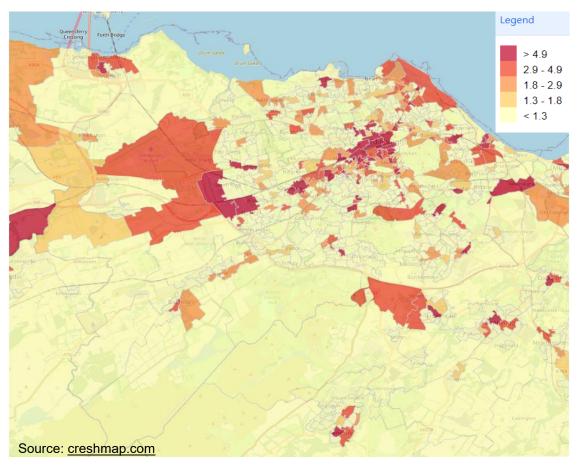
More recent data is not directly comparable, however it does show disparities in the consumption of breakfast by gender and by stage. Older females were less likely to have breakfast (more than a glass of milk or fruit juice) in 2024/25 with 50% of secondary school aged girls answering agree or strongly agree to the statement 'I usually have breakfast (more than a glass of milk or fruit juice) compared with 65% of boys. Further analysis of the significance and accessibility of breakfast clubs in schools and colleges is available in the Universal Offer chapter of this report.

Meals eaten at school contribute a significant proportion of a child's diet with up to 5 breakfast meals and 5 lunch meals per week provided by school cafeterias during term time. Therefore, the quality and affordability of school meals can have a significant impact on child health. This intervention aims to ensure children receive a healthy meal whilst at school and the benefits of free school meals include increased attainment and attendance, reduced food insecurity and improved diet quality. They can also contribute to reducing child poverty by decreasing the cost of the school day and reduce the health inequalities associated with poverty given that it would cost a household with children living in SIMD 1, 70% of their disposable income to provide a healthy balanced diet. It has been acknowledged that the preventative impact of these benefits far outweigh the costs and recognising this, the scheme was extended to offer universal free school meals to all children in Scotland in P1-P5 from 2022. Families on a low income can continue to access free school meals for their children in P6 and P7 and throughout secondary school. Of all registered children, including primary universal provision, Edinburgh consistently has a higher percentage of children receiving free school meals than Scotland. Whilst data is not available for 2021 due to restrictions associated with COVID-19, from 2022 onwards this difference has increased to Edinburgh having an almost 10% higher uptake than Scotland in 2024.

<u>Eating school meals is often the healthier choice</u> when compared with packed lunches and when children enter secondary school, their food options often increase to include food purchased from local retailers also. Currently in Edinburgh, the density of hot food takeaway outlets to population of the area shows the highest density of these retailers concentrated at the city centre and in areas of relative deprivation. The pattern seen in the map below matches some of the patterns seen in the map of deprivation, suggesting that people living

in the more deprived areas of the city have greater access to retailers offering these less healthy options and this may be <u>contributing towards higher levels of diet-related disease</u> in these communities. This makes reducing the availability of unhealthy food options and increasing the availability of healthier options around schools an important area where <u>planning can contribute towards improving child health</u> and creating healthier communities overall.

As part of the NHS Lothian and City of Edinburgh Council work on the <u>Good Food Nation Plan</u>, there is an opportunity to take a holistic view of current food systems, joining up with national plans and working together with all stakeholders to achieve more sustainable and healthy food systems for everyone.



Map 5 - Number of food takeaway outlets per 1,000 people by data zone, Edinburgh, 2024 Source: creshmap.com

Education and Skills

A range of indicators on attainment and positive destinations, along with self-reported survey data provide a picture of children and young people's attainment and experience of education in the city.

Primary one attainment data over the areas of listening, talking, literacy, numeracy, reading and writing shows that more children in Edinburgh as a whole, are meeting the expected curriculum of excellence (CfE) levels compared to Scotland. However, if we look at the

attainment results for children across Edinburgh, there are significant differences between our most deprived and least deprived areas. In all areas of listening, talking, literacy, numeracy, reading and writing, children living in the most deprived areas of the city are less likely to meet CfE expectations. There are between 14-25% less pupils meeting expectations compared to children in the least deprived areas. It is important to remember that educational attainment in primary one will be significantly shaped by levels of school readiness, and the extent to while children have been supported to reach developmental milestones prior to attending school.

Data on positive destinations for school leavers shows that just over 95% of pupils are in positive destinations 9 months after leaving school. The data for our Edinburgh young people is very similar to the Scottish wide data.

In addition to data on educational attainment, it is also important to understand young people's experiences of their time in education. Just under half (47.8%) of young people reported that they 'enjoyed learning at school' compared to 20% that didn't, with the remainder providing a neutral response. A relatively large proportion (70.5%) of young people agreed that they were 'going along well with their schoolwork', compared to 8.6% who reported they were not. Agreement levels were higher in the younger groups (S1-3) compared to older groups (S4-6). There was no gender difference in patterns for enjoying school and getting on with schoolwork. In the same survey, young people were generally positive about their future, with 84% agreeing that they expect to get a job, training or place at college/university after leaving school compared to 4.4% that disagreed.

It is recognised that the educational experience of children and young people with additional support needs may differ from the average experience of children in the city. The challenges and opportunities resulting from the increasing number of children identified as having additional need in the city are explored further in the 'Deep Dive' section of this JSNA on additional support needs.

Ongoing work in education is successfully narrowing the attainment gap between those growing up in the most and least deprived areas of the city. Continuation of the Team Around the Community programme will help to connect those in education with a wider range of supportive resources to help them maximise their potential both within and out with key education settings.

Family, Friends and Community

Relationships with family, friends and communities play a crucial role in health and wellbeing. Positive relationships lead to better physical and mental wellbeing and longer lives, while negative relationships, or a lack of secure relationship can lead to loneliness and poor mental wellbeing. Supportive relationships help reduce stress, benefiting overall health. Additionally, strong community connections can improve mental health and lessen the effects of neighbourhood deprivation.

When our children and young people are connected to extended family, family friends and people in their community, they have: a sense of belonging to a place and community; opportunities to learn about getting along with others; and trusted people to go to when they need help.

Strong social connections can also boost our children's confidence, leading to new friendships. Different community connections for children have different benefits, such as:

- Extended family and family friends can strengthen their sense of belonging.
 Interacting with other adults and families help children understand that not all families are the same. This exposure shows them that there are various values, routines and ideas in the world. Additionally, in times of stress, family members or friends can provide support, for instance, picking up a child from school if a parent is sick or delayed.
- Being familiar with people in the local community can help children feel that their
 area is a safe and friendly place. Children might be involved with local organisations
 like sporting clubs, music or art clubs, religious organisations or volunteer groups.
 These opportunities allow children and young people to build skills, follow interests
 and 'give back' to the community.

Data from the 2021-22 Health and Wellbeing Census Scotland provides key information on children and young people's perceptions of their neighbourhood and home life in Edinburgh. a picture of children's relationships with family and friends nationally. The majority, 65% of young people reported having an adult in their life who they could trust and talk to, and this was relatively consistent between the most and least deprived areas. A higher proportion (77%) in the least deprived quintile strongly agreed that most of the time they had enough money to do the same things as their friends, compared with 65% in the most deprived quintile. Overall 14% reported that they always or often felt lonely, with 39% reporting that they sometimes felt lonely. This was similar across all deprivation quintiles.

The opportunities that are on offer to support children and young people to engage with family, friends and communities outside of home and education settings is explored further in the 'Deep Dive' section of this JSNA on 'Edinburgh's Community Offer.'

Data from social work statistics also show that some children in the city continue to be adversely affected by negative experiences with family, friends and communities. For social work case conferences held in 2022-23 the main concerns identified were domestic abuse (16%), neglect (15%), parental mental health problems (15%), parental substance use (15%) and emotional abuse (12%).

It is important that we work to support all children to build strong and protective relationship with family, friends and wider communities, while also continuing to ensure that processes are in place to enable early identification and intervention when children and experiencing unsupportive or harmful environments.

Recommendations – Building Blocks of Health

- 7. Money and resources: Ensure an accessible and equitable system of welfare advice is available in the city, to enable families with children to get appropriate help with money worries as early as possible, including ensuring all those working with children and families have the confidence to ask about money worries and signpost to relevant sources of support.
- 8. Good work: Further explore options to support parents into 'good work', including options to expand flexible, affordable childcare in the local areas where this could make the biggest difference.
- 9. Housing: Continue to prioritise the needs of children and families in the allocation of housing, including ensuring that when temporary accommodation is needed mitigations are put in place to minimise adverse impacts on children and young people.
- 10. Surroundings: Ensure that equitable access to high quality, child and young people friendly greenspace for playing, is prioritised as part of all development and regeneration opportunities in the city.
- 11. Transport: Improve the transport environments around schools, prioritising those in the most deprived areas, and continue to encourage uptake and use of Free Bus Travel as well as exploring options for equitable access to bicycles and effective cycle training.
- 12. Food: Continue to support pathways to food security, while also supporting emergency food providers to consider options for a Cash First approach wherever possible.
- 13. Education and skills: Continue the development and evaluation of the Team Around the Community (TAC) approach to ensure children and young people, including those with additional support needs, have access to the full range of relevant support in the communities around their schools.
- 14. Communities: Ensure that learning from the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund and other programmes of community based work are embedded in routine mechanisms for supporting communities to improve access to key services.

Conclusion

This JSNA sets out a picture of some of the health challenges facing our children, young people and family's health in the city. This includes challenges in relation to underlying risk factors such as maternal obesity and unequal uptake of preventative opportunities (i.e. immunisation). Inequalities in outcomes for children and young people exist, including mental health and wellbeing, developmental milestones and educational attainment.

Given the need for an increased focus on prevention, it also sets out what we know about children's access to and experience of the key building blocks of health – money and resources; good work; housing; surroundings; transport; food; education and skills; and communities. Despite these commonly being referred to as the 'building blocks of health' they are also the building blocks that children and young people need in order to be successful in other areas of development, including educational attainment, the ability to build connections with others and to go on to have secure access to building blocks in adulthood. This is important for our city as a whole, as the children we support into a healthy and thriving adulthood will become the adults we need to continue to create a healthy and thriving city overall.

The JSNA has also provided additional analysis of three areas of particular challenge and opportunity in the city – homelessness; additional support needs; and the universal offer that we are making to our children and families. It is recognised that there is already a significant amount of work ongoing in these areas, however the JSNA has sought to identify opportunities for further coordination and focus on children.

While this JSNA has focussed on an assessment of the needs of children and young people, many of these recommendations are also relevant to the wider population. By improving the environments, opportunities and services for the youngest in our city, we will also improve the landscape for the whole population. There is a real opportunity for the Edinburgh Community Planning Partnership, not just the Edinburgh Children's Partnership, to commit to using the recommendations as a starting point for future Community Plans.

Agenda Item 5.3



Proposal for continuation of welfare advice in Edinburgh

27th March 2025

1. Executive Summary

This report sets out the current situation in relation to the provision of welfare advice in Edinburgh. When the current IJB grants end on 30th June there will be a potential gap in the welfare advice landscape. There is good evidence that welfare advice can create significant client financial gain for those who make use of it. Provision of welfare advice is aligned with both national and local poverty reduction strategies. The current situation provides an opportunity to consider how the city can provide efficient and equitable advice going forward, however it is important that that any potential changes do not leave a gap in access to advice for local people who are currently in need of advice.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Management Group is recommended to:
- 1. Acknowledge the value of the current provision of welfare advice services
- 2. Acknowledge the value of the coordination and delivery of wider partnership work on welfare advice and income maximisation
- 3. Acknowledge that the ending of the IJB Grants presents an opportunity to consider the most effective and equitable provision of welfare advice
- 4. Agree for welfare advice, similar to that currently provided through the IJB grant programme, to be extended using CEC funding, from July 2025 to March 2026 while a longer-term proposal is developed
- 5. Agree the establishment of a Welfare Advice / Income Maximisation Steering Group to support the development of longer-term provision from April 2026
- 3. Appendices
- Appendix 1: Proposal for continuation of welfare advice provision in Edinburgh
- Appendix 2: IJB funded specialist advice service provision, as reported in Welfare

Rights and Debt Advice Services - Needs Assessment for Edinburgh,

August 2024

- Appendix 3: National and local evidence for the benefits of welfare advice services
- Appendix 4: Summary of progress against recommendations from 2022 Welfare Rights and Debt Advice Review

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Appendix 1: Proposal for continuation of welfare advice provision in Edinburgh

1. Situation

Welfare Advice in Edinburgh is currently provided by a number of organisations, in a range of settings, through a variety of funding mechanisms. A key form of current provision - welfare advice provided by three local voluntary sector organisations in community healthcare spaces (Appendix 1) – will end on 30th June 2025 when current EIJB grants end, unless an alternative source and mechanism of funding is provided¹.

The IJB decision to end funding for welfare advice is based on an understanding that the funding of these services are not a statutory obligation of the IJB, and that there is a lack of evidence that they will provide a financial return on investment to the IJB budget within its current 5 year planning cycle. Good evidence is however available on the financial return that these services provide to individual services users, as well as on the wider links between poverty and health (Appendix 2).

There is a need for Edinburgh Community Planning Partnership (ECPP) to decide if and how this type of community provision will be replaced, ideally within a timescale that would prevent the need for redundancy and re-recruitment of staff and any associated gap in provision of service to communities.

2. Background

In line with <u>Scottish Government's Cash First Approach</u> Edinburgh Community Planning Partnership is committed to tackling poverty in the city in a four-pronged approach:

- Reduce the cost of living
- Make it easier to get help
- Maximise income from social safety nets
- Maximise income from employment

The most recent End Poverty in Edinburgh Annual Progress Report provides an update on the delivery of a range of poverty prevention and poverty mitigation actions across the city. Welfare advice is recognised as having a role to play in all four of the above approaches. It explicitly supports people to maximise financial gain from social security benefits, but can also support people to reduce costs, for example by signposting to help with energy efficiency, as well as reducing immediate sources of financial stress which may enable people to better engage with employment opportunities.

It is however important that we do not become over-reliant on welfare advice as a mechanism for poverty prevention and mitigation, and that we continue to explore and prioritise other more upstream interventions, including support with financial literacy and the use of public data to automatically link or signpost people to welfare entitlements, as recommended in the previous Review of Welfare Rights and Debt Advice in Edinburgh. Appendix 3 provides a RAG-rating of current progress against recommendations.

THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

¹ In addition to the ending of grant funding to these three organisations, other organisations which provide advice to specific population groups such as those with learning disabilities and carers may also be affected by wider changes to the IJB budget.

3. Assessment

Grant-funding is unlikely to be the most effective mechanism to ensure ongoing provision of what can be seen as a core public service. Many of the recommendations in the Review referenced above were intended to support a future model whereby welfare advice services could be strategically commissioned. Uncertainty about the funding landscape following the end of the IJB grants has however led to a pause in the development of any new commissioning specification.

3.1 Key considerations in relation to future welfare advice provision include:

- The need to balance investment of resource in welfare advice against investment in more upstream activity, such as the automatic enrolment into welfare entitlements.
- The need to balance investment of resource in provision of specialist welfare advice against investment in increased accessed to non-specialist support such as benefits calculators.
- The need to ensure funded is limited to providers with appropriate accreditation.
- The need for a community / primary-care based offer to integrate with other major existing offers such as the CEC Advice Shop and NHS Lothian's welfare advice in hospital settings, including the trade-offs between potential value of a single triage / branding system across Edinburgh and the complexity / additional time and resources required to achieve this.
- The need for a mainstream community / primary-care based offer to integrate with other smaller community offers, for example those provided by Housing Associations.
- The need for wider support and networking opportunities for the advice provider sector, in line with recommendations from the Review of Welfare Rights and Debt Advice.
- The need to maintain some continuity of provision for communities between the current provision ending on 30th June and any new provision starting.

3.2 Key wider considerations include:

In addition to EIJB grant funding ending on 30th June 2025, the remit of the Public Health Practitioner within the EHSCP who has managed the EIJB Welfare Advice Grants, as well as playing a key role in a range of broader welfare advice work, will be refocussed. A phased exit from this work has been agreed within the EIJB. This means the following areas of activity will no-longer be supported by the EHSCP and will need to be supported by other Partners if they are to continue:

- Staff capacity building
 - Management of 'Worrying About Money' resources
 - Management of 'Money Counts' training
- Management of Edinburgh Advice Partnership and Network
 - Support for fixed-term Advice Network-coordinator (post due to end June 25)
 - Oversight of work on affordable credit / illegal money lending
 - Links to welfare advice work within Edinburgh Affordable Housing Partnership
- <u>Delivery of SG-funded pilot programmes (pilots will be supported by EHSCP officer until SG funding ends, but follow-on work would need to be picked up by other partners)</u>
 - Cash First: Management of fixed-term SG-funded post until Oct 2025
 - Cash First: Oversight of work within CEC Family & Household Support & Schools teams
 - Cash First: Oversight of work within Food Insecurity Settings
 - CPAF: Understanding / embedding debt advice (due to complete March 2025)
 - CPAF: Input into the creation of animated poverty training films



- Oversight of and reporting on welfare rights and debt advice work
 - Incl. delivery against recommendations in Review of Welfare Rights and Debt Advice

3.3 Key opportunities include:

- Improved access to self-directed income maximisation, including a benefits calculator; an online portal to improve access to crisis grants; and a map of locally available food support
- Ongoing commitment to provision of CEC Advice Shop Service
- Ongoing commitment to provision of Income Maximisation Advice for NHS Lothian staff, patients and families (in-patients and outpatient settings) at seven hospital sites until September 2027
- CEC officers now have agreed budget to allow funding of welfare advice provision to replace that provided through existing IJB grant programme for nine months from July 2025 to March 2026
- Proposal that CEC and NHS Lothian officers could pick up the relevant wider welfare advice and income maximisation work previously carried out by the Public Health Practitioner within the EHSCP when the remit of that role is refocussed

4. Recommendations

The Edinburgh Community Planning Partnership is recommended to:

- 1. Acknowledge that the ending of the IJB Welfare Advice Grants presents an opportunity to consider the most effective mechanism for the provision of welfare advice in Edinburgh
- 2. Acknowledge the value of the provision of community-based welfare advice services
- 3. Acknowledge the value of the coordination and delivery of wider partnership work on welfare advice and income maximisation
- Agree for CEC-funded welfare advice similar to that currently provided through the IJB grant programme to be extended from July 2025 to March 2026 while a longer-term proposal is developed
- 5. Agree the establishment of a Welfare Advice / Income Maximisation Steering Group to support the development of longer-term provision from April 2026, with agreed outcomes from future services integrated into the new Community Plan and Performance Framework



Appendix 2: IJB funded specialist advice service provision, as reported in Welfare Rights and Debt Advice Services - Needs Assessment for Edinburgh, August 2024

IJB funded specialist advice service provision in 2022-24				
Organisation	Activity	Description	Reach in 22-23	Reach in 23-24
CAE	Community	Delivered	11,843 service	12,035 service
	accessible advice	through a hub in	users.	users.
	services	each of the 4		
		localities, and		
		outreach		
		services in 6 GP		
		practices and 2		
		community		
		services.		
CAE	Digital	Delivered	63,000 accessed	43,000 accessed
	information	through their	the website.	the website.
	provision	website,		
		webchat, and		
		social media.		
CHAI	GP Practice	Delivered in 3 GP	378 service	434 service
	advice services	practices	users.	users.
CHAI	Recovery Hub	Delivered in 4	141 services	107 service
	advice services	substance use	users.	users.
		recovery hubs,		
		with referrals		
		from linked		
		services.		
CHAI	Community	Delivered in 4	194 service	158 service
	Mental health	locality mental	users.	users.
	advice services	health hubs		
CHAI	Locality advice	Delivered in	218 service	143 service
	services	locality hubs.	users.	users.
CHAI	After work	Delivered in	29 service users.	42 service users.
	provision	Broomhouse		
	Broomhouse	Community One		
		Stop Shop		
		(COSS)		
GIC	Locality based	Delivered in	1,475 service	1,609 service
	advice services	venues in	users.	users.
		Granton and		
		Restalrig.		
GIC	GP Practice	Delivered in GP	1,113 service	1,573 service
	advice services	practices, and in	users.	users.
		other sites if no		
		space available		
		in GP practices.		

Appendix 3: National and local evidence for the benefits of welfare advice services

Advice services are a key way of addressing financial insecurity to improve health. A <u>review in 2015 by the Advice Service Alliance</u> drew on a wide range of studies looking at the effect of advice services on health, and found that a wide range of health benefits were experienced by clients including physical benefits such as being able to heat their home more appropriately in winter, and psychological benefits such as reduced anxiety and stress. This was in addition to the longer-term health benefits that would expect to be seen by addressing key health determinants such as, increasing income, stabilising housing and improving relationships among those seeking advice. There is also a much wider <u>evidence base on the impact of poverty on health</u>, and the importance of addressing these upstream determinants if we are to improve health and reduce inequalities.

A <u>recent evaluation by the Improvement Service</u> of welfare advice provision in primary care found that 89% of individuals accessing advice in their GP surgery had not previously sought help and 75% of those using the service sought advice in their GP Practice because it was suggested by practice staff, with individuals reporting improved mental health, wellbeing and reduced stress as a result of getting advice in their GP Practice.

The welfare advice services currently funded through the IJB grant supported 16,137 people in 2023-24, with a total client financial gain of £7.9million for those who were supported. This is an average financial return to each client of £489.55 (which is often recurrent annually), from a spend of just £61.39 per client, based on the 2023-24 value of the EIJB grant for income maximisation, which was £990,781. It is important to note that the number of clients seen by organisations funded through the EIJB grant represent a significant proportion of the total number of clients supported in the city, with the fourth main provider in the city, the CEC Advice Shop, only supporting 3,709 clients in 2023-24.

The distinction between welfare and debt advice is also important, and it should be acknowledged that the figure Return on Investment (ROI) data used that influenced IJB decision making was taken from a Public Health England report on the modelling of the impact of debt advice specifically. The reported ROI is from a model exploring the cost-effectiveness of volunteer-delivered debt advice services targeted at a hypothetical cohort of working age adults without mental health problems, therefore the ROI reported from this model is likely to underestimate the ROI that is generated from the intervention currently funded by the IJB in Edinburgh, in which advice on wider financial welfare is provided by trained advisors, for a wider cohort of patients. The PHE report also acknowledges that their estimated return on investment is highly conservative as it does not take account of additional health benefits, including benefits to families.

Public Health Scotland's report on a <u>public health approach to prevention</u>, emphasises the importance of primary prevention to address the building blocks of health, recognising that 'not having enough income can lead to constantly worrying about making ends meet and chronic stress, putting people at increased risk of illnesses such as heart disease', as well as the risk that 'if people cannot afford safe housing, healthy food and are unable to play an active role in society, this limits people's choices and their ability to live a healthy life'. The report goes on to emphasise that a particular role of the NHS is to ensure services are designed to overcome barriers to access, and the funding of advice services located in health settings is a key example of this.

Estimates from a recent locally conducted needs assessment suggest that in Edinburgh between 48,000 and 55,000 individuals might benefit from welfare rights advice, and 26,000 to 66,000 might benefit from debt advice – indicating that we need more rather than less of this type of provision.



Appendix 4: Summary of progress against recommendations from 2022 Welfare Rights and Debt Advice Review

Recommendation	RAG Rating
Theme 1: Use data to measure need & impact & support earlier identification	
R12: Greater use of data across the city, drawn from providers, to understand need and demand with centralised analysis to inform design of services.	
R8: Setting targets and outcomes at an overall Edinburgh level to incentivise collaboration and referral across services.	
R9: Shared targets across services and include other indicators to demonstrate collective impact of services.	
R10: More coherent monitoring and evaluation would allow the Partnership to assess how priority groups were being supported.	
R22: Identify opportunities for proactive and early intervention, taking a whole system and life course approach.	
R23 Identify data held in public systems which can act as an early warning system to allow people to be diverted into debt and welfare rights advice.	
Theme 2: Improve access, including through improved publicity	
R6: Advice services should be commissioned under a unified "advice for Edinburgh" brand. The details of the services and providers should be included on a portal accessible by both the general public seeking advice and professionals who are supporting people.	
R7: Explore option to provide a single number and access point for advice services in Edinburgh, through which clients could have a triage call with a generalised service before being connected into specialist advice.	
R13: Design person-centred services which are holistic where possible, reduce the need for clients to re-tell their story and ensure seamless handovers between services.	
R14: A mix of universal services, targeted outreach in communities and specialist services, with local services delivered within the 20-minute neighbourhood plan.	

R18: There should be consistent access to translation and interpreters.	
Theme 3: Improve Service Design and Commissioning	
R1: Creation of a strategic group of funders and providers who can learn from current examples of good practice and make decisions about funding.	
R2: Develop an overall strategy, plan and theory of change for coordinated services.	
R3: Pool funding across the available streams to create an overall funding pot and commit to funding over the longer term, which can allow strategic planning of services to take place.	
R4: Take a flexible and long term approach to commissioning that recognises changing needs and circumstances, and allows services to be adaptable.	
R11: Co-production and co-design of services with those who access them, and those who currently do not access them, to understand local need and barriers to access.	
R15: Commit to a test and learn approach of funding pilots (for example, provision in schools, financial capability workshops in communities, targeted support around transitions) with options for targeted roll-out if pilots are successful.	
R16: Clients accessing any funded service should have the same standard of experience and access to high quality advice delivered through compassionate interactions which build trust and feelings of safety.	
Theme 4: Improve Workforce Support and Service Quality	
R5: A network of services should be formalised which could share resources and training and provide benefits for non-publicly funded services to sign up to the network.	
R17: A client-centred charter of quality standards should be co-designed with clients. The SNSIAP standards should form part of a wider set of standards and support smaller organisations to achieve these.	
R19: Set up centralised resources for welfare rights advisors and debt advisors in Edinburgh including shared training, information, and peer support and introduce a dedicated wellbeing initiative for welfare rights advisors and those who supervise them.	
R20: Build in time and resource to funding for staff terms and conditions, training and support.	
R21: Work with employability services to develop a client to welfare rights and debt adviser volunteering/employment pathway, valuing lived experience of accessing welfare rights.	



R24: Develop a financial education and capability offer which can be provided as part of ongoing support to people who access services.

Agenda Item 5.4



Supporting the third sector

27 March 2025

Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the board:
 - Note the work carried out to date and planned next steps in mitigation of potential risks to third sector organisations as a result of changes to the EIJB third sector grants programme
 - ii. Agree the proposed programme plan and timeline for a review of Edinburgh Partnership support for the third sector
 - iii. Agree the partnership resources required for this review as set out in para 1.7 of this report
 - iv. Note that this programme forms a critical enabling workstream for the Edinburgh Partnership Poverty Prevention Programme.

Executive Summary

1.1 This paper provides an outline programme for work needed to complete a review of Edinburgh Partnership support to the third sector. The proposal outlines resources required from partners for delivery of the programme to a timeline that includes presentation of initial findings and recommendations by August 2025.

Background

- 1.2 In December 2024 the Edinburgh Partnership Board agreed an update on and next step proposals for the development of a new programme of partnership change actions needed to make substantive progress for prevention of poverty.
- 1.3 The report noted that the potential loss of the EIJB grant programme represented a significant risk to the sustainability of third sector organisations needed to support this programme, and agreed that partners would:
 - 1.3.1 Develop options for mitigation of risks associated with potential changes to the EIJB third sector grants programme, and
 - 1.3.2 Begin work towards a long term review of partnership approaches to third sector funding in Edinburgh.
- 1.4 In March 2025, the City of Edinburgh Council Policy and Sustainability Committee agreed a report setting out:

- 1.4.1 Proposals for establishment of a Third Sector Resilience Fund to provide financial support in 2025/26 to third sector organisation's directly affected by the ending of the EIJB grants programme, and
- 1.4.2 A recommended approach and outline timeline for a wider review of the Council's approach to supporting the third sector in Edinburgh and how this will feed into wider work on poverty prevention.

Main Report

- 1.5 This paper proposes a review of Edinburgh Partnership support for the third sector based on five elements:
 - 1.5.1 A literature review of best practice in funding and locally coordinating the operations of voluntary sector organisations. This review would seek best practice in the areas of central and local government funding, and resource sharing between all organisations, as well as coordination between voluntary sector organisations.
 - 1.5.2 A general **listening exercise** conducted through an online survey and a series of small workshops with third sector organisations that identify issues, challenges and opportunities. It is proposed that this element would include six of these workshops, each with five to six participants to enable exploration in depth.
 - 1.5.3 An **internal scoping** exercise with Council and Edinburgh Partnership grant management and commissioning leads to identify current levels of spend and have frank conversations about our processes, administration, monitoring, and other aspects of support for the sector. This element is likely to include individual conversations, meetings, discussions at related working groups and team meetings. The main purpose of this stage is to identify challenges and opportunities to the delivery of best practice.
 - 1.5.4 Targeted workshops with relevant third sector organisations, Council services, and Edinburgh Partners on areas for improvement identified through the listening exercises. These workshops would bring together information from the listening exercises, the literature review, and information from Partnership grant and commissioning leads. Workshops would be tasked with identifying actions and areas where further work is required for example, in partnership with Scottish Government or UK Government.
 - 1.5.5 A communications phase to reflect on findings and initial recommendations. This would include communication with the voluntary sector, Edinburgh Partners, elected members, and Scottish and UK Governments. A final report on this activity should also include some indication of the views and reflections of Scottish and UK Governments.



- 1.6 To deliver these actions, a programme working group should be established, with participation of partnership leads including:
 - 1.6.1 Finance, especially colleagues involved in grants and commissioning processes.
 - 1.6.2 Procurement, especially colleagues involved in grants and commissionig processes.
 - 1.6.3 Services and colleagues who manage grants and contracts with the third sector.
 - 1.6.4 Transformation and change colleagues.
- 1.7 In addition, specific partnership support will be required for successful delivery of key aspects of this programme. These include:
 - 1.7.1 Staff resource to produce an independent literature review, developing work which the Council has begun, and coordinate any further contributions from Edinburgh Partners. This work to be completed by early June 2025.
 - 1.7.2 Support from third sector partners to promote survey and workshops to the sector, suggest participants and encourage participation. This contribution would likely be weighted towards early April.
 - 1.7.3 Support from all partners to commit to internal review of grant and commissioning processes, and all partners to commit to share learning from this process to identify opportunities for better coordination and streamlining. This process to be completed by early June 2025.
 - 1.7.4 Support from all partners to commit to attending relevant targeted workshops, with relevant partners taking a leading role depending on the focus of that workshop.
 - 1.7.5 City of Edinburgh Council to provide administrative support to develop a detailed project timeline, and arrange and host workshops excluding Partners' internal workshops.
- 1.8 It is anticipated that development of actions will have budget dependencies, therefore action planning will follow on from the review. It is likely that actions from this process will be generated at Edinburgh Partnership level, for individual Partners, for individual services within the Council, and for third sector organisations.

1.9 The following timeline for this programme is proposed:

	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept. on
Consultation and agree resourcing							
with Edinburgh Partners							
3.1.1 Literature review							
3.1.2 General listening exercise							
3.1.3 Internal workshops							
3.1.4 Targeted workshops							
3.1.5 Communication of learning							
Report on findings and next steps							
Development of implementation							
plan / identification of budget and							
resource requirements for delivery							

Contact

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Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 25 February 2025

Edinburgh's Local Housing Strategy – Draft Strategy

Please note the decision taken at Housing Homelessness and Fair Work Committee is appended to this report

Executive/routine	Executive
Wards	All

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee is asked to:
 - 1.1.1 Note the draft Local Housing Strategy (LHS) and accompanying draft Consultation and Engagement Report and interim Integrated Impact Assessment;
 - 1.1.2 Agree that the draft LHS will be published for formal consultation for an eightweek period and be submitted to the Scottish Government as part of their Peer Review Scheme;
 - 1.1.3 Agree the further planned engagement activities, listed in the Next Steps; and
 - 1.1.4 Note that the final LHS and accompanying Action Plan will be reported to Committee in May 2025 for approval along with the final version of the Consultation and Engagement report and final Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA).

Gareth Barwell

Interim Executive Director of Place

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Report

Edinburgh's Local Housing Strategy – Draft Strategy

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The report sets out the draft Local Housing Strategy (LHS) for Edinburgh, which covers housing across all tenures and related services. The strategy is accompanied by a Consultation and Engagement Report which summarises the engagement carried out so far along with a draft Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA).
- 2.2 The draft LHS is subject to a period of formal consultation, before seeking final approval from Committee in May 2025.

3. Background

- 3.1 Under the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001, local authorities are required to prepare a LHS. The <u>Scottish Government's Local Housing Strategy Guidance</u> sets out what the strategy should cover. The LHS has been developed against this framework.
- 3.2 The Council's last LHS was titled the 'City Housing Strategy' was approved by Committee in 2018. The housing landscape has changed significantly in the intervening period. In recognition of current challenges and the Council's declaration of a Housing Emergency on 2 November 2023, it is more important than ever to have an updated overarching parent strategy which spans across housing and homelessness.
- 3.3 The LHS sets out the vision for the delivery of housing and related services for at least the next five years. It covers all housing tenures and considers current and future housing need and demand.
- 3.4 The LHS brings together the ongoing activity around housing-related strategies and initiatives into one document. It acknowledges areas where further work is required and identifies proposed actions at the end of each chapter which will be subject to consultation and further development before the final strategy and action plan are presented to Committee in May 2025.
- 3.5 As the LHS is the overarching, parent strategy across housing and homelessness, the proposed actions reflect this and often signpost to other strategies (in existence or to be developed) which will sit beneath the LHS.

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3.6 The draft LHS has been informed by two phases of consultation and engagement, from May to October 2024, with a further phase of formal consultation to follow.

4. Main report

- 4.1 Edinburgh's housing market is unique from the rest of Scotland in terms of higher housing costs, tenure mix and property type. It has crippling supply and demand pressures and the highest number of homelessness presentations in Scotland. This includes rising costs in the construction sector, inflationary increases, local government funding cuts and uncertainty around resource planning for future years.
- 4.2 Housing costs in Edinburgh are higher than the Scottish average across all tenure types. The average private rent is over £1,360 per month for a two-bed property, which is 35% higher than Scottish average. The average house price is around £335,000, compared to the Scottish average of £192,000.
- 4.3 Edinburgh's housing profile also differs in terms of tenure mix. The social rented sector, at 16%, is smaller than the national average of 22%. Edinburgh's private rented sector, at 24% is bigger than the average of 13% and plays an important role in Edinburgh's overall housing mix.
- 4.4 Edinburgh also has some unique challenges in terms of the age of its buildings, with nearly half of all homes having been built before 1945, compared to the Scottish average of 30%. Additionally, 66% of homes are flatted, with almost half of all Council owned homes being in mixed tenure blocks, which presents challenges around shared repairs.
- 4.5 The strategic context within which the LHS sits is also important, and the strategy considers national policies such as the Scottish Government's Housing to 2040, and forthcoming legislative changes including the Housing (Scotland) Bill which is currently progressing through parliament. The LHS supports the objectives of the Council Business Plan 2023-28 and is cognisant of and aligned to other corporate plans including City Plan 2030, the Housing Emergency Action Plan, and the Housing Revenue Account Budget Strategy.
- 4.6 Bringing together housing and homelessness strategy into one document, the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan is reflected in the LHS and will be mainstreamed into this document going forward.
- 4.7 The overarching strategic vision for the LHS is: People in Edinburgh can access affordable and settled homes which meet their needs and are warm, safe and high quality. People can access the right support, at the right time, to enable everyone to be part of a thriving community.
- 4.8 This vision is underpinned by 11 strategic objectives:
 - 4.8.1 Deliver a supply of affordable homes to offer choice and affordability;

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- 4.8.2 Support households living in privately owned homes, whether rented or home ownership, to ensure everyone has access to well-managed, high-quality housing;
- 4.8.3 Ensure all homes are well maintained, energy efficient, safe and sustainable, working towards net zero emissions;
- 4.8.4 Reduce fuel poverty and ensure every household has a warm home they can afford to heat;
- 4.8.5 Prevent homelessness wherever possible;
- 4.8.6 Where temporary accommodation is required, this will meet the needs of the household;
- 4.8.7 Support people to access settled accommodation as quickly as possible;
- 4.8.8 Reduce the number of people sleeping rough;
- 4.8.9 Ensure housing is accessible with the right support to meet everyone's needs;
- 4.8.10 Support communities to be vibrant, connected, safe and inclusive; and
- 4.8.11 Reduce the number of households living in poverty.
- 4.9 The LHS is split into six main chapters:
 - 4.9.1 Chapter 1 Deliver homes to provide choice and affordability for all;
 - 4.9.2 Chapter 2 Support private renters, homeowners and landlords;
 - 4.9.3 Chapter 3 Ensure homes are modern, warm and sustainable;
 - 4.9.4 Chapter 4 Prevent and respond to homelessness;
 - 4.9.5 Chapter 5 Provide suitable homes with the right support to meet people's needs; and
 - 4.9.6 Chapter 6 Develop vibrant, safe, connected and inclusive communities;
- 4.10 There has been a strong focus on consultation and engagement throughout the development of the LHS. Engagement has been carried out across two phases: an early engagement survey which was open to residents and organisations, and then a targeted engagement phase involving a wide range of stakeholders. Almost 350 responses were received for the initial survey and over 550 people participated in the targeted engagement, including workshops, partnership meetings/ forums and a variety of community engagement events. The findings from the engagement have fed into the development of the strategy and have presented a clear picture around key, recurring themes principally, housing supply and affordability.
- 4.11 Committee is asked to approve the draft strategy which forms a key part of phase three of the consultation. An accompanying Consultation and Engagement Report is attached at Appendix 2 with details of the consultation and engagement to date.

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5. Next Steps

- 5.1 If approved, the draft strategy will be published on the Consultation Hub for a period of eight weeks for formal consultation. This will invite feedback on various aspects of the strategy, including the vision; the strategic objectives; and the proposed actions, as well as presenting an opportunity for more general comments and suggestions. This will be promoted to a broad range of stakeholders and more widely via the Council's social media channels, via partner networks and posters displayed at community facilities across the city.
- 5.2 In parallel, the draft strategy will be shared with the Scottish Government as part of their Peer Review scheme. Feedback will be sought from Scottish Government officials, as well as officers from another local authority. It is recognised that there is a dependency here in receiving and actioning feedback within the timescales set out.
- 5.3 Further engagement will also be carried out during this period to address some identified gaps in engagement from phases 1 and 2. This will include focused engagement with: minority ethnic people; targeted engagement with the private sector and engagement with individuals with no recourse to public funds.
- 5.4 Revisions to the strategy will be made following this further round of engagement. The final strategy will include an action plan and will be reported to Committee in May 2025 before being submitted to the Scottish Government.
- 5.5 Progress will be monitored and reported on annually. This annual review will ensure the LHS continues to support key strategic priorities and is responding to drivers within the housing market, as well as policy or legislative changes.

6. Financial impact

6.1 There are no direct financial impacts arising from this report as this relates to a draft strategy and action plan which is subject to further consultation.

7. Equality and Poverty Impact

- 7.1 An Integrated Impact Assessment has been carried out for this report and is attached at Appendix 3.
- 7.2 It is recognised that housing is a key consideration in relation to poverty. The draft strategy has been considered through a 'poverty lens' and with consideration to the most vulnerable residents in the city.
- 7.3 A dedicated session on the LHS was held with the Edinburgh Poverty Network. This allowed for feedback and insight to be gathered from colleagues working across various sectors to support households living in poverty. Input from people with direct

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- lived experience was provided at the stakeholder event by members of End Poverty Edinburgh.
- 7.4 Specific elements within the LHS which positively support objectives around poverty include the delivery of high quality, affordable homes. In relation to homelessness, a significant programme of prevention activity has been introduced and additionally, two pilot programmes have been introduced focusing on employability.
- 7.5 Equalities is a key consideration in the development of the LHS and the strategy covers all Edinburgh residents. Guidance was sought from the Council's Equalities team at an early stage. The consultation and engagement approach has incorporated this advice, following the principal of making engagement opportunities as accessible and inclusive as possible. Engagement methods have included both digital and non-digital, with a dedicated telephone line set up and paper copies made available along with online routes. Information published online has been made accessible for Read Aloud software and all materials can be provided in other languages through the Council's translation services.
- 7.6 Sessions have been held both online and in-person, at varying times of the day in a range of different venues. Venue selection for the in-person residents event responded to feedback that Council office venues can be an intimidating space for some residents, and therefore an alternative venue was selected. The engagement also involved attendance at various local groups, recognising these as a safe and accessible space for many.
- 7.7 The engagement approach recognised that individuals may be more comfortable engaging in sessions which are either led by, or attended by, trusted people that they know, rather than solely run by Council officers. This was reflected in the engagement session carried out in a day centre with older residents and also in the Youth Club session, where group leaders took an active role in helping to shape and deliver the session to help maximise engagement. Similarly, the opportunity to engage in an English-language class presented a safe and trusted environment for refugee and asylum seekers to share their views, with the necessary support on hand from translation services.
- 7.8 The survey included demographic questions in line with Council and Scottish Government guidance. Consideration has been given to protected characteristics, particularly responding to gaps identified following the early engagement survey, which was particularly low on responses from under 16's and over 75's and was lower in responses from males than females. Targeted engagement was built into the second phase to address this.
- 7.9 Reflecting on the engagement overall, it has been recognised that participation has been relatively low from Minority Ethnic individuals. Whilst in percentage terms, the response rates for the survey were broadly in line with the overall population of Edinburgh, it is felt that some targeted engagement would strengthen this, and this will be built into phase 3.

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8. Climate and Nature Emergency Implications

- 8.1 As a public body, the Council has statutory duties relating to climate emissions and biodiversity. The City of Edinburgh Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and committed to work towards a target of net zero emissions by 2030 for both city and corporate emissions and embedded this as a core priority of the Council Business Plan 2023-27. The Council also declared a Nature Emergency in 2023.
- 8.2 The draft LHS includes a chapter on 'modern, warm and sustainable homes' which considers the Council commitments around Net Zero Carbon and the Climate Strategy.

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

- 9.1 Under the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001, local authorities are required to prepare a LHS. The Strategy will be reviewed annually to ensure it continues to support key strategic priorities and is responding to drivers within the housing market, as well as policy or legislative changes.
- 9.2 The development of the draft LHS has been informed by extensive consultation and engagement over two phases. The full Consultation and Engagement Report is attached at Appendix 2.
- 9.3 In parallel, the draft strategy will be submitted to the Scottish Government for feedback as part of their Peer Review process.
- 9.4 The final LHS will be reported back to Committee in May 2025 to seek approval and will then be submitted to the Scottish Government.

10. Background reading/external references

- 10.1 <u>City Housing Strategy 2018</u> Housing and Economy Committee, 2 November 2017
- 10.2 <u>Housing Emergency Action Plan</u> Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee, 5 December 2023
- 10.3 <u>Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget Strategy 2025/26 2034/35</u> Finance and Resources Committee, 4 February 2025

11. Appendices

- Appendix 1 Edinburgh's Draft Local Housing Strategy.
- Appendix 2 Edinburgh's Draft Local Housing Strategy Consultation and Engagement Report.
- Appendix 3 Interim Integrated Impact Assessment.

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January 2025

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Edinburgh's Local Housing Strategy 2025-2030



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Introduction

Overview

The purpose of the Local Housing Strategy (LHS) is to set out the strategic approach to the delivery of housing and housing related services in Edinburgh, across all housing tenures.

The Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 places a statutory duty on local authorities to produce a LHS which sets out its vision, strategy, priorities and plans for housing. <u>Guidance</u> published by the Scottish Government sets out what the LHS should cover. This has been the basis for developing this strategy, coupled with consideration of the acute, and sometimes unique, challenges that Edinburgh is facing in responding to the current housing emergency.

The LHS is a key strategic document which brings together service delivery across housing and homelessness into one place, as well as looking more widely across other corporate activities and priorities. The LHS is underpinned by key delivery plans, including: The HRA Business Plan and Capital Investment Programme; the Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP); and the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP). The strategy considers legislative requirements, and alignment with national and local strategic priorities.

This LHS has been developed against a backdrop of unprecedented economic, political and environmental challenges that have had a marked impact on the housing sector over recent years. These include: the lasting impact of the Covid-19 pandemic; the UK's exit from the European Union; Global Conflict, including the war in Ukraine; and the Cost-of-Living Crisis. This comes at a time when Local Authority finance is under significant pressure.

Edinburgh has a growing population and urgently needs more homes of all tenures, with particular demand for affordable homes. The latest <u>Housing Need and Demand Assessment (HNDA3)</u> states that there is demand for between

36,000 and 52,000 new homes in Edinburgh between 2021 to 2040 and that between 24,000 to 35,000 of these homes need to be affordable.

Meeting this demand in a climate of reduced funding, coupled with increasing costs, is extremely challenging. Edinburgh's housing market is highly pressurised, with house prices and private rents rising significantly. The gap between supply and demand is high, particularly for affordable housing, with an average of 290 bids for every social rent advertised. The city also has extreme pressures around homelessness, with over 5,000 households currently living in temporary accommodation.

These challenges are reflected in the City of Edinburgh Council's declaration of a Housing Emergency on 2nd November 2023. Eleven other Scottish local authorities had also declared emergencies by September 2024, along with the Scottish Parliament in May 2024. This crisis has placed those who need the most support under severe and increasing pressure. Whilst this is recognised as a nationwide crisis, it is in Edinburgh where it manifests most acutely. These challenges are explored throughout this strategy, with priorities and proposed actions identified.

This is an extremely challenging time for the housing and homelessness sector, and a challenging time to prepare a long-term plan. This LHS aims to balance the immediate crisis we are facing with longer-term aspirations. It will be reviewed and updated annually to take account of the evolving landscape.

Vision and Objectives

The overall strategic vision of Edinburgh's local housing strategy is:

People in Edinburgh can access affordable, suitable and settled homes that are warm, safe and high quality. People can access the right support, at the right time, to enable everyone to be part of a thriving community.

This is underpinned by 11 strategic objectives:

- Deliver a supply of affordable homes to offer choice and affordability
- Support households living in privately owned homes, whether rented or homeownership, to ensure everyone has access to well-managed, highquality housing
- Ensure all homes are well maintained, energy efficient, safe, sustainable and climate proofed, working towards net zero emissions
- Reduce fuel poverty and ensure every household has a warm home they can afford to heat
- Prevent homelessness wherever possible
- Where temporary accommodation is required, this will meet the needs of the household
- Support people to access settled accommodation as quickly as possible
- Reduce the number of people sleeping rough
- Ensure housing is accessible, with the right support to meet everyone's needs
- Support communities to be vibrant, connected, safe and inclusive
- Take all the local actions necessary to help end poverty

Structure

Edinburgh's LHS is divided into six main chapters:

Chapter 1 Deliver homes to provide choice & affordability for all – this chapter focuses on the supply of homes across the affordable housing tenures, with particular consideration to the funding landscape.

Chapter 2 Support private renters, home-owners and landlords (to ensure everyone has access to well-managed, high-quality housing) – this chapter considers all housing that is in private ownership across the city. This includes the private rented sector, housing for students, privately owned empty homes, housing co-operatives and custom build.

Chapter 3 Ensure homes are modern, warm and sustainable – this chapter focuses on housing quality and sustainability in line with ambitions to reduce fuel poverty, improve health outcomes and advance towards net zero emissions. It sets out how Edinburgh is working to meet these ambitions and some of the key challenges in this area.

Chapter 4 Prevent and respond to homelessness – this chapter focuses on homelessness prevention and response, including temporary accommodation and work to support the transition to settled accommodation. This chapter is largely structured around Edinburgh's Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan which has been the main strategic document for homelessness.

Chapter 5 Provide suitable homes with the right support to meet people's needs – this chapter covers the range of housing and support required to meet differing needs, including adapting mainstream housing as well as specialist housing and support. This chapter also covers the importance of joint working between housing, health and social care partners and other key partners.

Chapter 6 Develop vibrant, connected, safe and inclusive communities – this chapter covers a breadth of activity around neighbourhoods and communities. This includes placemaking, regeneration and creation of new neighbourhoods; opportunities for nature and looking after/ improving our green spaces; safe and connected neighbourhoods; the links between housing and poverty, and community empowerment, engagement and wealth building.

Governance

The development of the LHS has been overseen by an officer Steering Group, comprising senior managers from key service areas: Housing Strategy; Housing Operations; Development and Regeneration; Homelessness; Regulatory Services, Mixed Tenure/ Shared Repairs; Planning; and Communications. The Steering Group will continue to monitor the delivery of the strategy.

Progress will be monitored and reported on annually. The annual review will ensure the LHS continues to support key strategic priorities and is responding to drivers within the housing market, as well as policy or legislative changes.

Consultation and Engagement Overview

Developing the draft local housing strategy has presented a unique opportunity to engage with a wide range of stakeholders on the housing system as a whole, as well as reflecting on specific topics and issues. These inputs have helped paint a picture of Edinburgh's current housing landscape, as well as the priorities and concerns of the people who live and work in the city.

A three-phase approach to engagement was established to support the development of the LHS. The feedback from each phase has helped informed the next phase of engagement by drawing out key issues, recurring themes and underdeveloped areas. The insights gathered across all three phases will help to shape the strategy and, in particular, will help inform the development of the Action Plan which will accompany the final strategy.

Table 1. LHS Consultation and Engagement timetable 2024/25

Phase	Detail
Phase 1: Early Engagement May – June 2024	Early engagement discussions with colleagues and partners. Early engagement survey open to residents and organisations. 345 survey responses received.
Phase 2: Targeted Engagement August – October 2024	Stakeholder and resident workshops, partnerships/ forums and community engagement events. 20 events in total and over 550 people participated.
Phase 3: Formal Consultation To follow (February – April 2025)	This phase will include an online consultation on the draft strategy, supplemented with further targeted engagement.

Overview of key themes

The key themes that arose across phases 1 and 2 of the engagement were:

- Lack of Housing Supply this was by far the most frequently recurring theme
- The definition of affordable housing
- Lack of funding and competing priorities such as building homes vs the costs of energy efficiency standards
- High housing costs across all tenures
- Edinburgh's housing mix: short-term lets, Purpose-Built Student Accommodation and the private rented sector more broadly
- Potential impacts of the Housing (Scotland) Bill
- New build housing developments and infrastructure
- The need for more accessible housing
- Neighbourhood safety/ anti-social behaviour

Further details on the engagement activities and outputs can be found in the Consultation and Engagement Report.

Equalities and Integrated Impact Assessment

The City of Edinburgh Council wants all our citizens and visitors to be able to use our services and fully engage with city life. The Council's Equality and Diversity Framework for 2021-25 sets out equality outcomes to advance equality and promote diversity. It sits within the wider strategic framework of:

- Edinburgh's 2050 Vision
- Council Business Plan 2023-2027, which is structured around three themes: creating good places to live and work; ending poverty; and delivering a net zero city.
- The three priorities of the <u>Edinburgh Partnership's Local Outcome</u> <u>Improvement Plan:</u> enough money to live on, access to work, training and learning opportunities, and a good place to live.

This framework responds to the Council's <u>Public Sector Equality Duty</u>, which forms part of the Equality Act 2010. The Equality Act 2010 replaced previous anti-discrimination laws with a single act. The Act provided a legal framework to protect the rights of individuals and advance equality of opportunity for all. It provided a discrimination law which protects individuals from unfair treatment and promotes a fair and more equal society in employment, and as users of private and public services. It is based on the following nine protected characteristics.

- age,
- disability
- gender reassignment,
- marriage and civil partnership,
- pregnancy and maternity,
- race,
- religion or belief,
- sex.
- sexual orientation

There are new legislative requirements and policy changes since the Equality Act 2010, including The Fairer Scotland Duty, introduced in 2018, Child Poverty (Scotland) Act (2017) and others directly related to human rights. These have been built into the planning and implementation of actions of the Council's Equality and Diversity Framework.

The Council is currently reviewing the impact of the <u>Equality and Diversity Framework 2021-25</u>, to help shape the development of the next Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Framework .

An Interim Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) has been completed for the LHS in line with the Council's duty to meet equalities legislation and to ensure we create an environment of equal opportunity. The LHS IIA will be reviewed each year as part of the annual review process.

Strategic Context

The LHS reflects the strategic landscape, both nationally, regionally and locally.

National Context

- Housing to 2040 is the Scottish Government's national strategy for housing. It sets out a vision for housing in Scotland to 2040, together with a route map on how to get there. It aims to deliver the Scottish Government's ambition for everyone to have a safe, good quality and affordable home that meets their needs in the place they want to be.
- <u>National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4)</u> is the Scottish Government's national spatial strategy. It sets out Scotland's spatial principles, regional priorities, national developments and national planning policy. This replaces NPF3 and Scottish Planning Policy. The six overarching spatial principles are: just transition, conserving and recycling assets, local living, compact urban growth, rebalanced development and rural revitalisation.
- The <u>Scottish Social Housing Charter</u>, introduced in April 2012, set out the standards and outcomes that all social landlords should be striving towards for their customers. It also sets out what tenants and other customers can expect in terms of the: quality and value for money of the services they receive, standard of their homes, and opportunities to participate in the decisions that affect them.
- The Housing (Scotland) Bill was introduced on 26th March 2024 and will now make its way through the Scottish Parliament legislative process. The Bill is likely to be implemented in late 2025/early 2026 and is expected to involve secondary legislation. The Bill covers protection for tenants, preventing homelessness and other housing matters such as rent controls.

Regional Context

 Whilst Edinburgh faces a unique set of challenges due to its housing market, the pressures of supply and demand are felt more widely across the surrounding areas. This is reflected by Fife, East Lothian, West Lothian and the Scottish Borders having all declared Housing Emergencies due to the unprecedented pressure on housing and homelessness services in their local areas.

- This region is the fastest growing in Scotland and one of the fastest growing in the UK. Six local authorities came together to produce the South-East Scotland, Housing Need and Demand Assessment (HNDA3). This covered the City of Edinburgh, East Lothian, Fife (West & Central), Midlothian, Scottish Borders and West Lothian. HNDA3 is further detailed in the Local Context section.
- The number of households in the South-East Scotland area is projected to increase by 18% to 2043, which is above the 10% increase projected for Scotland. Almost half of the total increase is projected to occur in Edinburgh.
- The Edinburgh and Southeast Scotland City Region Deal (ESESCRD)
 was created in August 2018 to accelerate growth within the region. The
 partnership includes East Lothian, Midlothian, West Lothian, Scottish
 Borders and part of Fife. Five key themes were identified: Research,
 Development and Innovation; Integrated Regional Employability and
 Skills; Transport; Culture; and Housing.
- The City Region Deal reflects the commitment of the city region partners and the Scottish Government to deliver the regional housing programme and transform housing supply. The <u>Regional Housing</u> <u>Programme</u> is focusing on five key priorities:
 - o Affordable Housing Delivery.
 - Retrofit.
 - Strategic Sites.
 - Regional Delivery Alliance; and
 - o Future Town Centres and New Delivery Models.

 Housing Options Hubs bring together neighbouring councils by region in Scotland to promote, develop and share information and best practice on with regards to homelessness. Edinburgh is part of the East Housing Options Hub along with partners from Falkirk, the Borders, East, West and Mid Lothian.

Local Strategic and Policy Context

As the overarching strategic 'parent' document for housing and homelessness, the LHS is one of the key corporate documents underpinning the 2050 Edinburgh City Vision. Noted below by its previous name, 'City Housing Strategy', the LHS, along with the other key strategies and plans, together form the 2050 Edinburgh City Vision. Since 2016, almost 65,000 voices have played their part in creating the vision. Citizens of Edinburgh overwhelming agreed that in 2050, they want Edinburgh to be: **Thriving, Welcoming, Fair** and **Pioneering.**



Source: Council Business Plan

<u>The Council Business Plan 2023-27</u> has three core priorities which are interlinked and interdependent:

- Create good places to live and work.
- End poverty in Edinburgh.
- Tackle the twin climate and nature crisis by 2030.

The LHS aligns with and supports all three of these objectives and the 10 objectives set out within the plan, particularly the following six.

- Edinburgh is a cleaner, better maintained city that we can all be proud of
- People can access public services locally and digitally in ways that meet their needs and expectations and contribute to a greener net zero city
- People use decarbonised public transport and active travel as the firstchoice way to get round the city
- Edinburgh is a climate adapted city, with biodiverse green spaces and cheaper, cleaner networks for energy use
- People have decent, energy efficient, climate proofed homes they can afford to live in
- People can access fair work and the support they need to prevent and stay out of poverty and homelessness

<u>The Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2022-2028</u> (or the Edinburgh Partnership Community Plan 2022- 2028) also sets out a good place to live as one of its three common outcomes:

- Enough money to live
- Access to work, training and learning opportunities
- A good place to live

As well as supporting the objectives of the overarching corporate plans (the Council's Business Plan and Local Outcome Improvement Plan), the LHS links to other strategic plans including the Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP), the Housing Emergency Action Plan and the Council's Strategy for purchasing land and homes to meet affordable housing need, considered by the Housing Homelessness and Fair Work Committee annually.

- Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) 2025-30: Local authorities
 are required to submit an annual SHIP to the Scottish Government. The
 purpose of the SHIP is to set out investment priorities for affordable
 housing and how these could be delivered; identify the resources
 required to deliver these priorities; and enable the involvement of key
 partners.
- Housing Emergency Action Plan 2024-2029: The City of Edinburgh Council declared a Housing Emergency on the 2nd November 2023. The plan is the first step in responding to the housing emergency declaration, with 75 projects identified for completion over the next five years. These projects focus 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.
- City Plan 2030: is the Local Development Plan for Edinburgh for the period 2024-2034. A Local Development Plan protects places of value, sets out locations for new homes and businesses, and ensures essentials for a good quality of life are in place such as public transport, active travel, schools, healthcare and green space. The plan sets out policies and proposals relating to the development and use of land in the Edinburgh area, and where new infrastructure and community facilities are required. It sets out where development should happen and where it should not. The policies in the plan will be used to

determine future planning applications. City Plan 2030 was formally adopted in October 2024.

- HRA Budget Strategy 2024 2034: The HRA Business Plan 2024/25-2053/54 is the financial framework that underpins the Housing service. The budget is prepared annually following consultation with tenants and regular review of the 30-year HRA Business Plan and the 10-year Capital Investment Programme. It is informed by statutory compliance and government targets, tenants' priorities, and Council commitments, as well as major component replacement and health and safety. The Budget Strategy sets out officer recommendations for HRA tenant rent levels, proposals for how the budget should be allocated, and consideration of key risk factors.
- Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan: The Scottish Government instructed all local authorities to develop, produce and cost a five-year Homelessness mitigation plan called the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP) by 31st December 2018. Further to this, local authorities were asked to submit annual updates to their RRTP's. Annual progress reports have been submitted to the Councils Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committees and will now be included as part of the annual update on the LHS.
- Mixed Tenure Improvement Strategy and update report: The Council is the largest landlord in the city and has a duty to maintain homes on behalf of tenants and to ensure that Council homes meet the Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing (EESSH 2). Mixed tenure considerations are an important factor in the Council's approach to improving housing quality and supporting the delivery of Council commitments, including fuel poverty prevention, creating better places to live, and reaching net zero targets.
- Climate Strategy 2030: The 2030 Climate Strategy sets out a city-wide approach to reducing greenhouse gases in Edinburgh. The plan

- outlines how to deliver a net zero, climate ready city by 2030 as well as a healthier, thriving and inclusive capital for people to live and work in. The strategy and implementation plans will evolve with our learning, technology and legal powers. Progress on the city target is reported annually.
- 20 Minute Neighbourhoods Strategy: The 20-minute neighbourhood model is a key concept in the Scottish Government's Housing to 2040 and National Planning Framework 4. The Council's 20- minute Neighbourhood Strategy was first approved in June 2021, updated in August 2023. The 20-minute neighbourhood concept has also been integrated into the Council's City Plan 2030, City Mobility Plan and Corporate Property Strategy which has a key theme around living well locally.
- Edinburgh Economy Strategy: The strategy aims to ensure that the
 city's economic priorities continue to meet the needs of citizens and
 businesses and drive a strong and fair recovery from the economic
 effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, adapt to the changes driven by the
 UK's withdrawal from EU, and ensure a just transition to a net zero
 economy, alongside other economic changes anticipated in the coming
 years.
- End Poverty in Edinburgh Delivery Plan: Produced in response to
 the findings of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission, this plan updated
 and reported on each year sets out the priority actions the Council
 and partners are taking to end poverty in the city. The plan includes
 actions taken across four headline themes Increase income from
 work and opportunities to progress; Maximise support from social
 safety nets; Reduce the cost of living; and, Make it easier to find help.

Edinburgh's Local Context

The LHS considers the current and future housing needs of Edinburgh's population. This section explores the demographic and economic context of the city, along with the current housing profile.

Edinburgh's Housing Emergency

On 2nd November 2023, the City of Edinburgh Council declared a Housing Emergency, noting:

There are around 7,000 households in Edinburgh without a permanent home, with around 5,000 households residing in temporary accommodation. Many of these are families with children who, without a permanent home, face deep instability in their formative years. This is a crisis which has been developing for a number of years. The long-term supply challenges, coupled with aging stock, has been compounded by a dramatic reduction in social housing numbers following the introduction of the Right to Buy policy. The Covid-19 pandemic and Cost-of-Living Crisis have had a lasting impact, both on service delivery and for residents, with more households pushed into deepening levels of poverty. In addition, there is further pressures on the social and private rental sector from the increased demand in resettling refugees from conflicts around the world, many of whom are unable to return home and are rightly seeking permanent housing.

Whilst this complex picture is resulting in a nationwide crisis, it manifests particularly acutely in Edinburgh. The city has the lowest proportion of social housing in Scotland, and the demand on this is immense, with approximately 290 bids for every available home. The Private Rented Sector, meanwhile, has the highest rents in Scotland and soaring rental inflation, pushing many individuals and families towards the already critically overstretched social sector, and homelessness. To add to this, there has also been increased demand from the changes to local connection legislation meaning that anyone in Scotland is able to present as homeless to any Scotlish local authority of their choice.

This forms the background to this LHS. The strategy, and the actions developed within it, must align with and complement the work that is underway through the Housing Emergency Action Plan (HEAP). The LHS aims to take a more holistic, longer-term view of housing and homelessness as a whole, whereas the HEAP primarily responds to the immediate situation with many of its actions short-term.

Edinburgh's Population

Edinburgh has a growing population. In the ten years to 2023, Edinburgh's population grew by 8.4% from an estimated 482,850 to an estimated 523,250 people. In the same time period Scotland's population grew by 3.2%. Edinburgh's population shows growth in each age group except for the child population, which also decreased in Scotland by nearly 2%. Both Edinburgh and Scotland saw large increases in the older population.

Overseas migration continues to be the main driver of population change in Edinburgh. The net effect of births and deaths on Edinburgh's population from 2012 to 2022 was 5,726. The net effect of migration was almost ten times higher at 53,420. Edinburgh's net birth and death rate reduced from a net increase of 1,261 in 2012/13 to a net reduction of 356 in 2021/22. The size of overseas migration to Edinburgh increased in the period 2021/22 (9,390) up from 2020/21 (6,190) while the net migration within UK continued to decrease.

In 2023 Edinburgh's population density was 1,987 residents per square kilometre. Cities like Bristol, Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester and Sheffield have over twice the population density level of Edinburgh. Edinburgh's population increase of 8.4% between 2013 to 2023 was the fourth highest in proportional terms behind Manchester, Bristol and Leeds.

Housing Need and Demand

Edinburgh has a growing population and urgently needs more homes of all tenures, with particular need for affordable homes. The latest <u>Housing Need and Demand Assessment (HNDA3)</u> for the South East Scotland area achieved robust and credible status in July 2022. HNDA's provide a statistical estimate of

how much additional housing would be required to meet all future housing need and demand. HNDA3 stated that there is demand for between 36,000 and 52,000 new homes in Edinburgh between 2021 to 2040; between 24,000 to 35,000 of these homes need to be affordable.

The National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) includes a Minimum All-Tenure Housing Land Requirement (MATHLR) for each planning authority in Scotland. The MATHLR is the minimum amount of land, by reference to the number of housing units that is to be provided by each planning authority in Scotland for a 10-year period. The MATHLR for Edinburgh is set out in the Local Development Plan - City Plan 2030 and for the period of the plan 2024-2034 is 36,750 homes. This is based upon the HNDA3. It includes a flexibility allowance of 25% but does not differentiate the need between market and affordable housing.

NPF4 introduces an expectation that the next local development plan for Edinburgh - City Plan 2040 - will set a local housing land requirement (LHLR). This is the amount of land required for housing and will be expected to exceed the MATLHR figure. It will be informed by evidence available at the time and will have regard to the LHS along with other matters.

Affordable Housing delivery for Edinburgh continues to be planned, managed and monitored through the Strategic Housing Investment Programme (SHIP).

Edinburgh Demographics

Across Edinburgh and Scotland as a whole, there is an ageing population with the largest increase in population amongst the older age groups.

Edinburgh has slightly more females (52%) than males (48%). This is similar to Scotland as a whole, where females account for 51%.

<u>Scotland's Census (2022)</u> asked people to choose the option that best described their ethnic group or background. This is a classification of people according to their own perceived ethnic group and/or cultural background. In 2022, the majority of people in Scotland chose 'Scottish' (77.7%) or 'Other British' (9.4%) within the White category, together making up 87.1% of the population. In

Edinburgh, this figure was slightly lower at 72%. The percentage of residents in Edinburgh who identify as Asian is higher at 9% than for Scotland as a whole at 4%. Edinburgh also had slightly higher percentages of residents identifying as Mixed Ethnic, African and Caribbean.

Edinburgh has a large student population with 73,045 people enrolled in the four largest Edinburgh universities (Edinburgh Napier, University of Edinburgh, Heriot-Watt and Queen Margaret) 2022/23. If all were to live in Edinburgh this equates to 13% of Edinburgh's population. Some students reside in Purpose-Built Student Accommodation, while the majority seek housing in the private rented sector. Housing for students is explored further in chapter 2.

Figure 1: Edinburgh Population by Age (National Records of Scotland Data, 2022)

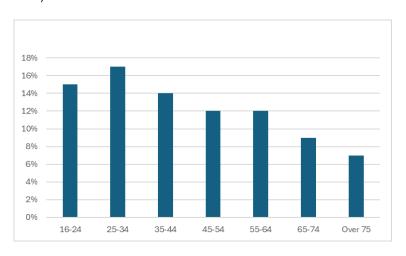
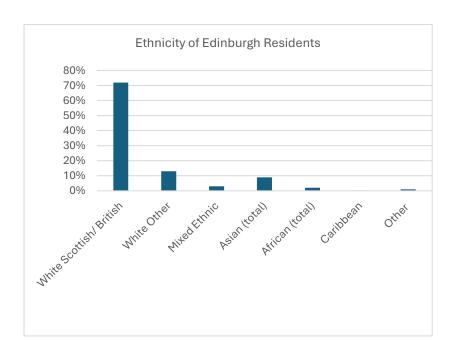


Figure 2: Ethnicity of Edinburgh Residents (Scotland's Census, 2022)



Health and well-being

Edinburgh has the highest life expectancy, and healthy life expectancy, compared with the rest of Scottish cities, with female population expected to live to an average of just over 82 years old and male population to 78 years old. Both male and female population spend an average of around 80% of their lives in good health. However, this is not equal across the city and there are recognised links between people living in poverty and poorer health outcomes. This is particularly so for people living in very deep poverty, with two thirds of all people in destitution having a long-term chronic health condition or disability.

Health is determined by a combination of different social and economic factors, which, together, form the building blocks for health and wellbeing. It has long been recognised that housing has an important influence on people's health and

wellbeing. Housing is one of the social determinants of health, which is linked to other determinants/ factors such as employment, education and income. As noted in the Healthy housing for Scotland report, housing can influence health directly through condition, security of tenure, overcrowding and suitability for inhabitants' needs. Wider aspects of housing that influence health indirectly include affordability and poverty, housing satisfaction, choice and control, social isolation, access to key services such as health care, and environmental sustainability.

An important reflection from the LHS engagement was an emphasis on the fact that health is not only relevant to housing in relation to accessible homes, as has often been the focus – secure, good quality, affordable housing is fundamental to the health and wellbeing of all residents.

Housing Profile

Edinburgh's tenure mix differs from the rest of the country. Compounded by a dramatic reduction in social housing numbers in the late 20th Century, only 16% of households in the city are in social rent housing. This is notably lower than the Scottish average of 22% and lower than most major cities in the United Kingdom.

At 23%, the number of households in the private rented sector in Edinburgh is larger than the Scottish average of 13% (Scotland's Census 2022). Private rents in the city are around 35% higher than Scottish average, sitting at over £1,360 per month for a two-bedroom property.

The majority of Edinburgh households (60%) live in the owner-occupied sector, where house prices have also risen sharply. House prices rose by 4.7% in the year leading up to May 2024, with the average house price sitting at around £340,000 in October 2024, compared to the Scottish average of £197,000 (Office for National Statistics).

Edinburgh has an ageing housing stock. Almost half the homes in the city were built before 1945. Edinburgh also has a high percentage (66%) of flatted

properties. Almost half the Council-owned homes in the city are in mixed tenure blocks.

Economic Profile

Employment, Unemployment and Income:

The proportion of people in Edinburgh who are economically inactive but want a job is lower than the average of major UK cities. Over four fifths (81.2%) of the population between 16 and 64 years are in employment, which is the highest percentage of the eight main cities in UK (excluding London). The main reasons for being economically inactive in Edinburgh includes being a student (45.5%) and being long-term sick (22.8%) (Edinburgh by Numbers, 2023).

Edinburgh's unemployment rate, at 2.6%, is now under half what it was in 2014 (6.3%). By 2020 it had dropped to a low of 2.8%, followed by an increase in 2021 to 4.4% after which it fell back to 2.9% in 2022 and 2.6% in 2023.

Edinburgh has a large proportion of workers in high skilled occupations. Almost half of the people in employment work in high skilled occupations (47%) while just around 7% work in low skilled occupations. (Edinburgh by Numbers 2023).

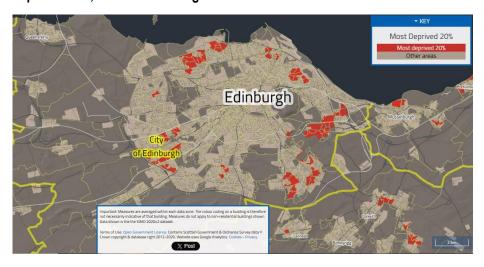
The median hourly pay has risen to £17.70 which is the highest of the major UK cities excluding London. (<u>Edinburgh by Numbers 2023</u>). The average household income in Edinburgh is £58,331, that is nearly 20% higher than the Scottish average of £48,657. (CACI data 2023/24).

Housing and Poverty

Edinburgh is a flourishing, prosperous city. However, as with most major cities, wealth is not distributed equally. 17% of Edinburgh's residents – and 20% of all children – are living in poverty across the city. To meet the headline targets set by Scottish Government and the Edinburgh Poverty Commission, it will require 36,000 people, including 8,600 children to be lifted out of poverty over the 7 years from 2023-30.

The <u>Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation</u> (SIMD) is a tool for identifying the places in Scotland where people are experiencing disadvantage across different aspects of their lives. SIMD ranks nearly 7,000 small areas, or data zones, covering the whole of Scotland from the most deprived to the least deprived and reports statistics on income, employment, health, education, access to services, crime and housing.

Figure 3.: SIMD (Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation) map, 2020, most deprived 20%, areas of Edinburgh.



71 areas in Edinburgh fall within the most deprived 20%. Within this, 30 areas fall within the 10% most deprived and 18 within the most deprived 5%. It is important to note that whilst the SIMD focuses on concentrations of deprivation, not all households living in deprivation will be represented here. There are households living in poverty across all areas of the city, therefore this mapping offers an important insight but not a complete picture.

The links between housing and poverty are clear and profound. Much of the work set out across this strategy - from homelessness prevention to delivering

more affordable homes to improving housing quality - will all have a contributing role in working towards ending poverty in the city.

However, there is a recognition that more needs to be done and a different way of working is required to really turn the tide and end poverty in Edinburgh. The Edinburgh Partnership has agreed to the development of a roadmap of change actions needed to make substantive progress for prevention of poverty and other harms. Housing has a central role to play, and this will be an important cross-service and partnership priority for 2025, as detailed further in chapter 3.

Key Workers

There is no legal test or universal definition of 'key workers' although this generally includes some or all of the following: health and social care workers; teachers and staff providing childcare; energy suppliers and wider public, private or third sector workers providing emergency or critical welfare; national infrastructure services including grocery shop and transport staff, and other key service industries without which there would be a significant impact such as the tourism and hospitality workforce.

Housing to 2040 recognised that many areas experience difficulty in attracting or retaining key workers, particularly in places where there is a lot of competition for housing. For Edinburgh, this is recognised in the Council's <u>Strategic Workforce Plan 2024-27</u>, which cites high housing costs as a barrier when attracting people to live and work in the city. Data from the <u>Office of National Statistics</u> estimated that 89,000 people in Edinburgh (33.2% of the population) were in key worker roles in 2019.

At present, Edinburgh does not have a standalone policy around key workers and their housing needs, although the provision of mid-market rent housing has been recognised as an important housing option for households who would fall within this broad categorisation. This is an area for growth, as set out in Chapter 1.

Tourist Economy

Tourism plays an important role in the city and for the city's economy. Edinburgh is recognised as a global tourist destination, with seasonal peaks during the Summer and Winter Festivals. In 2022, Edinburgh experienced a rebound in tourism following the pandemic, with tourists representing 42.5% of the total of staying visitors in Scotland. Holidays was the main purpose of visiting the city (71%) but 20% of visitors were there to see friends and family (Edinburgh by Numbers 2030).

As Edinburgh's population continues to grow and with long-term projections showing that tourism demand in Edinburgh will also increase, it is important to consider how residents, businesses and visitors alike will successfully co-exist in the city. This is recognised in Edinburgh's Tourism Strategy 2030 which notes that "in the future there will be an even greater need to manage tourism, recognising the rights of local residents to live in a city that works well, offers a good standard of living and retains its authentic character".

Councils in Scotland have new powers to introduce a visitor levy in their local area. These powers come from new laws in the Visitor Levy (Scotland) Act 2024. Following public consultation in 2024, Councillors agreed to adopt proposals for the Edinburgh's Visitor Levy scheme at a special meeting of the Policy and Sustainability Committee on 17th January 2025. The intention is for a levy will be charged on overnight stays to Edinburgh from mid July 2026. This was approved at the Council meeting on 24th January 2025 with an action to note that an initial decision on how housing funds would be spent would come to Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee in May 2025.

There is potential for this levy to help support housing delivery, recognising that residents, especially those working in the visitor economy or culture sector, are often unable to find affordable housing options in the city.

Chapter 1 Deliver homes to provide choice & affordability for all.

Strategic Objective(s):

Deliver a supply of homes across affordable tenure types to offer choice and affordability

Introduction

This chapter focuses on the delivery of social and other affordable housing. It sets out the acute challenges around housing delivery in the current economic climate and priorities and actions identified to try to mitigate these. It includes a summary of the Scottish Government's Affordable Housing Supply Programme (AHSP) and consideration of housing affordability in general.

The importance of increasing housing supply, of all tenures, is central to addressing the housing emergency, and the delivery of new affordable housing remains a key priority for the Council and its partner Housing Associations. However, the unavoidable reality is that delivering new homes at the pace and scale required is extremely challenging in the current climate. The cost of construction, borrowing and delivering services to existing tenants have all increased at a time when rents have been frozen or have been increased less than overall inflation which has made delivering all priorities increasingly difficult.

Increased materials costs and a shortage of skilled workers had an immediate impact following the Covid-19 pandemic and Brexit. In the subsequent years, these challenges have been compounded by supply chain disruption, shortages of materials and contractor availability, leading to sharp increases in overall construction sector costs of around 30%-40%. The reduction in Scottish Government Affordable Housing Supply Programme (AHSP) grant funding for new affordable homes has had a further compounding effect.

For the Council's own housebuilding programme, the cost-of-living crisis, rent freezes and increasing costs in delivering day-to-day services have reduced the Council's capacity to borrow in order to fund the delivery of new homes.

Edinburgh has a key role to play in meeting the Scottish Government's ambitions, including eradicating child poverty and homelessness, ending fuel poverty, tackling climate change and promoting inclusive growth.

Local Context

There is a high demand for social rented housing in Edinburgh. Approximately 25,741 households are currently registered with EdIndex (Sep 2024), the single access point to social housing in Edinburgh. EdIndex is a partnership between the Council and 18 Housing Associations/co-operatives in Edinburgh with 15 of these partner organisations letting their homes through Key to Choice – the Choice based letting system. There are on average 290 households bidding for every social rented home that becomes available for let through EdIndex (September 2024). Edinburgh has one of the lowest proportions of social housing in Scotland with only 16% of homes for social rent compared to the national average of 22% (Census 2022). Almost one in three families in Edinburgh in poverty are pulled below the poverty line solely due to their housing costs. That compares with one in eight households in poverty across Scotland.

Affordable housing provision is often located as part of wider housing development, with private developers also delivering homes for sale. Supporting affordable housing developments to progress can therefore enable private sector developments to move forwards. Affordable housing and provision of infrastructure can be an important enabler for private sector developments on large scale sites. The latest City Plan 2030 has increased the percentage of onsite affordable housing from 25% to 35%.

Respondents to the LHS consultation and engagement frequently raised concerns about the level of infrastructure provided with new developments. Information on infrastructure is included in Chapter 6.

The Affordable Housing Supply Programme (AHSP) is a national Scottish Government funding programme to enable affordable housing providers to deliver homes for social rent, mid-market rent, and low-cost home ownership. The National budget was reduced by 26% in 2024/25 and Edinburgh's budget was cut by 24% from £45.0m in 23/24 to £34.2 in 24/25. The draft budget statement in December 2024 set out a national AHSP budget for 2025-26 of £767.7m. This represents an increase of £171.8m, 29%, when compared to the 2024-25 budget of £595.8m. The 2025/26 budget is subject to approval and at January 2025 Edinburgh's AHSP allocation for 2025/26 is still to be confirmed.

In September 2024 the Scottish Government confirmed an additional £14.8m of grant funding to Edinburgh as part of an £80m **National Acquisition Programme** (announced in 2023/24). This is ring fenced for the purchase of completed units or for bringing long-term voids back into use. The funding will be used to purchase homes to alleviate the pressure on temporary accommodation and secure permanent, settled accommodation for those households.

The National Acquisition Programme funding must be used in 2024/25 and additional acquisition funding levels for Edinburgh are not currently known beyond 2024/25. The allocation of funding is based on 80% being allocated to the five local authority areas which have experienced the highest current and sustained temporary accommodation pressures for the last three years.

As well as new build homes delivered through the AHSP, the **Council's Acquisitions and Disposals (A&D) strategy** seeks to purchase existing homes on the open market to consolidate block ownership. This is reviewed in more detail in Chapter four.

A key part of the Affordable Housing Supply Programme is recorded in Edinburgh's <u>Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) 2025-30</u>. The SHIP sets out a potential development programme of around 9,000 new affordable homes over a five-year period, with over 7,800 of these requiring grant funding through the AHSP. These would require an additional £416m over the five years 2025/26-2029/30 from current funding levels.

1.1 Affordability

Respondents to the LHS consultation and engagement asked for a clear definition of the term 'affordable housing' and for 'affordability' of housing to be defined.

The Scottish Government's 'Rent affordability in the affordable housing sector' report (June 2019) notes that affordability issues for home-owners and potential buyers is a balance between purchase cost, deposit, repayment and income affordability.

Rent affordability concerns both the private rented sector (PRS), as well as the affordable housing sector. However, the affordable housing sector has three main characteristics: lower rents compared to the PRS, greater security from eviction, and priority for vulnerable tenants.

The term 'affordable' is used to refer to various housing tenures including social rent, mid-market rent, intermediate rent and low-cost home ownership. The Council published interim guidance on "Affordable Housing" in December 2024 which includes a definition of each of the tenures. In addition, the tenures are also described on the following page. Grant funding provided through the Scottish Government's 'Affordable Housing supply programme' (AHSP) aims to deliver 70% of affordable housing as social rent. In 2023/24, 72% of completed affordable homes supported by the AHSP were for social rent.

The use of the term 'affordable' is subjective. Citizen's Advice Scotland note:

"There's no doubt that affordability will mean different things to different people, taking into account your income and the relative importance of what you want to buy compared to other things." ('What's a fair price for affordable housing', March 2024)

CAB Scotland carried out a survey in 2024 asking people what affordability meant to them. Most people thought that a person on minimum wage should be able to comfortably afford their housing costs, with most saying that no more than 30% of a person's salary should be spent on housing costs. Both Scottish Government and Shelter Scotland research currently states that paying more

than 30% to 40% of household income on housing is considered unaffordable, although affordability does vary depending on personal circumstances.

Affordability calculations for the private rented sector, based on the median gross household income and new median rental costs in Edinburgh, show that 31% of monthly gross household income is spent on rental costs. (This is based on median monthly gross household income of £4,140 (CACI 2023/24) and a median monthly rent for a 2-bedroom property of £1,300 (CityLets data 2023/24).

There is currently no standardised definition of rent affordability, as it depends on the household type and composition, household income, including any housing benefits, location and size of the property and other factors.

The Scottish Government Housing Affordability Working Group published their "Housing affordability study: Findings Report" in March 2024. The group consulted with affordable housing tenants and private tenants. The findings set out that "There was no clear consensus on the best measure or definition of housing affordability" and that a "measure or definition of housing affordability must be clear, specific and relative to tenants' everyday lives and finances, reflect the realities of the rental market, emphasise fairness and dignity for tenants and consider what is realistic, affordable and allow for future proofing".

The report asks that Scottish Government considers the research findings when developing a shared definition of housing affordability across Scotland. A report from the group with an updated and shared definition of housing affordability is due to be published in early 2025.

1.2 Affordable Housing Tenures

The Council's Affordable Housing Policy (AHP) applies to any new residential planning application for 12 homes or more. The Council has published guidance on Affordable Housing which sets out that 35% of homes should be affordable and that, for proposals of 20 or more dwellings, the provision should normally be on-site. Affordable housing tenures are ranked in priority order with the most housing need being for social rented homes. The affordable housing should be 'tenure blind' and indistinguishable from market housing, creating an integrated

neighbourhood for all residents, regardless of tenure type. The definition of different affordable housing tenures is set out in the Affordable Housing Guidance and is summarised below:

Social Rent is the highest priority affordable housing tenure in Edinburgh. Social rented homes are let with a <u>Scottish Secure Tenancy Agreement (SST)</u>. This grants tenants the right to stay in the home for as long as they wish, provided they do not breach the terms of the tenancy. Social rents are lower than all other affordable tenures and rent levels are regulated by the Scottish Housing Regulator. There are around 37,484 households living in the social rented sector in Edinburgh (<u>Scotland's Census 2022</u>).

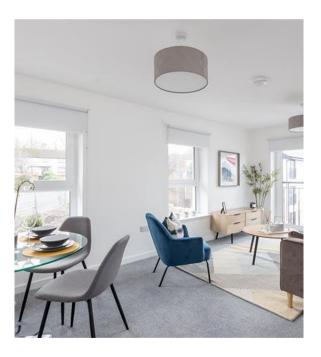
Mid-Market Rent (MMR) - Mid-market rents are set below market rents with starting rents set below Local Housing Allowance levels. Local Housing Allowance is used to calculate Housing Benefit for tenants renting private-sector accommodation in the UK and is set in relation to the 30th percentile of local private rented accommodation levels. Mid-market rent tenants enter into a Private Rented Tenancy. Mid-market rent offers tenants secure, well-managed, new-build and energy efficient homes.

There are just over 5,000 mid-market rent homes in Edinburgh let by ten organisations, mostly registered social landlords (RSLs) via their subsidiaries and Edinburgh Living (the Council's Limited Liability Partnership) and Local Affordable Rented (LAR) Housing Trust (Edinburgh Council research, March 2024).

Mid-market rent homes are also used to house people at risk of homelessness. More information on this is noted in Chapter 4: Homelessness.



Places for People Scotland, Oxgangs Green - RSL delivered Mid-market rent development



Places for People Scotland, Oxgangs Green - RSL delivered Mid-market rent development

"I lived in private lets in Edinburgh for 20 years ... Over those 20 years rents went up and up and I had a constant rumbling anxiety that I would be evicted and not be able to afford anything. Buying was impossible so my options were very limited. I feel incredibly privileged to have my current [mid-market rent] home with a reasonable rent and no worries about being evicted." (LHS Early engagement survey response)

MMR homes require less grant subsidy than social rent because rents are higher. Those higher rents can sustain a higher level of borrowing, which in turn can potentially help deliver onsite affordable housing where social rent alone would not be viable. MMR is often used to cross subsidise and enable social-rented homes within the same development, supporting onsite delivery and

minimising the need for off-site affordable housing contributions or commuted sums.

The Council also works with partners to deliver mid-market rent housing without grant funding. These include Local Affordable Rented (LAR) Housing Trust and the Scottish Government's MMR invitation scheme.

Intermediate Rent is an affordable rented tenure with rents that cannot exceed Broad Rental Market 30th Percentile (the lower third of the rental market), which is published by Scottish Government each year. Intermediate Rent homes are let with Private Residential Tenancies, are owned and managed by a Build to Rent Operator and are delivered without grant funding. The homes are secured as affordable for a minimum of 25 years. More information on Build to Rent is provided in Chapter 2.

Intermediate Rent has been used as an affordable housing tenure for Build to Rent (BTR) developments and there have been 880 approvals for intermediate rent from 2020-2024.

Low-Cost Home Ownership (LCHO) tenures such as Shared Equity can help families purchase an equity stake in a property, with the remaining equity owned by Scottish Government or RSLs. RSLs can access low levels of grant funding for LCHO. LCHO tenures are restricted to no more than 20% of the affordable housing in a planning application or 12 units, whichever is the lower.

Golden Share is an approved affordable housing tenure and form of LCHO, where homes are sold at 80% of market value making them affordable to people in housing need. Golden Share homes are capped at a maximum initial purchase price of £214,796 and applicants must demonstrate they could not obtain a mortgage for the home at its full market value. These homes are built and sold by house builders and do not require grant funding.

Support is also available through the Scottish Government's Open Market Shared Equity (OMSE) programme, where applicants can own between 60-90% of their home. OMSE is available to first time buyers and the following priority groups:

- people aged 60 and over
- social renters (people who rent from the council or a housing association)
- disabled people
- members of the armed forces
- veterans who have left the armed forces within the past two years
- widows, widowers and other partners of service personnel for up to two years after their partner has lost their life while serving

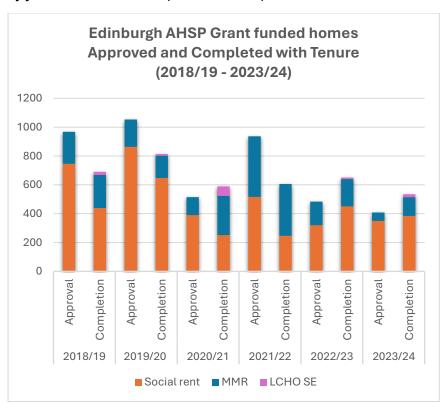
Since 2018 until the end of 2023/24 there have been 1,254 successful home purchases through OMSE in Edinburgh and a further 53 purchases from April – Sep 2024.

1.3 Delivering Homes - Affordable Housing Supply

Over the last 10 years, the Council, Housing Associations and other partners have completed 11,134 new affordable homes (including homes for social rent, mid-market rent, intermediate rent and low-cost home ownership). Around half were supported with Scottish Government grant funding.

The chart below shows the number of homes completed and approved from 2018–24 with Affordable Housing Supply Programme (AHSP) funding. It shows a trend of reducing numbers of affordable homes approved and completed over the last five years, as costs have increased.

Figure 4. Edinburgh AHSP grant funded homes Approved and Completed by year with Tenure shown (2018/19-2023/24)



The majority of affordable homes approved and completed are for Social rent. Over the six years 2028/19 – 2023/24, 62% of all grant funded completions and 73% of all approvals have been for social rent homes. The rest of the approved or completed homes were for Mid Market rent along with a small number of Low-Cost-Home-Ownership homes (Shared Equity).

Turning to the size of homes built, through the AHSP, over 66% of the homes delivered through the AHSP over the past five years are two-bedroom properties. One-bedroom homes form around 30% and a small number of 3+-

bedroom properties have been built (CEC AHSP housing completions data 2018/19 – 22/23).

The <u>Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) 2025-30</u> identifies a potential development programme of around 9,000 new affordable homes over a five-year period, with just under 8,000 of these requiring grant funding through the AHSP. This would need an additional £416 million grant over five years.

The SHIP provides an estimate, rather than a target, of potential approvals and completions as delivery of affordable homes is dependent on a number of factors outwith the Council's control, including the amount of affordable housing grant funding made available to Edinburgh by the Scottish Government.

Based on the current confirmed AHSP funding for 2024/25, actual delivery could be in the region of 350 social rent homes a year, if the full annual budget is used solely to develop social rented homes. This could lead to delivery of 400 homes if a 70/30% split of social rent to mid-market rent homes is applied to the AHSP.

1.4 Construction Costs

In 2023/24 it was estimated that the average construction cost of an affordable home in Edinburgh is almost £240,000. This is an average estimated cost based on AHSP data; construction costs vary depending on numerous factors such as specification, location, number and size of homes. The Council's build standards, for example, are higher than the minimum levels requested by the Scottish Government and this can increase costs further. This figure is a working estimate of cost which can be subject to change before and during development. From 2020 to 2024, the average construction cost of an affordable home, as recorded in AHSP data for Edinburgh, showed an increase of over 40%. During the preceding five years (2016/17 to 2020/21), the average construction cost of an affordable home increased by only 14.5%.

The cost of building an affordable social rent or mid-market rent home is split between grant funding and private finance (borrowing by the Council or RSL). Delivery of affordable homes is challenging in part because Affordable Housing Supply Programme (AHSP) grant benchmark levels per home, although they

have been increased recently, have not increased in line with the rise in construction costs.

Table 2. Baseline AHSP Grant Benchmarking Levels

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25*
Council Social Rent	£71,500	£83,584	£87,763
RSL Social Rent	£78,000	£91,182	£95,741
Council MMR	£49,000	£57,281	£60,145
RSL MMR	£53,000	£62,542	£65,669
*benchmarks increased on 10 October 2024 Additional funding is applied for additional quality measures			

For any Affordable Housing Supply Programme funding approved since November 2022, developing landlords are required to participate in a Development Value for Money service delivered by the Scottish Housing Network. After house building completion, landlords make a Cost and Time return with a tenant satisfaction return completed within the first year of completion. This data is benchmarked across the Scottish social housing sector.

Regulations continue to evolve, bringing improvements to the built and local environments, particularly around environmental considerations. This manifests through changes to Building Regulations, Planning Legislation/Guidance and decisions made at National level. In the current context of high cost and reduced funding, consideration of the balance between delivery that already provides a very high level of sustainability, accessibility and adaptability and the impact on the overall number of homes delivered is needed.

Partnership working

Public sector and third sector partnership working is essential to deliver more homes. Partnership working, for example, includes continuing to work closely and pro-actively with public bodies such as the NHS and the defence sector in relation to securing public land or buildings for sale for affordable housing development.

In April 2024 the Scottish Government created a Housing Investment Taskforce including CoSLA, ALACHO and other organisations representing both public and private interests. The Taskforce's remit is to build investor confidence and attract further capital investment into housing, encourage and promote new delivery partnerships, unlock existing financial commitments and to shift the balance of investment in affordable housing to increase private funding. A final report will be provided by March 2025.

The Edinburgh Partnership is the community planning partnership for the city. It brings together public agencies, third and private sectors with local communities to deliver better services. The Edinburgh Partnership convened a new Housing sub-group (EPH) in November 2024. The EPH will meet quarterly to examine strategic issues in housing and homelessness focussing on links with public health issues. The EPH benefits from being part of the community planning structure with senior leader membership from across the public sector including; 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, EVOC, SHAPE, Homes for Scotland and the Edinburgh Affordable Housing Partnership.

The Edinburgh Affordable Housing Partnership (EAHP) meets quarterly and is comprised of RSLs and the Council. Members produced an 'Our Commitments for Edinburgh' document in 2023 stating the collective and shared goals of the Partnership to; 1. Create and manage good places to live, and providing targeted care and support where needed, 2. Contribute to ending poverty and homelessness with an increase in affordable homes, financial inclusion and

welfare advice and 3. Work together to deliver net zero targets for the partnership's homes.

Innovation

In a time of unprecedented housing challenges, as well as working in partnership, housing organisations need to think differently in order to provide homes at the scale required. RSLs and the Council need to deliver affordable homes through the AHSP but also need to be innovative and consider new models of delivery.

The Council is carrying out financial modelling to explore ways to reduce reliance on grants. This includes working with the Scottish government's Housing Investment Taskforce to identify actions, in 2025, that will unlock investment in housing by bringing together key interests of investors and investees. In addition, alternative income streams are being modelled, including the Visitor Levy for Edinburgh and opportunities to increase income from land sales. Opportunities to support purpose-built Build-to-rent accommodation are also being explored as this offers a non-grant funded route to deliver homes at a scale and pace which exceeds that of homes for market sale. The Council is also pro-actively working with landowners on the large-scale Strategic Sites identified within City Plan 2030 to explore opportunities to deliver large numbers of new homes.

Off-the-shelf purchase of completed homes continues to be considered by the Council on a case-by-case basis. These homes offer the clear benefit of delivering affordable homes immediately, without the need to wait for homes to be built. Over 500 off-the-shelf homes were bought by the council to provide temporary and settled accommodation over the past year for Ukrainian refugees and other homeless households. Extensive grant funding has been secured from the UK 'Homes for Ukraine' tariff funding, Scottish Government 'Ukraine Longer Term Resettlement Fund' (ULTRF), the National acquisition programme and HRA and general fund borrowing. Grant subsidy has been used innovatively to make the best use of the various funding sources available.

Innovative building methods

The Edinburgh Home Demonstrator (EHD) is a programme supported by the Scottish Government to research and deliver a new approach to delivering affordable housing using offsite manufacturing. The programmes outcomes have been tested across three pilot projects which the Council has supported. These pilot projects will deliver 264 homes for Edinburgh and 75 for the wider region. The first development by the Council of the homes, which use offsite manufacturing, were completed in late 2024 in Granton. They show how quickly off-site manufactured homes can be built and to high energy efficiency levels. Some RSLs are also developing modular housing and there is scope for best practice to be shared.

The EHD's approach to delivering housing has been adopted and supported by the City Deal Partners and is now delivering homes across the region under the Regional Delivery Alliance (RDA). A suite of house and flat typologies that are all aligned with offsite manufacturing processes and meet net zero targets could help to deliver homes at scale across both the affordable and private sectors.



All photos: offsite construction: Granton Demonstrator 1 project, Oct 2024





Land Supply and purchase of completed 'Off-the-shelf' homes

Land assembly continues to pose a significant challenge. Aside from the financial pressures, affordable housing developers also need greater control of sites in order to accelerate development of affordable housing. The Council's Strategy for purchasing land and homes to meet affordable housing need sets out the Council's approach to increasing affordable housing supply by four routes; building directly, working on strategic sites with development partners, purchasing completed new build homes, and purchasing second hand homes.

The Council works directly with landowners to purchase both land and completed homes, particularly where there is an opportunity to increase the level of on-site affordable housing provision to above policy levels. It also works closely with and promotes close working with Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) to ensure a collaborative approach, rather than one of competition. The objective is to maximise delivery of affordable housing and make effective use of the funding that is available to all partners.

Due to the higher values of private housing for sale it has always been challenging to secure land on the open market in Edinburgh, particularly when the market is so buoyant. Nonetheless, the Council has had success in doing so. The Council has managed to assemble a significant pipeline of sites through the purchase of publicly owned assets, acquiring, for example, the Liberton Hospital site, from the NHS, in March 2023.

Void Properties

Void properties are homes owned by the Council or RSLs which are temporarily unlet. The number of Council owned void homes increased during the Covid-19pandemic when work in homes was restricted and the lettings process was impacted by public health guidelines too.

High void numbers create a blockage in the housing system and slow the rate at which homeless households can be re-housed. This is why the Council voids reduction project plan was established in 2023 to speed up the process of

bringing homes back into use as swiftly as possible. It is a key priority for the council and is also highlighted in the Housing Emergency Action Plan.

Additional resources have been deployed to Council repairs and locality teams in 2024 and 2025, and a working group established to closely monitor progress and take any necessary actions. As a result, the number of Council voids were halved during 2024, with a total of 649 void properties remaining at the beginning of January 2025. This exceeded the initial void reduction target set for March 2025, three months ahead of schedule. Work is ongoing, as a priority, to continue to quickly reduce the remaining void properties.

Overcrowding and Under-Occupancy

Scotland's Census collects information on the number of people in each household and on the number of bedrooms in each household's accommodation. This information is used to work out if a household has the required number of bedrooms, too few or too many. In the census this is calculated using the 'bedroom standard' from the Housing (Overcrowding) Bill 2003.

Scotland's Census 2022 found that 2.7% of households in Edinburgh (6,554 households) had at least one fewer bedroom than required. These households are described as overcrowded using the 'bedroom standard'. This mirrors the Scottish average of 2.4%. Conversely 62% of households in Edinburgh had more bedrooms than required (148,172 households), which was broadly in line with the Scottish average of 70.3%. These households would be considered to be underoccupied.

In September 2024, applicants by priority category in the Key to Choice lettings system, showed as 4.2% for the priority reason of overcrowding (1,075 households) compared to 66.4% for waiting time and 25.8% for silverhomelessness.

Actual Key to Choice lettings show 1% of lets were made to households due to overcrowding in the first half of the 2024/25 financial year with homelessness

(71%) and waiting time (11%) as reasons for the majority of lets made (Key to Choice lettings data: 1st April – 30th September 2024).

Overcrowding, where it exists, is symptomatic of an undersupply of affordable housing of the right size. It limits space for children to study or play, reduces privacy and is a source of stress and anxiety. Overcrowding has also been shown to increase the risk of childhood infection and asthma.

Overcrowding issues will be considered as part of the Council's housing allocations policy review which will be completed during the timeframe of this LHS. The allocations policy review is covered in more detail in Chapter 5.

Chapter Summary

Strategic Objective(s):

Deliver a supply of homes across affordable tenure types to offer choice and affordability

Key Challenges

Demand for affordable housing outstrips supply

High construction costs, with large increases in costs over the past five years

High borrowing costs due to increased interest rates

Significant additional resources are needed to deliver affordable homes at the scale required. Benchmark grant levels not keeping pace with the cost of development or finance

Reduction in AHSP grant funding

Uncertainty over the level of grant funding available into future years

Competing capital funding priorities for social rented housing with, for example, increased energy efficiency requirements for existing stock impacting on the number of new homes that can be developed from the same budget.

Higher new build standards cost more to deliver

Increased developer contributions through the Section 75 rules towards infrastructure costs

Proposed Actions

- The Council, developing RSLs and Scottish Government will continue to work closely together to increase the supply of a range of affordable housing through the AHSP and other routes. (to include partnership working with Scottish Government 'Housing Investment Taskforce', 'Strategic Housing Partnership' and other housing groups)
- 2. Work with Scottish and UK Governments and local community planning partners to develop large scale housing opportunities*
- 3. Continue to support the development of mid-market rent
- 4. Expand the use of off-site construction to drive efficiency, reduce build times and provide economies of scale. Continue to support and develop the work of the Regional Delivery Alliance in this aim
- 5. Speed up housing delivery by reducing the duration of time taken for a new house to move from approved to Completed*
- 6. Work proactively with the public sector to secure and develop public sector sites when they become available and review the use of statutory consents to release land for house building.
- 7. Seek land opportunities for direct development and partnering with landowners on strategic sites*
- 3. Private developers report they are not able to progress their plans Explore how to prevent this with Private sector involvement*
- 9. Continue to purchase completed homes 'off-the-shelf' and second-hand homes for use as affordable homes and review the Council's acquisition policy regularly.
- Explore new financial models and alternative income streams to help increase the supply of affordable housing (to include the Visitor levy and continuing to develop private homes for sale to cross subsidise affordable homes on large sites)
- Request increased AHSP funding from the Scottish Government to cover increased construction costs, and request a review of the proportion of overall AHSP funding allocated to Edinburgh
- 12. Increase the return rate of void Council property to lettable standard and allocate them, bringing a significant number of Council homes back in to use*

- 13. Review how the supply of larger (3+ bedroom) and accessible affordable homes might be increased.
- 14. Review potential to offer incentives for households to downsize when they no longer require larger homes.

*actions with an asterix are also captured in the Housing Emergency Action Plan

Chapter 2 – Support private renters, homeowners and landlords

Strategic Objective(s):

Support households living in privately owned homes, whether rented or home ownership, to ensure everyone has access to well-managed, high-quality housing

Introduction

This chapter covers privately owned housing. This includes the Private rented sector, Build to rent, housing for students, Short-term-lets, owner-occupied housing, empty homes, second homes, self-build and Community-led housing. Affordability issues are also reviewed.

2.1 The Private Rented Sector

Local context – PRS

The Private Rented Sector (PRS) in Edinburgh and Scotland has gone through significant changes over the last 5-10 years, in terms of rent levels and the size of the PRS. The PRS now makes up 23% of homes in Edinburgh or 62,398 registered properties (Council registrations data, October 2024) compared to 13% nationally (Scottish Household Survey 2023). Almost 10% of all registered PRS homes in Edinburgh, (6,325) are houses in multiple occupation (HMO) (Council licensing data, March 2024). The size of the PRS and its legislative and regulatory environment, make it an important focus in the Local Housing Strategy. There are 44,484 registered landlords in the city (Council registration data, October 2024). There has been an 8% increase in landlords registered and properties registered since 2019.

In early 2024 Scotland's Housing Network (SHN) carried out a national survey of registered landlords to understand the issues facing landlords and to find out

about their practice. Over 5,400 registered landlords in Edinburgh responded. The results showed that 62% of landlords own only one property and 32% own between 2-5 properties. The most common demographic types of tenants that landlords let to were single occupants or couples with no children. In terms of recent rent setting, 53% of landlords had increased the rent compared to the previous tenancy. When asked what their future plans were, over one third (39%) of landlords said they plan to keep their number of properties the same. A further third (32%) said they had not made plans. 25% planned to decrease their number of properties or sell all their properties and leave the business. Only 4% indicated they intended to increase their number of properties.

Rents in the PRS have increased by 82% on average in Edinburgh over the last 10 years. In the last 18 months, Edinburgh has continued to experience the highest rental inflation of any UK major city. Through LHS engagement, respondents reflected on the importance of considering the PRS in relation to the wider housing system, rather than in isolation. High rent levels in the PRS in Edinburgh are largely a reflection of the overall lack of housing supply, across all tenures. Increasing housing supply, across all tenures, is a vital part of ongoing and longer-term solutions, to the current housing crisis.

Respondents to the LHS consultation also shared their experiences of a lack of housing choice and the socioeconomic impacts of high rent levels.

The widespread impacts of high housing costs are recognised. This can reduce peoples' available income to engage in activities and contribute to the local economy. At the same time, in discussions with residents and stakeholders there was acknowledgment that the PRS may be struggling to attract investors due to increasing costs and regulation. However, Council landlord registration figures show the number of registered landlords and properties have increased, year on year, to date.

The wider policy landscape in relation to private renting has seen many changes in recent years: Emergency PRS legislation in 2020, the Cost of Living (Tenant Protection) (Scotland) Act 2022 which expired in March 2024, as well as the Housing (Scotland) Bill 2024 which aims to enhance rights and increase protection for PRS tenants.

The Housing (Scotland) Bill is looking to introduce a PRS Regulator and legislation to underpin a system of national rent controls. This would supersede the previous system of Rent Pressure Zones and is intended to help improve the quality and condition of homes in the PRS. The long-term impacts on the sector, in terms of investment decisions and landlord choices, are currently unclear. The Housing (Scotland) Bill currently puts in place requirements for the collection of data from private landlords, which can then be used by Local Authorities to make a case for the creation of a local rent control area(s). The Council will continue to monitor the Bill's progress and will continue to prepare for the Bill becoming an Act as more details are confirmed.

In October 2024 the Scottish Government announced an amendment to the Housing (Scotland) Bill setting out how rent increases will be capped in areas where rent controls apply, subject to the approval of Parliament. In response to consultation and discussions with stakeholders, rent increases would be limited to the Consumer Price Index (a measure of inflation) plus 1%, up to a maximum increase of 6%. If approved, the rent cap will apply to rent increases both during the term of a tenancy and in between tenancies. The Scottish Government hopes that, where it applies, the rent cap will stabilise rents and so support tenants rent levels whilst also providing appropriate protection for the property rights of landlords and supporting investment. In November 2024 the Bill formerly passed stage 1 of the process. As part of Stage 2 a consultation will be brought forward in early Spring 2025 to respond to calls for further clarity on the circumstances where exemptions from rent control and situations where a permitted rent increase above the rent cap may apply.

Issues of a lack of accessible housing for people with mobility issues or a disability in the PRS were raised at the LHS Stakeholder event along with the need for homes to be adapted in the PRS when needed. Accessibility and adaptation of homes are considered in depth in Chapter 5.

Affordability in the PRS

High PRS rent levels and rent increases in recent years means that private renting is unaffordable to many. Combined with the Cost-of-Living Crisis and

high energy costs this will be impacting on some people's ability to sustain tenancies or find suitable rental accommodation.

The average advertised monthly private rent in Edinburgh was over £1,598, compared to a Scottish average of £1,195 and the next highest city, Glasgow showed an average of £1,202 (City Lets quarter 3, 2024). It is worth highlighting that these are overall averages. The actual advertised rents for a 3 bed homes in the city are over £2,000 per month and for 4 bed homes is almost at £3,000 per month. These figures are 77-84% increases from 10 years ago. (City Lets quarter 3, 2024)

Based on an average Edinburgh monthly gross household income of £4,860 (based on CACI 2023/24 average annual gross household income of £58,331) and an average monthly rent for a 2-bedroom apartment of £1,370 (CityLets annual data 2023/24), this equates to 28% of monthly gross household income spent on rental costs.

This is a stark contrast when median household income for Edinburgh is considered. Based on median monthly gross household income of £2,922 (based on CACI 2023/24) and a median monthly rent for a 2-bedroom property of £1,300 (CityLets data 2023/24), this equates to 47% of monthly gross household income spent on rental costs.

The Local Housing Allowance (LHA) was introduced in 2008 to provide Housing Benefit entitlement for tenants renting in the private sector. The current average private sector rent levels in Edinburgh dictate that even with maximum LHA rates, those on incomes falling into the <u>Broad Rental Market Area</u> (BRMA) category, cannot afford to access the majority of privately rented homes in the city.

Housing to 2040 and the Housing (Scotland) Bill will lead to more regulation and likely rent controls in the PRS by 2025 along with introducing energy efficiency targets for the PRS. These measures will hopefully help to limit cost increases going forwards for anyone renting in the PRS.

Quality, Regulation and support in the PRS

Private landlords are required by law to register with the Council to ensure they are 'fit and proper' and comply with their legal responsibilities to ensure their properties meet the required safety standards. The Council provides information and advice to private landlords on the repairing standard, furnishings, fire safety and landlord gas safety to ensure they know what is required of them by law and how to resolve issues with tenants.

Properties licenced in the private rented sector such as HMOs and STLs (secondary lets) are subject to additional safety checks and inspections and additional licence conditions. The aim is to ensure these properties meet the required safety standards. A home is a House in Multiple Occupation where there are at least three tenants living there who are unrelated to each other and share a toilet, bathroom or kitchen facilities with other residents. On 31st March 2023 there were 6,325 HMOs registered in Edinburgh.

Private landlords have an important role to play in providing good quality housing options. The Repairing Standard, in the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006, covers the legal and contractual obligations of private landlords to ensure that a property meets a minimum physical standard. In addition, the tolerable standard must also be met. The Tolerable Standard is a basic level of repair your property must meet to make it fit for a person to live in and the Council can require you to carry out work to bring your home up to this standard.

https://www.mygov.scot/landlord-repairs/tolerable-standard.

Where unregistered or non-compliant landlords are identified, appropriate enforcement action will be taken. Partnership working between Building Standards, Legal Services, Environmental Health and Police Scotland has been key in progressing enforcement activity.

The First-tier Tribunal for Scotland (Housing and Property Chamber) is a specialist judicial body that deals with disputes and issues arising between landlords and tenants in the private rented sector. The tribunal deals with determinations of rent, repair issues, assistance for landlord's right of entry and support to resolve issues between homeowners and property factors. It was

established to provide a more accessible and streamlined process for resolving housing disputes and replaced the previous system where such cases were handled by the sheriff courts.

The same rules for landlords and tenants in standard PRS properties apply to HMOs in terms of registration. However, in addition HMOs need to be licensed by the Council and are subject to additional safety, security and living space requirements. The Council is responsible for enforcing HMO standards and can take enforcement action against any HMO licence holder who is not complying with the relevant conditions or legislation.

The Council's Private Rented Sector Enforcement Team deals with over 2,000 complaints each year. The team takes a range of enforcement action from providing advice and guidance, issuing Rent Penalty Notices, to submitting reports to the Procurator Fiscal where appropriate.

Introduction of the Private Residential Tenancy Agreement in 2017 by the Scottish Government provided some increased security for tenants and landlords. It is open-ended, meaning a landlord is no longer able to ask a tenant to leave simply because the fixed term agreement has ended. It also provides more predictable rents and protection for tenants against excessive rent increases. In addition, it provides landlords with comprehensive and robust grounds for repossession in 18 specified circumstances.

Further to the Private Residential Tenancy Agreement, 2017, tenants' deposits are now more secure as they must be secured in one of the three national Tenancy deposit schemes.

Letting agents are also regulated nationally with ways for landlords and tenants to challenge allegations of poor practice which do not meet the Letting Agents' Code of Practice.

The Council also has a Private Rented Sector Team who provide support to households living in PRS accommodation where there is a risk of homelessness and provide support to homeless households to access the PRS sector. The team also work closely with letting agencies to ensure a supply of PRS homes

for households who have been or are currently homeless. More information on this is provided in chapter 4: Preventing and responding to Homelessness.

2.2 Build to Rent (BTR)

BTR developments are purpose built rental accommodation, high quality and professionally managed. They can accelerate housing development, delivering homes on a large scale and contributing to regeneration and placemaking. BTR can bring institutional investment to the city and secure affordable housing without the need for grant subsidy through the delivery of Intermediate rent homes.

Discussions with BTR developers, operators and investors are ongoing to support delivery of the current pipeline and identify further affordable homes that can be delivered without grant funding.

Large scale sites planned for development in West Edinburgh include West Town c.7,000 homes, Crosswinds, West Craigs, Edinburgh Park, Edinburgh Garden district and the Saica site at Turnhouse Road. Collectively these six sites have the capacity to deliver c.16,000 homes with some of these potentially available for BTR.

The BTR sector faces similar challenges to other house building sectors, including increased construction costs, however the impact of increased interest rates is higher as much longer-term borrowing is required in comparison to properties built for sale.

The <u>Build to Rent In Scotland 2024</u> market review report by Rettie & Co (Nov 2024), states investment in BTR in Scotland has been limited in comparison to other parts of the UK. The <u>Scottish Property Federation</u> in a press release (Oct 2024) welcomed recent proposed changes to the Housing Scotland Bill of an index-related measure and level of cap of rent increases but raised concerns about the extension of rent controls to vacant properties between tenancies and that consultation on exemptions to rent controls will not take place until Spring 2025.

2.3 Housing for students

Edinburgh has a longstanding global reputation as a university city and welcomes a significant student population every year. There were 73,045 students enrolled in the four largest Edinburgh universities in 2022/23 (Edinburgh Napier, Edinburgh, Heriot-Watt and Queen Margaret Universities) with 87% studying full-time. Part-time students are more likely to already be living in the city and not in need of new accommodation, while the 63,549 full time University students are far more likely to need accommodation.

Student numbers in higher education in Edinburgh rose 29% over the 10 years from 2014/15-2021/22. However, in the 2022/23 academic year the number fell by 2% suggesting student numbers may have levelled for the time being. International students form 35% of total student numbers with the number of international students also falling slightly in 2022/23.

Students live in a range of accommodation types across the city: privately rented homes which are often Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs); private homes either owned by students or their family; purpose-built student accommodation (PBSA) owned by the University or the private sector; and a small number are living in student co-operative housing. Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) data suggests the majority of students live in the private rented sector.

There has been continuous growth in PBSA in Edinburgh. Since 2005 when there were 7,350 bed spaces, PBSA has increased by over 200% with 22,364 PBSA bedspaces in the city in October 2024. These are currently comprised of 12,090 university owned or managed PBSA and 10,274 private PBSA bedspaces. There are 1,230 PBSA bedspaces currently under construction, 3,555 have received consent to be developed and 2,088 are awaiting a decision (September 2024).

The majority of students in private PBSA are housed in buildings with 101-250 bedspaces or in buildings with 521-500 bed spaces. The majority of the University/ College owned PBSA accommodation is in cluster arrangements with shared kitchens although there are also some studio units too.

A CIH Scotland report; 'Student housing options and experiences of homelessness in Scotland', Sep 2024 linked to the Cross-Party Group on Housing, notes that there is a significant gap in standardised data on rent levels, student incomes, and affordability metrics along with gaps in information on the housing need of different student groups, e.g. from low-income backgrounds, international students, students with families, and those with accessibility requirements.

Some students are living in poverty. Representatives we spoke to from Heriot Watt University reported that "9% of Heriot Watt students have £50/ month left after paying their monthly rent" (2024).

The CIH Scotland report continues that provision of new PBSA continues to move upmarket, making it difficult for students to afford. Students need affordable housing options that are currently, for the most part, not being provided by the market.

Through LHS engagement, student representatives highlighted concerns about PBSA rent levels and the pricing differential between university owned and privately owned PBSA, with the latter being more expensive.

The <u>CIH Scotland report</u> also points to "significant gaps" in reporting and monitoring of student homelessness. Ambiguity exists around who is responsible for addressing student homelessness. The Council supports the report's conclusion that national and local government and the universities need to work together more pro-actively to find solutions.

2.4 Short Term Lets (STLs)

A short-term let is the use of accommodation, provided by a host to a guest, on a commercial basis, where the guest does not use the accommodation as their only or principal home.

In 2018 Rettie & Co Letting Agency carried out an analysis of the Impact of the Edinburgh Short term Rental Market and estimated there had been a loss of

around 10% of private rented homes to short term lets (STL) in the lead up to 2018.

A 2019 Scottish Government commissioned research report noted the impact of STLs in the Old Town, New Town and Tollcross areas. These areas had 16% of dwellings let through Airbnb. Many participants of the study highlighted the negative impact of STLs including a reduction in residential housing, increased house prices, noise disturbances for residents, resident population decrease and what was felt to be over-tourism.

In response to concerns about the negative impacts of STLs across Scotland, the Scottish Government introduced new planning and licensing legislation to help local authorities to regulate short term lets. The Council brought in new licensing requirements for STL operators and conducted a consultation in 2021 on designating the whole Council area as a STL Control Area. There was significant support for this action, although some stakeholders raised concerns about the impact of reducing accommodation for visitors and tourists, and Scottish Ministers granted approval for Edinburgh to become the first 'short-term let control area' in Scotland, coming into effect on 5 September 2022.

A licence is now mandatory to operate a STL in Edinburgh. There are four different types of STL licence: **Secondary letting**: where the whole property, which is not someone's principle home, is let to guests; **Home Sharing**: renting out a room or rooms in your home to short-term let guests; **Home letting**: using all or part of your own home for short-term lets, while you are absent (for example, while you are on holiday) and; a **mixture of Home Sharing and Home Letting**.

Since 5th September 2022 a change of use of a dwellinghouse to use for a short-term let occurring on or after that date within the Control Area is deemed a material change of use and requires planning permission. Planning permission is not normally required for home sharing or home letting.

The effect of the new STL legislation is evident in the number of Airbnb listings for entire homes which has almost halved from 2020 to 2024, from 7,895 homes

to 3,694. Airbnb are one of a number of short-term let booking platforms so the number of dwellings in use as short-term-lets may be higher.

A total of 4,451 STL licences were issued by the Council up to October 2024. Almost half of the licences (49%) were for whole house / secondary letting and just over half (51%) were for Home sharing and /or Home letting: (17% were for Home letting and Home sharing, 15% for solely Home sharing and 19% for solely Home letting). The Council will continue to process, monitor and report on short-term let licence applications and planning applications relating to short-term lets.

2.5 Owner Occupied Housing

Local context and affordability of Home ownership

Most homes in Edinburgh, 60%, of the total proportion of all households in the city, are in owner-occupation.

ESPC reports the <u>average house price in Edinburgh in September 2024</u> to be £307,850. Based on an average salary of £33,000 per year, this is more than nine times an average individual gross salary/income or over four times a couple's joint income. Prices across different locations in the city vary, however there are numerous examples within Edinburgh where the average price of a two-bedroom flat for sale now exceeds £300,000.

In this context of high private house sale prices, inherited wealth can play a key part in someone's ability to purchase a home or not. The current housing system creates structural barriers that affect social mobility and move away from a more equitable society.

This is where schemes such as Golden Share and OMSE can play a part to help some households on lower incomes purchase homes. See section x for more details.

Help for owners to repair and maintain their homes

Through the <u>Scheme of Assistance</u> the Council aims to help owners through advice and information. Owners are responsible for finding their own resources to fund the repairs and maintenance needed. More on support for homeowners is noted in Chapter 3 in relation to energy efficiency and other home improvements.

There are a wide range of Council services to help owners to repair and maintain their homes, and to live independently. The <u>Scheme of Assistance Statement</u> sums up these services, this includes a <u>Shared Repairs Service</u> for repairing and maintaining common areas of a building.

2.6 Private Sector Empty Homes

There are three private sector Empty Homes Officers (EHOs) employed by the Council. A dedicated EHO role was created in 2019 and two further temporary EHOs were recruited in February 2025. EHOs provide advice and information to owners to help them deal with issues, supporting them to bring empty private home back into use. The EHOs work closely with the Scottish Empty Homes Partnership, an arms-length organisation hosted by Shelter Scotland.

In September 2024 it was estimated that there were 3,093 privately owned empty homes across Edinburgh (derived from Council Tax data). The most common reason for a home being empty is that the owner has moved on without selling the property, or that there have been estate/inheritance issues. The most common barrier for empty home owners is the financial cost of bringing the property back into use.

The Council's work to date in relation to empty homes has focussed on longer-term empty homes (which are often in a poor state of repair, having a detrimental impact on neighbours or the wider community). Cases are typically generated from complaints from members of the public or they are reported on the Council's website. The Empty Homes Officers work across Council departments to resolve issues around repairs and maintenance or environmental health

impacts of empty homes, and with colleagues in Revenues and Benefits teams on debt recovery and Council Tax issues.

Most of the 68 homes brought back into use in 2024, as a direct result of Council intervention, were empty for multiple years. Homes empty for 2-5 years accounted for 39% and homes empty for 5-10 years accounted for 39% too. (Empty Homes report February 2025)

The table below shows 83% of the empty homes brought back into use were for either owner occupation or for private rent. The miscellaneous category in the table includes: homes purchased by the Council, let through a private sector leasing scheme, let through a Housing Association management scheme and sold at auction.

Table 3: Privately Owned Empty Homes – Council support – Outcomes from 2024

	Number of homes	Percentage
Owner Occupied	37	54%
Privately Let	20	29%
Miscellaneous	11	17%
TOTAL	68	100%

(Empty Homes Report, Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee, 25 February 2025, data for 2024)

The number of active empty homes cases at March 2024 was 293. The reasons active cases remain empty are due to owners being unwilling to sell or rent (29%), difficulty locating/ engaging with owners (23%), repairs ongoing (18%) and other reasons including: property inherited and no action taken by new owners (8%), legal disputes (5%), difficulty establishing ownership (1%). (Empty Homes Report, Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee, 25 February 2025, data for 2024)

With additional staffing resource in place, the Council is now able to take a more strategic approach to managing empty homes, with the aim of reducing the number of empty homes across the city. The EHOs will align with strategic goals identified in the Housing Emergency Action Plan with a view to reducing homelessness. This will include efforts to encourage owners of empty homes to let their properties to the Council or C~urb Private Sector Leasing, for use as temporary accommodation. A direct 'match maker' scheme, matching private properties to homeless households will also be explored. In addition, the Council will consider progressing Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPOs) within the context of empty homes work

2.7 Second homes

A second home is a property which is furnished and lived in for at least 25 days in a 12-month period but is not someone's sole or main residence. There are approximately 1,700 properties in Edinburgh currently categorised as second homes (January 2024).

The Scottish Parliament approved new powers enabling councils to increase the amount of Council Tax payable on second homes by up to 100% and from 1 April 2024 second homes in Edinburgh are now subject to a double (200%) Second home Council Tax charge.

The future occupation and active use of these properties will deliver economic, social and wellbeing benefits. It is hoped this change will encourage owners to bring properties back into active use as permanent homes and therefore increase the available housing stock in Edinburgh.

The potential net increase in billable liability for these properties is estimated at £3.2m per annum. Moving forward this sum will be influenced by the number of second homes and if homes are successfully occupied on a more permanent basis, as the premium will revert to the typical Council Tax charge. Over time the amount of additional income raised through application of the premium is likely to reduce significantly, consistent with the intention of the policy.

2.8 Self-Build/ Custom build

The recently published Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 requires local authorities to prepare and maintain a list of people who have registered an interest in self-build with the intention of acquiring land in the authority's area for self-build housing.

87 people have registered an interest in self-build within Edinburgh, up to January 2024, by entering their details into the <u>Self-build housing land register</u>.

New Build housing completions are monitored by the Council. Self-build properties are not separately identified so data on the number of self-builds in the city is not currently available.

2.9 Community-led housing

There are various models of community-led housing including Co-operative Housing and Cohousing.

Co-operative housing is not-for-profit, democratic housing, run by its members. Housing co-operatives can take many forms, with the 'fully mutual' model being one of the most common. This means that all tenants are required to be members of the co-op and the governance structures consist entirely of tenant members. The Co-operatives UK Directory provides information on housing co-operatives in the UK, listing details of around 40 housing co-operatives in Scotland. Housing co-operatives in Edinburgh include; the Edinburgh Student Housing Co-operative, West Granton Housing Co-operative and Lister Housing Co-operative (both Registered Social Landlords) as well as smaller co-ops like Ploughshare in Bruntsfield and Bath Street in Portobello.

Cohousing is a collaborative approach to community living with homes set up to allow for privacy but with access to shared gathering places too. Cohousing communities are set up and run by their members for mutual benefit. Cohousing can be developed for home ownership, shared ownership or both affordable and market rent. Some cohousing projects may choose to be co-operatives.

An action noted in the Council's Housing Emergency Action plan, raised by participants in the LHS engagement work and included in LHS actions is for the

Council to investigate what funding models or other support might be suitable or available to help establish new Housing Co-operatives including student housing co-operatives.

Chapter Summary

Strategic Objective(s):

Support households living in privately owned homes, whether rented or home ownership, to ensure everyone has access to well-managed, high-quality housing

Key Challenges:

Rent levels in the city are at the highest since records began. Demand far outweighs supply.

Affordability for renters or prospective renters remains challenging with the ongoing cost of living crisis and the gap between rent and LHA levels

Uncertainty from the sector in response to proposed legislative and policy changes.

Whilst improvements have been made in recent years, the PRS is viewed as a less stable housing option when compared to social rent, mid-market rent and home ownership tenures.

Although providing much needed accommodation for students PBSA developments are often not well received by local residents and students alike.

Increased difficulties for many in paying higher mortgage repayment levels or attempting to buy a home as a first-time buyer, following the UK 'mini budget' in September 2022.

Arranging for shared repairs to be made in tenements and other shared buildings

It is difficult to influence the actions and decisions of private owners with regards to the use of their empty homes.

Proposed Actions

- 15. Continue to improve the operation of the Private Rented Sector through landlord registration, licensing and enforcement
- 16. Consider ways to improve the provision of guidance and support for landlords and tenants.(to include guidance on legislation on letting and renting properties, and providing clear communication on how the council can support tenants who have a dispute with landlords.)
- 17. Review and support housing provision for students, working with Universities, student body representatives and the Scottish Government. (to include further data investigation and consideration of how information and advice for students could be improved)
- 18. Refresh the Council's 'Scheme of Assistance' information, providing updated advice and guidance for home-owners on how to improve, maintain and repair their home
- 19. Within Council led mixed-tenure improvement programme areas Continue to pro-actively support and advise home-owners and other residents on how to fund required home improvements.
- 20. Reduce the number of privately owned empty homes to bring them back into effective use including increased use of the Private Sector Leasing Scheme to link homeless households to empty homes and exploring the potential to use Compulsory Purchase Orders.
- 21. Explore potential ways for new Co-operative housing ventures, such as student housing co-operatives, to be supported.
- 22. Work with universities and the private rented sector to increase the availability of affordable housing for students and reduce risk of student homelessness*

^{*}actions with an asterix are also captured in the Housing Emergency Action Plan

Chapter 3. Ensure homes are modern, warm and sustainable

Strategic Objective(s):

Ensure all homes are well maintained, energy efficient, safe, sustainable and climate proofed, working towards net zero emissions

Reduce fuel poverty and ensure every household has a warm home they can afford to heat

Introduction

This chapter emphasises the importance of ensuring that households in Edinburgh can live in high-quality, sustainable homes. Achieving this goal is crucial for reducing fuel poverty, improving health outcomes, and advancing towards net zero emissions. By enhancing property conditions and energy efficiency across all types of housing through Whole House Retrofit (WHR), homes will be better prepared to handle the effects of climate change.

Timely repairs carried out to a good standard is crucial to keep homes free of draughts, mould and dampness, which in turn helps residents to heat their homes efficiently, reducing fuel poverty and improving health and wellbeing.

This chapter outlines how Edinburgh is working to meet the standards set by the Scottish Government and the Scottish Housing Regulator, whilst also addressing key challenges in this effort. It highlights actions and solutions to help overcome those challenges, aiming to improve housing quality and sustainability.

National Context

The <u>Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009</u> and <u>Climate Change Plan: Third Report on Proposals and Policies 2018-2032</u> (RPP3) sets out a clear expectation for all public bodies to contribute to emission reduction targets, deliver programmes to increase resilience against Climate Change and to carry out their work sustainably. The overall goal is to build a low carbon economy while helping to deliver sustainable economic growth and secure the wider

benefits to a greener, fairer and healthier Scotland at the end of the RPP3 in 2032, with a target date for net zero emissions of all greenhouse gases by 2045.

The RPP3 was updated in 2020 following the Covid-19 pandemic. Securing a green recovery on a path to net zero: climate change plan 2018-2032 - update outlines the government's plans to meet the climate change targets within the Climate Change (Emission Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019, which includes reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 75% by 2030 and to net zero by 2045. It also acts as a key strategic document for Scotland's green recovery from Covid-19.

Quality of housing and repairs, maintenance and improvements are two of the 16 outcomes set out in the Scottish Social Housing Charter. Social landlords are expected to manage their businesses so that "tenants' homes, as a minimum, when they are allocated are always clean, tidy and in a good state of repair, meet the Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS), and any other building quality standard in place throughout the tenancy; and also meet the relevant Energy Efficiency and Zero Emission Heat Standard" and that "tenants' homes are well maintained, with repairs and improvements carried out when required, and tenants are given reasonable choices about when work is done".

<u>Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS)</u> was introduced in February 2004 and is currently the main way the quality of housing is measured in Scotland. SHQS ensures that social landlords make their tenants' homes energy efficient, safe and secure, not seriously damaged, and with kitchens and bathrooms that are in good condition.

Energy Efficiency Standard in Social Housing (EESSH) was introduced in 2014 to improve the energy efficiency of social housing in Scotland and to help reduce energy consumption, fuel poverty and the emission of greenhouse gases. It has replaced the energy efficiency element within the SHQS. EESSH2 was introduced in 2019 which requires social housing to meet, or can be treated as meeting, EPC Band B, or is as energy efficient as practically possible, by the end of December 2032 and within the limits of cost, technology and necessary consent.

The Scottish Government is planning to replace EESSH2 with a new "Social Housing Net Zero Standard" (SHNZS) to align with its net-zero emissions targets. Consultation on the new standard closed in March 2024 and it is expected that the new SHNZS will be introduced in 2025 at the earliest.

There are a number of legislative changes on the horizon which may come into effect during the lifetime of this LHS. These include:

New Housing Standard: Housing to 2040, Scottish Government's strategic plan for housing, includes an action to introduce legislation to implement a new Housing Standard, which will cover all homes (new and existing). This new standard could potentially help to improve conditions in all homes, especially those in the private sector going forward.

Compulsory Owners' Associations: a new legislation to establish compulsory owners' associations in all tenement blocks in Scotland may be introduced during the lifetime of this LHS, with an aim to help to address disrepair and facilitate improvement in tenement blocks. The Scottish Law Commission published a discussion paper, Tenement law: compulsory owners' associations, for consultation until 1 August 2024. The discussion paper included proposals on the establishment, formation and operation of compulsory owners' associations and the rights and responsibilities to be imposed on them. Scottish Law Commission will now provide the Scottish Government with a report detailing its recommendations on compulsory owners' association and providing a draft Bill for consideration, expected to be available in spring 2026.

The Housing (Scotland) Bill 2024 deals mainly with private rented, accommodation and homelessness prevention. The Bill could help to improve the quality and condition of PRS properties by introducing further PRS regulation.

Annual Return on the Charter (ARC) indicators: The Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR) published a paper in June 2023, titled "Our Regulation of Social Housing: a discussion paper". The paper looked at ideas to review the Regulatory Framework in order to strengthen its emphasis on listening to tenants, quality of homes and tenant and resident safety. It suggested the

introduction of new indicators to the Annual Return on the Charter (ARC) as a means to strengthen the monitoring of tenant and resident safety. It also asked for ideas on how best to monitor the effectiveness of landlords' approach to managing reports and instances of mould and dampness. Further information is noted in the Dampness, Mould and Condensation section in this Chapter.

Local Context

Edinburgh's 2030 Climate Strategy sets out a city-wide approach to reducing greenhouse gases in Edinburgh and the plan to deliver a net zero, climate ready city by 2030 as well as a healthier, thriving and inclusive capital for people to live and work in.

The <u>2030 Climate Strategy</u> sets the following targets in relation to housing:

- All new Council-led housing developments to be net zero.
- Develop regional renewable energy solutions.
- Identify Heat Network Zones across the city.
- Develop a plan for retrofitting social housing across the city to the highest energy standards, to reduce energy demand and tackle fuel poverty.
- Establish an Energy Efficient Public Buildings Partnership.

The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 and its secondary legislation on the <u>Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies (Scotland) Order 2022</u> requires all local authorities to create a Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES) and Delivery Plan.

<u>Edinburgh LHEES</u> operates within a complex and quickly changing set of policies and regulations. Its focus is on improving energy efficiency and reducing carbon emissions in different building types, in both residential sector (housing of all tenures) and services sector (all non-domestic buildings in the public and commercial sector), and heat networks across the city. It aligns closely with the Edinburgh 2030 Climate Strategy and aims to reach net zero by 2030 and eliminate fuel poverty by 2040.

The key national policy targets and regulations underpinning the Edinburgh LHEES are summarised below.

- Fuel Poverty (Targets, Definitions and Strategy) (Scotland) Act 2018 Statutory targets to be achieved by 2040 where no more than 5% of households in Scotland in fuel poverty and no more than 1% in extreme fuel poverty, and the fuel poverty gap, i.e. the additional income required to lift households out of fuel poverty, is no more than £250 (in 2015 prices).
- Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019 - Statutory targets for reducing all of Scotland's greenhouse gas emissions to net zero. These includes a headline target of net zero by 2045 and intermediate reductions targets of 75% reduction by 2030 and 90% reduction by 2040.
- Heat Networks (Scotland) Act 2021 A framework for developing heat networks throughout Scotland and statutory target of heat networks supplying 2.6 terawatt hours of thermal energy by 2027 (equivalent to circa 120,000 additional homes) and 6 terawatt hours by 2030 (equivalent to circa 400,000 additional homes).
- Heat in Buildings Strategy 2021 sets out the Scottish Government's ambitious programme to deliver climate change targets by reducing Scotland's dependence on gas and oil for heating homes and other buildings. Scottish Government published the Heat in Buildings Bill for consultation between November 2023 and March 2024. The Bill is expected to be introduced to Scottish Parliament in early 2025 and become law by end of this Parliament term in May 2026. The Bill is designed to complement the work already underway with the Heat in Building's Strategy. The Scottish Government proposes to make new laws about the heating and energy efficiency of existing homes and workplaces:

- All homes and businesses will have to move to a clean heating system by the end of 2045.
- People buying new homes and buildings before 2045 would be asked to move to a clean heating system within a set period after the sale.
- Minimum energy efficiency standards for all homes to be achieved by the end of 2033, to make them warmer and less expensive to heat.
 Private rented properties are to reach minimum standard on a change of tenancy from 2025, with a backdrop date of 2028 for all remaining properties in the private rented sector.
- New Build Heat Standard 2024 The New Build Heat Standard
 ensures that all new buildings applying for a building warrant from April
 2024 will need to install clean heating systems, such as heat pumps
 and heat networks, instead of oil and gas boilers. The new standard
 also applies to some conversions.

Edinburgh LHEES links to the Scottish Government's target of decarbonising the heating of all buildings in Scotland by 2045 and, in turn, the wider target of making Scotland net zero carbon by 2045, as well as the Council's own target of making Edinburgh a net zero carbon city as set out in its 2030 Climate Strategy.

Edinburgh LHEES covers a 20-year journey to decarbonisation and as such three areas of activity have been identified as most urgent, which should also be regarded as the focus of this LHS in relation to energy efficiency of homes:

- Targeting areas with the highest levels of fuel poverty and the 20% most deprived areas of Edinburgh (as per the SIMD).
- Decarbonising Council-owned housing and non-domestic stock in line with national timescales.
- Supporting wider decarbonisation of Edinburgh within the funding and resources that are made available to the Council, beginning with a focus on facilitating a citywide heat network.

The baseline analysis undertaken as part of the Edinburgh LHEES has identified multiple key challenges to decarbonising heat in buildings and improving energy efficiency in Edinburgh:

- A very high proportion of flats and mixed-tenure buildings.
- A very high level of existing gas grid connections.
- A high proportion of privately rented homes and relatively small social housing sector.
- An aged housing stock with a significant proportion of listed buildings.
- 120,938 homes in Edinburgh have an Energy Performance Certificate rating worse than 'C' and will therefore require upgrading to meet national targets.
- A high proportion of homes requiring heat decarbonisation are currently heated using gas boilers.
- A high proportion of homes requiring retrofit are "hard to treat".

Quality housing has been identified as one of the six priorities in the Council's Housing Emergency Action Plan (HEAP), in response to its declaration of a Housing Emergency in November 2023. Actions include reviewing the suitability and accessibility of housing for households with multiple disabilities and improving the standard and management of the repairs for Council homes. There is also a commitment to continue to resolve damp and mould issues in Council housing, ensuring homes are safe, warm and sustainable.

Current Delivery

There is significant ongoing activity in Edinburgh around energy efficiency and heat decarbonisation. Key areas of activity include:

- All new build Council owned homes to have zero direct emissions heating sources and built to Passivhaus energy efficiency standards.
- Energy efficiency improvements to the Council's existing social housing stock and privately owned homes within a mixed tenure setting, adopting the "whole house retrofit" and area-based regeneration approach.

 Development of heat network projects in Edinburgh, most significantly ongoing work to appoint a concessionaire to deliver and operate a heat network in Granton Waterfront.

3.1 New Homes

The New Build Heat Standard sets out the acceptable standard for all new builds seeking building warrants from April 2024 onwards in Scotland. Homes and buildings are not allowed to use polluting oil and gas boilers. Instead, they must use climate-friendly alternatives like heat pumps and heat networks.

Edinburgh Design Guidance (January 2020) forms part of non-statutory planning guidance, which interpret the policies set out in the Local Development Plan. It sets out expectations for the design of new building development, design of streets and parking standards in Edinburgh.

The design guidance includes a range of requirements and considerations to ensure all new build homes are energy efficient:

- The orientation of buildings should be set so that residents can utilise the benefits of solar gain and daylight and reduce energy demand.
- Consider measures to mitigate impact of summer overheating.
- Compliance with the carbon dioxide emissions reduction targets as per the Scottish Government's policy.
- Meet the current Scottish Building Regulations through a combination of energy efficiency measures such as high levels of insulation, air tightness, energy efficient appliances, and the use of low or zero carbon technology.
- Provision of good levels of natural light and sunlight in buildings and spaces in order to benefit the health and quality of life of the residents and users of the buildings as well as helping to save energy through reducing lighting and heating demands.

The Council has also set a default requirement that all new build Council homes in Edinburgh must meet the Certified Passivhaus energy efficiency standard, ensuring they are highly energy efficient. This standard also allows for the use of

low-carbon heating systems, so new buildings will not produce emissions from fossil fuels. Importantly, this helps avoid adding to the challenge of decarbonizing Council-owned homes.

3.2 Retrofitting existing homes

Edinburgh has the highest percentage of homes built before 1945 in Scotland and within Edinburgh, private rented and owner-occupied homes have significantly higher percentage of home built before 1945, at 58% and 50% respectively, than social rented homes at 22%.

Edinburgh also has the second highest percentage of flats (instead of houses) in Scotland at 66%, with Glasgow having the highest percentage of flats at 73%, compared to the Scotlish average of 36%.

Based on the data from the Scottish House Condition Survey Local Analyses 2017-19, it is estimated that about a third (c.80,000) of homes in Edinburgh were flats built before 1945. In addition, there are 50 conservation areas in Edinburgh that have special architectural or historic interest. The Council must protect these areas and there are extra rules to control building work to these homes.

The Scottish House Condition Survey also found that approximately 44% of all homes in Edinburgh failed to comply with the SHQS, with homes in the social rented and private sector having higher percentage of non-compliance at 45% each, than those in owner-occupier sector at 43%.

About a third (29%) of Edinburgh's homes were in urgent disrepair, i.e. homes requiring immediate repair to prevent further damage of the building or health and safety risk to occupants, ranging from 27% in the owner-occupier sector, to 28% in the social rented sector, to 35% in the private rented sector.

If focusing on the critical elements of a building, which relates to disrepair to building elements central to weather-tightness, structural stability and preventing deterioration of the property, the percentage reduced to 23%, i.e. about a quarter of Edinburgh's homes were in urgent disrepair of critical elements.

This profile of Edinburgh's housing means that there are additional challenges to repair, maintain and improve existing homes, especially in relation to works in the common areas of mixed tenure blocks, where agreement from the majority of owners is required for repair and maintenance work to progress and unanimous agreement is required for improvement work (unless the title deeds stated otherwise).

The Council's <u>Edinburgh Shared Repairs Service</u> offers free advice and information to help owners organise repairs to the shared or common areas of a building. Its Missing Shares Service helps flat owners who are having problems getting other owners to pay their share of repair costs, enabling essential repairs and maintenance to progress in the common areas of a tenement or block of flats.

Missing Shares paid since the implementation of the scheme (to May 2024) amount to around £223,000. The value of works facilitated through applications to the scheme amounts to £5.9m of privately arranged common repair projects. This demonstrates the value of the scheme for private owners. Only 39% of applications resulted in actual payment by the Council due to owners who previously did not pay, then making payment after applications were submitted.

The creation of mixed tenure neighbourhoods in the 1980s and 1990s, arising from Right-to-Buy legislation, has led to increased complexity in taking forward repairs, maintenance and improvements to common areas of blocks or tenements, which were once solely owned by the Council.

Investment is needed to the external fabric and communal areas of mixed tenure blocks to ensure flats are warm, damp free, safe, secure and wind and watertight. Taking the fabric first approach will assist the Council to comply with the requirements set by the Scottish Government in relation to EESSH2 and also support owner occupiers and landlords in achieving future energy efficiency standards. In addition, making progress towards the Councils objectives to meet the Net Zero Carbon target by 2030 and reduce fuel poverty.

On 7th June 2018, the Council approved a <u>Mixed Tenure Improvement Strategy</u>, setting out the next steps to tackle mixed tenure repairs, including a proposal to

establish a Mixed Tenure Service to engage with all residents and manage the delivery of the construction work. The Mixed Tenure Improvement Service (MTIS) was established as a result and its implementation was started in 2020.

A pilot project in Murrayburn, Hailesland and Dumbryden was established, working with private owners and Council tenants to organise work on 180 blocks, involving 1,400 homes, with approximately 1,000 homes owned by the Council and the remaining 400 owned by private owners.

As the pilot progressed, the Council has extended its Scheme of Assistance to support owners to pay for their share of costs arising from Council-led mixed tenure work. Owners are expected to secure private finance from the market to meet their share of the work. Should owners have difficulty securing finance from the market, the Council can provide extended debt repayment terms to help owners meeting their responsibilities.

The policy is aimed at getting the balance right for both the Council and debtors whilst not encouraging owners to agree payment plans with the Council by default, as the market is more likely to offer more financially attractive alternatives. However, longer repayment terms may be a preferable option for people who are unable to access high street finance but may end up facing an inhibition order if they cannot afford to repay costs within the previous Council's debt repayment terms; owners with total MTIS debts of more than £10,000 could be offered a payment plan of a maximum of ten years. Under the enhanced Scheme of Assistance, owners with total MTIS debts of more than £7,000 could be offered a payment plan of up to 15 years.

As a last resort, owner occupiers may also consider an option to sell their flat back to the Council and remain in their home with a Scottish Secure Tenancy, in line with the agreed strategy for consolidation or divestment of interest in mixed tenure blocks, as set out in the Council's Acquisitions and Disposal Policy.

This option is available where owner occupiers have exhausted all potential options to fund repairs to their homes privately. The Council may consider buying an owner occupiers home, either on the open market with vacant possession or to offer a sitting tenancy. Since the MTIS has been in place to

October 2024, 12 tenanted acquisitions with owner occupiers have taken place. The purchase price has been around two thirds of the home report value.

More recently, the Council agreed to extend the tenanted acquisition offering (under current conditions) to private sector landlords in all Council led mixed tenure improvement projects where the Council currently owns at least 50% of the homes in the block, allowing the affected private tenants to remain in the properties as Council tenants.

The MTIS pilot in Murrayburn, Hailesland and Dumbryden is now in its final years and engagement work has already started in the next area-based regeneration areas in Lochend and Restalrig and in Magdelene, Bingham and the Christians, which will form part of the 15-year investment plan to progress the WHR investment in low rise blocks.

Adopting the model developed in the MTIS pilot and an area-based approach, the investment plan for low rise blocks will ensure wider building and neighbourhood improvements are undertaken at the same time. The holistic area-based investment will help to rationalise capital programme investment and reduce the requirement to revisit the same area for future investment. It will also allow current resources to be focussed on specific larger areas of investment rather than spread thinly across multiple fabric upgrade projects, helping the capital programme to achieve constant and significant delivery.

The proposed 15-year investment plan consists of three phases, which broadly follow the SIMD ranking for data zones. The strategy currently focusses on investment that supports wider poverty alleviation outcomes. As the low-rise stock condition survey findings continue to be submitted more informed planning of priority areas can be undertaken.

Phase 1 will include all homes that sit within the most deprived 5% SIMD data zones and the vast majority of areas in the most deprived 10% SIMD data zones. These areas typically have challenging mixed tenures and pre-1950 stock. Phase 2 will move to areas where the majority of homes fall within the most deprived 20% SIMD data zones. Challenging mixed tenures still exist in Phase 2, but a higher percentage of houses instead of blocks starts to emerge.

Phase 3 will be for areas where most of the homes sit out with data zones in the most deprived 20% SIMD. Some of the area-based schemes in Phase 3 are smaller in scale in terms of CEC homes and with house to block ratio parity or above.

Acquisitions and Disposals

The Council's Acquisition and Disposal (A&D) programme aims to increase the number of Council homes and consolidate block ownership, and in turn, helps to manage block repairs and improvements.

Since 2015 (to January 2025), the Council has purchased 474 homes and sold 226 homes through the A&D programme. This has led to 99 blocks becoming fully Council owned, 166 blocks where the Council has divested its interest and 356 blocks where the Council has further consolidated its majority ownership.

In addition to block consolidation, and to meet the wider objective of increasing overall supply, the project also includes the purchase of houses. There continues to be significant demand for ground floor, larger family homes. Most houses have been purchased in areas where the Council currently has ownership. However, as the demand for 4-bed plus homes has increased, consideration is also given to purchasing suitable larger homes outwith the traditional areas. The Council has purchased 19 standalone houses to date.

The total number of acquisitions across the city has increased from 32 homes in 2020/21 (when the MTIS pilot started) to 89 homes in 2023/24 and 136 homes in 2024/25 (as at February 2025). The vast majority of the acquisitions took place in Pentland Hills ward within South-West locality, where the MTIS pilot in Murrayburn, Hailesland and Dumbyrden is situated in, and many owners opted to sell their homes back to the Council.

275 of the acquired homes were purchased privately and 199 were purchased off the market.

The Council is seeking to broaden the criteria for the A&D scheme, with a report on this going to Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee in February 2025.

High Rise

There are 50 high rise blocks within the Council housing estates, accounting for around 20% of overall Council homes. The majority of the blocks are of a mixed tenure with a mix of Council tenants, private owners and landlords. The blocks were typically constructed around the 1960's, some using non-traditional construction methods and materials for the time. This type of construction and the age of blocks mean that they are typically difficult to heat, resulting in a greater risk of dampness, mould and condensation. In addition, some are listed as historical buildings due to their heritage and are therefore more challenging to maintain and improve.

A different approach is therefore required to progress the WHR investment in high rise blocks. Specific bespoke design and intrusive survey processes are required for the various construction types found across these blocks.

The programme of work for high-rise blocks will work through the blocks (with four exceptions noted below) over the next 10 -15 years, carried out on a priority basis using stock condition information, to bring the blocks up to an 'enhanced standard'. The retrofit strategy means that all aspects of the building are targeted, including the main structure, the thermal efficiency of the envelope to water tanks, to electrical systems, lifts, common areas and fire safety.

The current investment plan aims to have four blocks in design development and four blocks in delivery each year, as well as delivering environmental projects in the local area surrounding the high-rise blocks.

There are currently 12 high-rise blocks in various stages of design and development. As part of the early stages of project inception, we carry out a full structural assessment which gives the structure a health check and provides assurance that the building is a sustainable and viable building (in conjunction with the retrofit works) for a minimum of 50 years. Four blocks are already in the final stages of design with construction work expected to commence in 2025/26. Eight blocks are close to reaching final RIBA Stage 2, where architects translate initial ideas into detailed and innovative design concepts.

Fire Safety has been identified as a priority action through the stock condition survey reports. When blocks are progressing through the retrofit programme, it is critical that fire safety is an integral part of the design programme and the construction phase. In some cases, fire safety works have been identified which cannot wait for the main investment programme to reach them. A separate fire safety programme has therefore been approved which can progress in other blocks in tandem with the investment programme. This is on site now and progressing through its own priority list with a Fire Strategy Programme in place.

In addition to the WHR investment on improving the fabric of the high-rise blocks to help meeting EESSH2, the Councils High-Rise Management Team is responsible for managing a range of activities designed to maintain and protect the investment in blocks, the blocks themselves as well as the tenants and residents that there. This includes managing the cyclical maintenance programme within homes (kitchens, bathrooms, windows, doors and heating systems) and within the common areas (CCTV, water tanks, pumps, generators, lifts, mechanical and electrical systems and communal heating systems). The team also carry out an important Concierge factoring type service including owners billing, block safety inspections and the control and management of third-party contractors who may want to carry out work in these buildings whilst not under the direct control of the Council.

There are four blocks where the Council is in a minority ownership where carrying out large scale investment work is particularly challenging. A separate long-term strategic approach is being developed at the moment which will be subject to further consultation and approval.

During the engagement exercise for the LHS development, stakeholders highlighted the importance of engaging all affected residents, tenants and owners in the area-based regeneration areas, and to communicate the Council's investment plans as early as possible, to enable appropriate planning for the financial and/or rehousing requirements.

Building on the work captured as part of the HEAP around "improving customer experience", the Council will carry out further engagement with tenants and residents in addition to ongoing engagement around investment plans. This will

take into account the tenant and community experience of high rise living and longer-term aspirations to help inform future planning and investment.

3.3 Energy Efficiency Scotland: Area-Based Schemes (EES: ABS)

The Energy Efficiency Scotland: Area-Based Schemes (EES: ABS) is a Scottish Government scheme which provides funding to local authorities to reduce fuel poverty and enhance energy efficiency in privately-owned homes through the installation of insulation and other energy efficiency measures. This funding is aimed at areas with high fuel poverty and offers grants to assist homeowners in high fuel-poverty areas with the costs of energy efficiency upgrades. In areas where council-owned homes are present, the council covers the expenses of these improvements. The following table sets out the grant-funded measures delivered throughout the city in the last five years up to 2023/24. The table does not include measures that were not supported by grant funding.

The grant allocation for the 2024/25 programme was issued by Scottish Government in September 2024; work is being tendered and due to begin shortly.

Table 4. EES:ABS grant funded measures delivered over the last five years (Scottish Government publication)

Measure	Private	Social	Total
Internal Wall Insulation (solid wall)	276	10	286
External Wall Insulation (solid wall)	551	626	1177
Cavity Wall Insulation	58	9	67
External Wall Insulation for Cavity Walls	480	169	649
Hard to treat CWI (CWI solution)	459	250	709
Loft insulation (virgin)	38	3	41

Loft insulation (top up)	65	21	86
Room in Roof insulation	20	1	21
Under Floor Insulation	47	6	53
Draught Proofing	16	0	16
Window Glazing	10	0	10
Heating Controls	33	0	33
Photovoltaics*	704	164	868
Total	2757	1259	4016

^{*}Includes 443 solar PV and 425 battery storage

3.4 Social Housing Net Zero Heat Fund

In 2021, Scottish Government made £200 million available to support social landlords across Scotland to install zero direct emission heating systems and energy efficiency measures, to help meeting the fuel poverty target by 2040 and the net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045. The Social Housing Net Zero Heat Fund (SHNZHF) is available up to 2026.

The latest funding round consists of two themes, with a maximum value of grant available of £5 million per project:

- theme 1 zero direct emissions heating system for social housing across Scotland: the financial support available will be a contribution of up to a maximum of 60% of total CAPEX (capital expenditure) costs for the zero direct emissions heating elements only.
- theme 2 "fabric first" energy efficiency only projects: the financial available represents a funding contribution of up to a maximum of 50% of eligible CAPEX costs.

This is the only capital funding available to social landlords for energy efficiency measures in social housing and landlords are required to submit applications to be considered for the fund. Funding is available on a project-by-project basis and is not guaranteed, making it difficult for social landlords to make long-term financial plan around the funding and energy efficiency investment.

In light of this, the Convenor of the Council's Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee wrote to the COSLA President and the Cabinet Secretary in November 2022 and set out the significant challenges that Edinburgh faces in relation to EESSH2 delivery, and requested that serious consideration was given to applying a funding formula based on need to the SHNZHF as well as requesting an increase to the overall fund.

3.5 Heat Networks

The Council plans to implement various initiatives to improve energy standards and decarbonise the city's buildings. These include setting stricter planning policies, such as the Edinburgh Design Guide, to ensure new buildings meet higher energy standards and requiring low and zero-emissions technologies for heating and powering buildings. Additionally, the Council is creating a City Heat and Energy Partnership with the University of Edinburgh, SP Energy Networks, and other stakeholders to develop joint investment and heat masterplans. A citywide heat and energy plan will be developed, aligning current and future grid development with the city's energy needs and promoting renewable energy solutions like wind, geothermal, hydro, and solar power. The Council will also work with partners to decarbonise energy infrastructure and identify Heat Network Zones across the city.

As part of the Edinburgh 2030 Climate Strategy, the Council will also work to ensure infrastructure projects connect to heat networks and work with communities and developers to build heat networks for key public buildings and new developments. The Council will collaborate on local energy projects to provide low-cost, clean energy to neighbourhoods, with a focus on disadvantaged areas. It will also align electricity grid investments with development plans to support increased local energy generation and explore the

potential for local energy generation communities as part of net-zero pilot projects.

In line with the net zero carbon strategy, the Council is seeking to deliver a low carbon heat network (planned to be operational in 2025) as part of the Granton Waterfront regeneration that will supply cost-competitive heat from low carbon sources to Granton Waterfront and the surrounding area. Modelling shows that the heat network will result in long-term carbon and financial savings.

3.6 Fuel Poverty

Fuel poverty is defined in Scotland as existing if more than 10% (20% for extreme fuel poverty) of net household income is required to pay for their reasonable fuel needs after housing costs have been deducted; and, the remaining household income is not enough to maintain an acceptable standard of living(defined as at least 90% of the UK Minimum Income Standard (MIS) once childcare costs and disability or care benefits are deducted).

Scottish Government estimated that in 2022, 791,000 households (31% of all households) in Scotland were in fuel poverty, of which 472,000 (18.5% of all households) were in extreme fuel poverty. Scottish Government 's Fuel Poverty Strategy (2021) identifies the four main drivers of fuel poverty as:

- poor home energy efficiency
- high energy costs
- low household income
- how energy is used in the home.

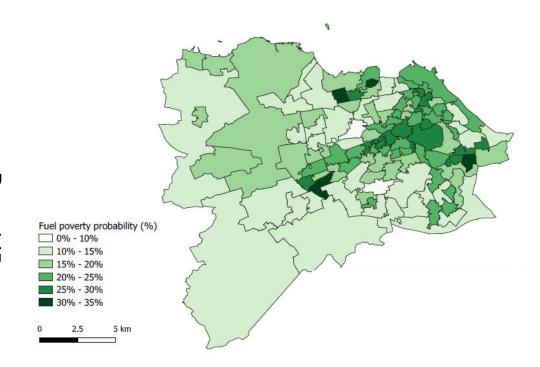
Data from the Scottish House Condition Survey Local Authority Analyses 2017-19 found that, despite social housing having the highest energy efficiency rating, tenants in social rented homes were more likely to be fuel poor, primarily driven by the relatively low household income.

Table 5. Scottish House Condition Survey Local Authority Analyses 2017-19, City of Edinburgh Council

	All Tenures	Owner- occupied	Social Housing	Private Rented
% of Dwellings with an Energy Efficiency Rating (SAP 2012) of B or C (high rating)	51%	47%	66%	55%
Mean/ Average SAP 2012 Rating	66.7	66.0	70.5	66.3
% of Households in Fuel Poverty	21%	11%	38%	35%
% of Households in Extreme Fuel Poverty	11%	7%	12%	22%
Mean/Average Household Income	£32,800	£37,500	£19,300	£28,300

The Energy Saving Trust's Home Analytics data provides the probability of households experiencing fuel poverty, using data from Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation, Scottish House Condition Survey, energy measures installed in the properties, tenure of the households, etc. The estimate shows that households in Clovenstone, Westerhailes and Muirhouse Intermediate Geography areas have the highest probability of experiencing fuel poverty, with both areas having high concentrations of Council and ex-Council homes. The map below shows the probability of households experiencing fuel poverty across the city.

Figure 5. Median Fuel Poverty Probability by intermediate geography zone, Energy Saving Trust, 2017-19



The map below shows the median estimated fuel poverty probability of each of the City of Edinburgh's intermediate zones. A household is considered to be in fuel poverty when their fuel bill is more than 10% of its full income, after housing costs. The data shown in the map is modelled from each property's characteristics (levels of insulation, heating system, type, etc) and demographic data (tenure, SIMD decile etc) and calibrated using the local authority-level fuel poverty rate as described by the 2017-19 Scottish House condition Survey. Source: Home Analytics Scotland v3.9.1, Energy Saving Trust.

In light of this, the Council has commissioned Changeworks to offer in depth energy advice to Council tenants. The Energy Advice Service provides;

- Information on how to use energy systems and storage heaters efficiently
- Information to combat condensation and dampness
- Help to accessing funds and grants e.g. Warm Home Discount and Winter Fuel Payment/ Pension Age Winter Heating Payment
- Support to compare tariffs and help to switch providers
- Support to prevent/manage fuel debt
- Support to correct billing errors.

The Energy Advice Service aims to reduce fuel poverty and brings together different resources, they offer in person events and a one-to-one service for specific needs. The service supported 1,538 tenants in 2023/24 (February 2023 to January 2024), resulting in c.£296,000 of financial savings to tenants.

As low household income is one of the main drivers for fuel poverty, the Council has a dedicated Income Maximisation Service for Council tenants. The service received 478 referrals from frontline housing staff within the localities and helped Council tenants to secure more than £236,000 extra income in 2023/24, which included Housing Benefits paid to tenants' rent accounts, Universal Credits Housing Costs, Council Tax, overpayment and other additional income.

A Tenant Hardship Fund was also set up, as part of 2023/24 Council housing budget, to support Council tenants experiencing financial hardship, including those who cannot access benefits. In the first year of operation, 2,585 awards were made, with a total of £576,332 paid out to tenants. In the first five months of 2024/25, 538 applications have been received and £73,362 has been awarded to tenants.

The criteria of the Fund has been extended to assist tenants facing pressing personal / family financial pressures (for example, to replace or repair household appliances, to pay for school activities and to meet demands for energy bills or personal debts). The maximum award has also been increased to two fortnightly (four weeks) rent payments where appropriate. In the first nine months of

2024/25, 1,313 applications have been received and £316,854 has been awarded to 809 tenants. The majority of the remaining applications are either being reviewed or awaiting further information for the application. There are c.160 refused or duplicate applications.

In addition to the support above, the Energy Company Obligation (ECO4) is a UK government initiative, aimed at helping low-income and vulnerable households improve energy efficiency in their homes. The ECO4 Flex scheme allows local authorities in Scotland to work with energy suppliers to identify eligible households that may not meet the standard ECO4 requirements but still need support. Through flexible eligibility criteria, local authorities can refer households for upgrades like insulation, efficient heating systems, and renewable energy installations.

In order to qualify, homes require a low Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating (typically D or below) and must meet specific income or vulnerability criteria. The goal of the scheme is to achieve lower energy costs for those most in need while reducing carbon emissions and improving energy efficiency standards in Scotland's housing stock.

When eligible, ECO Flex funding will be considered to complement Energy Efficient Scotland: Area Based Schemes (EES: ABS) programmes and also to assist the delivery of mixed tenure projects to the homes of households at risk of fuel poverty. The Council's Eo4 statement can be found here.

3.7 Dampness, Mold and Condensation

Following the tragic death of Awaab Ishak from Rochdale in 2020 as a direct result of black mould in the flat he lived in, there has been greater awareness than ever before of the serious impact the presence of damp and mould can have on the health of residents.

In February 2023, "Putting Safety First: A Briefing Note on Damp and Mould for Social Housing Practitioners" was jointly published by the Association of Local Authority Chief Housing Officers (ALACHO), Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH), Scottish Federation of Housing Associations (SFHA), and the Scottish

Housing Regulator (SHR). The briefing provided an overview for practitioners and landlords on how to deal with damp and mould in a way which is proactive, understanding of tenants' experiences, and to resolve the underlying issues effectively.

As mentioned under the National Context section of this chapter, Scottish Housing Regulator published Our Regulation of Social Housing: a discussion paper in June 2023 to look for ideas to strengthen its Regulatory Framework in relation to listening to tenants, quality of homes and tenant and resident safety. A revised Regulatory Framework was published in February 2024 as a result, which came into effect on 1 April 2024. A subsequent consultation on the proposed changes of the ARC (Annual Return on the Charter), was carried out between 16th September and 8th November 2024, including the potential introduction of three performance indicators on damp and mould:

- Average length of time taken to resolve cases of damp and/or mould.
- Percentage of resolved cases of damp and/or mould that were reopened.
- Number of open cases of damp and/or mould at the year end.

The SHR published its response to the consultation in January 2025, to allow social landlords to start collecting the data from 1st April 2025 for the 2025/26 ARC. For each of the new indicators, landlords will be asked to provide a breakdown of cases (i) caused by condensation and (ii) caused by structural issues.

Data from the Scottish House Condition Survey 2017-19 Local Authority Analyses stated that 4% of social housing in Edinburgh was found to have rising or penetrating damp, compared to the city's average of all tenures of 2%. The analyses also found that 13% of social housing had condensation problem, compared to 5% in the owner-occupied sector, 8% in the private rented sector and the city's average of 7%.

Damp and Mould are issues that the Council continues to prioritise. Over the last 12 months, there has been significant investment in this area and a dedicated

Damp and Mould team has been established, to support tenants who are experiencing these issues.

The Council developed and implemented a <u>new process</u> to manage issues of dampness, mould and condensation in Council homes in 2021, which aimed to deliver on a range of objectives including:

- Improving communication.
- Providing a direct point of contact for customers.
- Undertaking a survey for every reported case.
- Increased sense of ownership; and
- All issues resolved to the tenant's satisfaction.

A review of the new process was undertaken and <u>reported</u> in January 2022. The review found that while some elements of the new process had been integrated, such as completing a survey for each report, several areas required further development to enable a full rollout. The main challenge was a lack of capacity, especially as damp and mould reports were increasing, and the process was resource-intensive at a time when internal resources and contractor availability were significantly strained.

Key recommendations from the 2022 review included:

- Recruitment of an additional qualified dampness surveyor to manage increased demand.
- Providing additional administrative support for case officers, with a focus on improved tenant communication, focusing on timely, detailed letters.
- Integrating Changeworks referrals earlier in the process to reinforce the advice provided by the Energy Advice Service.
- Strengthening contract management to improve performance and productivity where subcontractors are used.
- Review of training and support requirements for staff involved in dealing with cases of dampness, condensation and mould.

In response to the recommendations to the review, <u>a Dampness, Preservation and Mould Service Improvement Plan was</u> developed in 2023. Progress is monitored regularly through the Cyclical Assurance on Service Performance report to Council's Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee.

3.8 Repairs

The written submission from Shelter Scotland to the LHS consultation stated that:

"... substandard living conditions pose serious risks to the health and wellbeing of tenants, contributing to respiratory illnesses, mental health problems, and other long-term health issues" and "... poor housing conditions disproportionately impact low-income households, exacerbating inequality and trapping people in a cycle of poverty. Addressing disrepair is essential not only for improving residents' quality of life but also for reducing strain on public services".

Council House Repairs

Repairs in Council homes emerged as a theme within the LHS engagement, with links identified between property condition (quality repairs and maintenance) and health and wellbeing of the residents.

The Council's Housing Emergency Action Plan includes actions to improve the management speed and quality of repairs in both Council homes and private rented sector, as captured in the proposed actions table beneath.

Opportunities

There are various legislative and regulatory changes that may take effect over the lifetime of this LHS. These will be monitored and responded to on an ongoing basis and their progress and impact will also be reviewed as part of the LHS annual review process and include.

- Social Housing Net Zero Standard
- Heat in Buildings Bill
- New Housing Standards for all tenures

- Compulsory owners' associations in all tenement blocks
- Housing (Scotland) Bill 2024
- Annual Return on the Charter potential new indicators on damp and mould (tbc c. January 2025)

Chapter Summary

Strategic Objective(s):

Ensure all homes are well maintained, energy efficient, safe, sustainable and climate proofed, working towards net zero emissions

Reduce fuel poverty and ensure every household has a warm home they can afford to heat

Key Challenges:

Edinburgh's housing stock - making improvements in blocks of flats requires agreement from multiple stakeholders, including absentee landlords who are often hard to engage. Securing agreement for complex and costly work has proven to be difficult, and in some cases, unrealistic without further guidance and regulation from the Scottish Government. Additionally, the high volume of flats creates practical issues, such as limited space for installing heat pumps and fewer opportunities for solar panel installations to offset electricity costs.

Most homes in Edinburgh are connected to the gas grid, making the shift to zero-emissions heating more difficult. Gas heating is widely used because it is affordable, has a well-established supply chain, and offers high flow temperatures, making it an attractive option for many. Transitioning from gas to electricity-based heating, like heat pumps, introduces challenges such as noise, space requirements, and higher costs.

High costs of installation for decarbonisation technologies, budget constraints and uncertainty over funding beyond 2026/27. Costs involved are often the major barrier for homeowners and private landlords trying to improve their homes to high energy efficiency/ net zero standard. For social landlords, there is a challenge to keep rents affordable while raising enough rental income to fund the investment required to meet the net zero standard.

Behavioural factors including the need for public education around energy efficiency, and the willingness of people to change their behaviours.

The electricity grid may face capacity issues as more homes switch from gas to electric heating.

Retrofitting certain buildings could prove to be both practically and financially difficult, especially when the investment doesn't yield a conventional payback.

There are also concerns about the Council's limited influence on Scottish and UK government policies and unclear regulations for heat networks.

Rapidly changing technology - there are few companies who can carry out the work required and as the Scottish target approaches, all other RSLs in Scotland will be bidding for the same contractors to do the work, putting access to the required skills and knowledge under strain.

The Council has set high ambitions for the delivery of its own net zero ready homes ahead of Scottish Government targets and to higher specifications. Aiming to deliver specifications ahead of the required Building Regulations comes with additional costs and pathfinding for more sustainable products and technologies in the marketplace, all of which need to be compatible with the expectations of the insurance market.

Proposed Actions

- 23. Continue to support all new build Council homes to be constructed to high standards of energy efficiency and sustainability. There is a lower energy demand to heat the homes, with low or zero emissions heating systems required. This means they will minimise the amount of carbon emissions to aid with the city's ambition to be net zero carbon and reduce fuel poverty.
- 24. Investment in blocks with Council ownership Implement the 15-year Whole House Retrofit (WHR) investment plan for low rise blocks
- 25. Develop an investment and management strategy with an aim to make homes in high rise blocks warm, safe and sustainable.
- 26. Assess and review the future of the high rise estate.
- 27. Support delivery of the Edinburgh Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES).

- 28. Continue to make a case for a funding formula based on need to the Social Housing Net Zero Heat Fund (SHNZHF) and an increase to the overall fund.
- 29. Work with stakeholders to help respond to, shape, develop and implement any legislative and regulatory changes and report on this through the LHS annual review process.
- 30. Ensure owners and private landlords are provided with the information to understand their and the Council's rights and responsibilities*
- 31. Work closely with the Scottish Government to establish solutions around challenges to meeting new energy standards
- 32. Investigate how all housing providers in the city can improve the quality of housing*
- 33. 25. Work with private rented sector to ensure accommodation and repair standards are met.*
- 34. Drive improvements in repairs completed within the service standard [in Council housing].*
- 35. Ensure repair work carried out on Council properties represents value for money for tenants*
- 36. Improve speed and quality of response to reports of damp and mould issues [in Council housing].*
- 37. Introduce robust measures to address issues with [Council housing] tenancies being left in poor state of repair at termination.*

^{*}actions with an asterix are also captured in the Housing Emergency Action Plan

Chapter 4. Prevent and respond to homelessness

Strategic Objective(s):

Prevent homelessness wherever possible

Where temporary accommodation is required, this will meet the needs of the household

Support people to access settled accommodation as quickly as possible Reduce the number of people sleeping rough

Introduction

This chapter will outline growing pressures within the housing system and the impact this has on those threatened with or experiencing homelessness. It will set out the range of work ongoing as part of the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan, reflecting on actions which have completed, actions which remain ongoing and will be taken forward as part of the LHS, and any new actions identified.

National Context

The Housing (Scotland) 2001 Act places a statutory duty on each local authority to carry out an assessment of homelessness in its area and to prepare a strategy (as part of the LHS) for the prevention and alleviation of homelessness.

In 2017, the Scottish Government established a Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group (HARSAG) to determine the changes necessary to eradicate rough sleeping, transform temporary accommodation, and ultimately end homelessness. Following publication of the HARSAG recommendations, the Scottish Government required all Local Authorities to publish a Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP) by December 2018.

The Scottish Government's Ending *Homelessness Together* is the national homelessness strategy, which set out a range of actions in response to the recommendations of the HARSAG, including the development of RRTP's. *Ending Homelessness Together* has a focus on eradicating rough sleeping,

supporting the most vulnerable households and reducing time spent in temporary housing.

A series of legislative changes have been introduced in recent years which have had a marked impact on service provision:

- The Commencement of Section 4 of the Homelessness etc. (Scotland)
 Act 2003 (on 7 November 2019) made changes to the intentionality
 test. This change meant that Local Authorities can now choose whether
 or not to investigate intentionality.
- The Homeless Persons (Unsuitable Accommodation) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2020 extended legislation prohibiting the use of unsuitable accommodation for longer than 7 days for pregnant women and children to include all homeless households. In addition to this, a new Temporary Accommodation Standards Framework was published in April 2023, to ensure that all temporary accommodation throughout Scotland is of consistently high quality.
- The Homeless Persons (Suspension of Referrals between Local Authorities) (Scotland) Order 2022 suspended the requirement for households to have a local connection to the area they were making a homeless application to. A local connection refers to a person residing (currently or in the past), being employed or having family based in the area.

Horizon Scanning

 The Housing Scotland Bill will introduce a new 'ask and act' duty on specified public sector bodies, requiring them to ask about a person's housing situation and act to prevent them becoming homeless wherever possible. This chapter outlines the preparatory work underway in anticipation of the 'ask and act' duty coming into force. • The Bill also extends the time period where households threatened with homelessness can seek assistance. Households will be able to present to local authorities and receive support up to six months prior to being homeless (rather than the current two). It is foreseeable that there will be a rise in the number of households seeking or receiving homelessness assistance from Local Authorities as a result.

Local Context

The number of households in temporary accommodation in the city has continued to rise, along with the time spent in temporary accommodation. The latest statutory returns show that Edinburgh has the highest number of households in temporary accommodation at over 5,000, along with having the highest average time in temporary accommodation at 507 days (up from 442 the year before).

The number of households in temporary accommodation and the time spent there was significantly impacted by the Covid-19 emergency. During the pandemic, the Council was required to significantly increase the amount of temporary accommodation available to meet demand. Pre-pandemic, there were 3,570 households in temporary accommodation and at the end of March 2024 there were 4, 969 (including 1, 340 in unsuitable temporary accommodation). Throughput from temporary accommodation services slowed during the pandemic across all tenures.

There has been an increase in the number of households presenting as homeless and accessing temporary accommodation, driven by a number of policy and legislative changes by national government. This includes households who have recently left Home Office accommodation following a positive asylum decision and an increase in the number of Ukrainian Displaced People (UDPs) presenting as homeless and accessing temporary accommodation.

Coupled with this, Edinburgh has one of the lowest proportions of social housing in Scotland. Where an individual/household has been assessed as statutorily homeless as per the Housing (Scotland) Act, silver priority is awarded for bidding for homes through Edinburgh's Choice housing allocation system.

The number of households in temporary accommodation in Edinburgh is at the highest level since Scottish Government recording began and households are now, on average, staying in temporary accommodation for longer. This is a reflection of the acute pressures around housing need and demand. Supply is central to this crisis. However, preventing and addressing homelessness is about more than securing somewhere to live. There needs to be consideration of people and household's circumstances as a whole, including wellbeing, employment, welfare needs, and health and social care. In a time of increasing challenge, partnership working has never been more important.

Actions are underway through the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan and the Housing Emergency Action Plan to change the mix of temporary accommodation in the city. However, in recognition of the current risks and demand, this needs to be significantly upscaled and accelerated. A longer-term plan for Temporary Accommodation in Edinburgh is being developed.

Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan

The homelessness strategy for Edinburgh is currently set out in Edinburgh's Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP), which is set around four strategic objectives.

- 1. Preventing homelessness in the first place.
- 2. Where temporary accommodation is required, this will meet the needs of the household.
- 3. Supporting people to access settled accommodation as quickly as possible; and
- 4. Reducing the number of people sleeping rough.

The Council intends to mainstream the RRTP into its LHS going forward and will carry forward those RRTP actions which are ongoing, as well as capturing any

additional actions identified. This chapter provides updates on the delivery of the RRTP under each of the four strategic objectives.

Current Delivery

4.1 Preventing homelessness

The first strategic action in the Edinburgh RRTP is to prevent homelessness in the first place. This has been instrumental in the shift to prevention led services and has supported officers to secure additional ongoing funding for prevention services from the Council.

Through the Council's Homelessness Transformational Prevention Programme, teams have been embedded to focus on preventing homelessness and supporting people to access settled accommodation as quickly as possible. Further detail on each of these is provided below. These services have been shortlisted in the Scottish Housing Awards in the housing-led approaches to ending homelessness category.

Homelessness Prevention Working Group - A Homelessness Prevention Working Group has been established with cross Council representation and third sector representation via the Strategic Homeless Action Partnership Edinburgh (SHAPE). Membership now also includes a representative from public health.

A refreshed workplan setting out the priorities for the next 6-12 months has been developed and leads for each of the workstreams are in the process of being allocated. The workplan will focus on:

- Access to employability for homeless households/households threatened with homelessness.
- Hidden homelessness and place-based approaches to prevention.
- Preparing for the Homelessness Prevention Duties; and
- Tenancy sustainment.

Prevention and partnership housing officers - This small team was established in preparation for the Prevention Duty, which has now been

confirmed in the Housing (Scotland) Bill. The role of the Officers is to develop and deliver training for internal and external partners to use their existing conversations with people to identify a risk of homelessness, supporting the aims of the new duties. The officers delivered 45 training sessions in 2023/24.

The officers have been part of a working group to incorporate this training into a suite of Poverty Prevention related training materials, as well as working on training material for the Homelessness Code of Guidance and preparing information leaflets regarding homelessness prevention support. The team are also working on delivering focus groups with service users to inform future prevention activity.

Early intervention to identify and support people at risk of homelessness and rough sleeping in the future – The Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) provide a multi-disciplinary response for Council tenants who are at serious risk of eviction action and are not engaging with their locality Housing Officer.

The team aim to actively reach out to households to offer wrap around support with the aim of sustaining the tenancy and preventing homelessness. All referrals come from Locality Patch Housing Officers. In 2023/24 the team supported 26 households to maintain their tenancy and avoid homelessness. As at December 2024, the team were working with 30 households. The team will also develop referral routes to ensure that the service can be accessed by Registered Social Landlord (RSL) colleagues in the future.

Introduction of an Early Intervention Team - The team were established in December 2023 with the aim of preventing homelessness at the earliest opportunity. They reach out to all households who contact homelessness services who are not immediately roofless and offer an appointment with the Early Intervention Team to identify opportunities to prevent homelessness.

The team have instigated a new approach for social rented tenants fleeing domestic abuse or racial harassment, with each tenant being seen by the Early Intervention Team. They also discuss all housing options with tenants to try to find a safe solution and avoid homelessness where it is safe to do so. In

2023/24, 56 households were supported to avoid homelessness. As at December 2024, 259 households had been supported so far within 2024/25.

The team have also been undertaking a pilot programme of work whereby a member of the team is based in the job centre one afternoon a week. This was established following discussions with the job centre who advised that they had identified a number of people they were working with who had concerns over their housing situation. 58 customers were engaged with through the initial pilot:

- 32 were already homeless all were given advice or referred to appropriate services.
- 17 people were identified as being at risk of homelessness.
- 7 people (41%) were prevented from homelessness.

This drop-in arrangement will continue into 2025 for as long as there is demand.

New ways to intervene earlier - Officers are seeking to develop ways to intervene earlier to prevent homelessness. This includes closer working with partners such as Health and Social Care, Public Health, Children & Families and Employability services in the city.

To support this, officers are seeking to carry out Edinburgh-specific research in line with the recent <u>Crisis publication</u> which looked at missed opportunities to prevent homelessness. This will complement the work being undertaken as part of the Housing Emergency Action Plan to map the homelessness system across the city. A predictive analytics software package is also being implemented, which will bring together different data sets to allow earlier identification of households who may be at risk of homelessness.

Developing pathways for vulnerable groups - The Domestic Abuse Housing Policy was agreed at Policy and Sustainability Committee on 14th May 2020, setting out Edinburgh's housing options for survivors/victims of domestic abuse. Following agreement by the Equally Safe Executive Committee, Improvement Plan work is underway to extend Edinburgh's Domestic Abuse Housing Policy to become an Equally Safe Housing Policy. The focus will

remain on preventing homelessness for victims / survivors of domestic abuse but will also include all aspects of violence against women and girls, in addition to the existing policy.

A pathway continues to be in place for women and children experiencing domestic abuse to access Private Sector Leasing properties with support from a Domestic Abuse provider. This pathway is exclusively for women and children living in refuge accommodation, to allow women whose support needs have decreased, but who have not yet secured a tenancy of their own, to move on to independent living. This continues to be a successful model and in 2023/24, 20 women accessed this.

Home Share properties have also been made available, with support provided by a Domestic Abuse provider. Home Share are properties where 3 to 5 people share a temporary accommodation property. In the past year 29 residents have accessed this type of accommodation. There are currently 4 properties with 14 bedrooms available.

A partnership is being developed to provide move on accommodation for women fleeing domestic abuse. There are currently 9 flats, with intentions to increase this to 30. These flats were procured by a third sector partner using a social investment model.

Youth Homelessness Prevention – Young people and the challenges they face in entering and navigating the housing system was a recurring theme from the LHS engagement.

In relation to youth homelessness prevention, there is a range of work underway. Following receipt of a feasibility study looking at the possibility of developing a youth housing hub, officers have been working to progress this idea. This would see both statutory and non-statutory services providing support and accommodation for young people experiencing or at risk of homelessness based in one physical hub setting.

An initial stakeholder event with internal and external partners took place in March 2024, with 22 attendees including Council and third sector partners. There was broad support for the hub to allow one place for young people to access services. Officers have been exploring other youth housing hub models across the UK.

A steering group with partners from homelessness services and Children, Education and Justice Services has been convened. The group will be expanded to include representatives from the third sector and will ensure that young people with lived experience can also contribute.

Additional joint collaboration with Through Care and Aftercare (TCAC) is currently underway in response to the Housing Emergency Action Plan. A working group, consisting of representatives from housing, homelessness services, and TCAC, has been established, and a draft work plan has been created, with a particular focus on supporting care experienced young people. Housing is one of the seven pathways of the TCAC service, and there is a range of support available to care experienced young people/ care leavers, including financial and practical.

The workplan seeks to strengthen the services and support offered to care experienced young people, across four key themes:

- Early intervention and prevention for young people transitioning out of care.
- Developing care leaver pathways, including transitions from residential care and access to housing and youth services.
- Supporting tenancy sustainment; and
- Commissioning accommodation and support services.

Developing pathways to avoid homelessness at key transition points such as leaving hospital or prison – The well-established pathway for delayed discharge continues to be implemented, with individuals being matched to suitable properties or supported to bid on homes that meet their assessed needs. This includes discharge from both rehabilitation and acute settings.

The hospital discharge pathway for patients leaving the Royal Edinburgh Hospital (REH) has become more embedded over the past year, with several patients being successfully housed. The Home Accessibility Referral Team has an Assessment Officer who is responsible for REH outreach, supporting colleagues and patients by attending the patient flow meetings, and emergency ad hoc arrangements to alleviate the pressure on REH beds.

The Prison Outreach Officer continues to provide both early intervention support to prisoners, as well as supporting people due for release within a twelve-week period. The main focus of this work is early intervention and tenancy sustainment (where possible), although homeless assessments are raised ahead of release with transfer to the appropriate team once the prisoner is back in the community.

A total of 391 referrals were received by the Prison Outreach Officer in 2023/24, an increase of over 10% from the previous year. The table below provides details of housing prior to entering prison.

Table 6. Housing Prior to entering Prison, City of Edinburgh Council Internal Data, 23/24

Housing Prior to Prison				
City of Edinburgh Council tenants	68			
Registered Social Landlord tenants	54			
Open homeless case	152			
Owner/ Private Rented Sector	9			
Family	7			
Private Sector Leasing	2			
Unknown	63			
Total	355			

At least 45 of the 122 live social tenancies were maintained. 18 tenancies were terminated timeously (100% increase on previous year), and 36 homeless assessments (a 20% increase on previous year) were raised for individuals due to leave prison within the next 12 weeks.

Temporary Accommodation continued to be requested for individuals with specific needs, allowing them to access accommodation that would give them the best chance of success on coming back into the community. 73 bed space requests were made for prisoners with a planned liberation date.

With regard to the removal of local connection, six referrals have been made from prisoners elsewhere in Scotland about the possibility of coming to Edinburgh upon release, and information about housing and temporary accommodation has been given at this time. To date, those making the enquiries have opted not to pursue a homeless assessment for Edinburgh, having been made aware of the pressures and potential length of time to secure permanent housing.

Due to rising numbers of prisoners across the Scottish prison estate, the Scottish Government announced plans in May 2024 for an early prison release scheme. This meant that that people sentenced to less than four years in prison were considered for release from custody six months earlier than they would have been. In Edinburgh, 13 prisoners were identified for release under this scheme Of these, five people either had a tenancy to which they could return or someone they could stay with and the other eight were potentially homeless. Three households accessed temporary accommodation.

A further early release scheme is due to take effect in early 2025. In Edinburgh, 28 known prisoners are identified for release under this scheme. Of these, four had a live Council tenancy they are expected to return to, nine have open homeless cases and the remainder are still to be determined. All prisoners being released early will be offered housing advice appointments so we could see additional presentations.

Further consultation on any future early prison releases has been undertaken by Scottish Government. Additionally, joint working has taken place with colleagues from across housing and homelessness and the Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership to develop a joint working protocol. The work is focused around two main themes: prevention, including preparing for the Homelessness Prevention Duties and preventing delayed discharge; and housing needs, including older people and those with multiple and complex needs. This work will continue to progress over the coming year.

Improved information on service availability - The EdIndex webpage has been revised to provide information on how to access homeless services, an updated silver priority guide and information on waiting time for social rented homes. All correspondence from homelessness services staff includes a footer which directs everyone to the EdIndex webpage.

Income Maximisation – An Income Maximisation Development Officer - post was established in response to issues raised at consultation events regarding affordability of housing in the city. The post holder continues to deliver sessions to both internal and external staff. During the period March 2023 - March 2024, 74 training sessions were delivered to 845 attendees. This included trainees from 17 Council services, 11 voluntary sector services and multiple NHS teams. The officer has continued to support the Money Counts training, including developing training materials and platform for delivery.

'Keys and a Kit' Programme – Family and Household Support (FHS) have been taking forward this programme to reach out to residents who are close to an offer of settled accommodation with an opportunity to access sessions on how to be a good neighbour, income maximisation and wellbeing. The initial 8 sessions have taken place in homelessness accommodation with support, and there are plans to develop this further and offer opportunities for those not in supported accommodation to take part. Ongoing support from the FHS team is also offered.

A Private Rented Service (PRS) Team has been developed to - work with tenants and landlords to reduce the number of people becoming homeless from

the PRS. The team was established in November 2019 in response to a growing number of homeless presentations from the PRS. The team work with private landlords and lettings agents to establish the PRS as an ongoing housing option for potentially homeless or homeless households. The team also works with tenants, providing; comprehensive support, advice and information, assisting with property searches, providing comprehensive income maximisation advice and assistance, affordability checks and applications for deposit assistance and rent arrears issues. They will also identify further entitlements to benefits, top up payments and grants which further maximises the tenant's income.

Since March 2022, the PRS team have prevented homelessness for over 1,000 households by helping them to remain in their current PRS tenancy or by supporting them into a new PRS or Mid-Market Rent (MMR) tenancies and other suitable housing options such as sheltered accommodation. The financial inclusion officer within the team has supported households to access £493,522 of financial gains in the last year.

Support for Homeless Households (ongoing)

Housing First – Housing First provides ordinary, settled housing with separate wrap around support for people with the most complex needs, who are predominantly people with a history of rough sleeping. Edinburgh was a pathfinder area and has been delivering Housing First since November 2018. From October 2021 the Pathfinder programme came to an end and the Council took over funding responsibilities for the Housing First Visiting Housing Support in Edinburgh.

A new contract for Housing First in Edinburgh was awarded by the Council's Finance and Resources Committee on 25th January 2024. This contract is for a period up to 10 years. The service is delivered by Simon Community Scotland / Streetwork. The contract commenced in April 2024.

Between April 2023 and March 2024, 26 new Housing First tenancies started, bringing the total number of Housing First tenancies to 201. In 2023/24, the tenancy sustainment rate was 80.3%, excluding deaths this figure increased to

85.5%. From the beginning of the pathfinder to March 2024 the tenancy sustainment rate was 64.9%, excluding deaths the figure rose to 71.6%.

The new contract has been in place for 6 months and allows for further growth of the service. We are currently in the process of increasing the number of people supported by 40 per year. We have identified that housing first is not the best option for everyone and are increasing the long-term supported accommodation spaces to meet this demand.

Visiting Housing Support – Following a review of current contracts and engagement with stakeholders, a procurement exercise was completed for the delivery of homelessness support services in Edinburgh. Alongside the Housing First service, the following homelessness support services were agreed and started in April 2024:

Following a review of current contracts and engagement with stakeholders a procurement exercise was completed for the delivery of homelessness support services in Edinburgh. This included the procurement of the Housing First service as noted above.

Alongside the Housing First service Finance and Resources Committee agreed the following homelessness support services on 25th January 2024, with contracts starting in April 2024. These services provide support for people who are at risk of becoming homeless, who are homeless or who have recently experienced homelessness to move to or keep settled accommodation and gain independent living skills. In 2023/24 they supported 1,401 people with 910 getting or keeping a home:

Complex Needs Visiting Housing Support Services, delivered by Simon Community Scotland / Streetwork. This service sits alongside the Housing First service and delivers a visiting housing support service for people with two or more support needs. In 2023/24 the service supported 109 people with 25 getting a home and 22 keeping a home.

- Street Based Outreach and Support Hub, delivered by Simon Community Scotland / Streetwork. These services operate 365 days of the year, with the street-based outreach service supporting people rough sleeping in the city to access rapid access accommodation.
- The support hub provides initial advice and support sessions aimed at sustaining tenancies. The service worked with 519 people in 2023/24.
- Locality Visting Housing Support and Preventative Support is currently
 delivered from April 2024 by Turning Point Scotland in the South-East
 and North-East Localities and Right There (in partnership with Four
 Square) in the South-West and North-West Localities. For 2023/24
 Locality Visiting Housing Support and Preventative Support was
 delivered by Right There and Foursquare.

Young Persons Support, Group Work and Youth Emergency Support Services are delivered by Link Living. They support young people aged between 16 and 25 years of age who are at risk of becoming homeless, who are homeless or who have recently experienced homelessness to move to or keep settled accommodation, gain independent living skills and engage with employability services. In 2023/24, they supported 304 young people with 156 getting a home, 387 keeping a home, 195 gaining life skills and 99 accessing education, training or employment. In addition, 44 young people completed the group work life skills modules. To ensure easy access to the visiting housing support services a one way in approach has been implemented. This includes one email address and one phone number.

Using Data to support Homelessness Prevention –Work is underway to explore how data and predictive analytics can be used to help prevent homelessness by identifying earlier people who may be at risk. A proof of concept is being designed to take this forward. In addition, work is underway with DataLoch to explore the potential of a project which seeks to build on our understanding of which services which health services people engage with both in the lead up to, and during, periods of homelessness. Gaining such an

understanding will help service managers to more efficiently utilise finite resources, cultivate better interventions that prevent homelessness, and better target assistance to the most at risk. This is being explored through DataLoch, a collaboration between the University of Edinburgh and NHS Lothian, funded by the Edinburgh City Region Deal.

4.2: Where temporary accommodation is required, this will meet the needs of the household

Background / Context

A key commitment within the RRTP, as well as the Housing Emergency Action Plan, is to change the mix of temporary accommodation in the city. In light of the current homelessness pressures and challenges which are expected to continue to grow, this is being accelerated and upscaled. This seeks to ensure there is an adequate supply of temporary accommodation and that this accommodation is suitable and will meet the needs of the household.

Transforming the mix of temporary accommodation (ongoing) – There was a reduction in the number of Temporary Furnished Flats (TFF), driven by a reduction in Private Sector Leased (PSL) properties and Private Rented Temporary Accommodation properties. A change to the PSL scheme has recently been agreed by Finance and Resources Committee with the aim of increasing the stock.

The plan for transforming the mix of temporary accommodation focuses on increasing the stock of Temporary Furnished Flats (TFF)s as quickly as possible and reducing the amount of Emergency Accommodation. As noted earlier in this chapter a longer-term plan for temporary accommodation is currently being developed with a report being presented to Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee on 25 February 2025.

Table 7. Temporary Accommodation Capacity, City of Edinburgh Council Internal Data

Туре	Capacity at 31 March 2023	Capacity at 31 March 2024	Change from 31 March 2023 to 24
Temporary Furnished Flats*	3, 332	3, 264	-68
Other (Homeless	732	729	-3
Accommodation with Support)			
Emergency	1, 267	1, 406	+139
Total Capacity	5, 331	5, 399	+68

^{*}TFF in the table above includes: PSL, Private Rented Temporary Accommodation, Home Share, Dispersed Flats and Purchased Properties

Table 8. Temporary Accommodation Stock type %, City of Edinburgh Council Internal Data

Туре	% Stock at	% Stock at
	31 March 2023	31 March 2024
Temporary Furnished Flats **	63%	60%
Other (Homeless	14%	14%
Accommodation with Support)		
Emergency	24%	26%
Total Capacity	+1%	

^{**}TFF in the table above includes: PSL, Private Rented Temporary Accommodation, Home Share and Dispersed Flats

Private Sector Leasing (PSL) – The PSL contract is currently delivered by Curb. This contract started on 1 April 2020 and provides self-contained properties leased from private landlords. The number of properties available through the Private Sector Leasing (PSL) scheme increased from 1,375 in March

2020 to 1,817 in March 2024. However, this is a slight reduction in March 2023, when there were 1,830 properties in the scheme. Given the market pressures in Edinburgh, it was identified that there was a need to enhance this to ensure that the Council continues to secure and retain properties in this scheme, and a change has recently been introduced.

Home Share – This is a form of temporary accommodation where 3 to 5 people live together in a furnished home in the community. Feedback from residents on this model has been incredibly positive. This has expanded significantly since its introduction, increasing capacity from 26 bedspaces in March 2020 to 121 bedspaces in March 2024. This accommodation is classed as suitable temporary accommodation and is an area where continued growth is planned.

Community Hosting and Supported Lodgings – Officers have continued to develop plans for community hosting / supported lodgings in Edinburgh. These are forms of temporary accommodation where a mentor or host lives in the property and provides a supportive relationship. This form of temporary accommodation is likely to be suitable for people with low support needs. A Public Information Notice (PIN) was issued in May 2024 to test market interest, and a procurement exercise will commence over the coming months.

Additional Long-Term Supported Accommodation – A need for this type of accommodation was identified in conjunction with Health and Social Care partners. Rowan Alba continue to provide two long-term supported accommodation services for men who have a history of homelessness and long-term alcohol misuse issues. An additional long-term supported accommodation service for women has recently been commissioned at Birkintree Place, with 8 spaces and plans for an additional five spaces. This forms part of the additional 60 Homeless Accommodation with Support spaces agreed in November 2023. These provide suitable and supported accommodation as an alternative to bed and breakfast accommodation.

Increase in Homeless Accommodation with Support – following a successful procurement exercise, there has been an increase in the number of 'Homeless

Accommodation with Support' bedspaces. The additional bedspaces include the long-term supported accommodation noted above. An additional 60 bedspaces were approved. To date, 49 bedspaces have been commissioned and 36 are currently available. Thirty additional beds for women at risk of or fleeing domestic abuse have also been secured with 9 currently in place.

Purchasing Homes for Temporary Accommodation – To increase the supply of suitable temporary accommodation, Finance and Resources Committee agreed to the purchase of self-contained accommodation. To date, 502 additional properties have been approved for purchase, 130 homes have already been completed, with all remaining homes being handed over by the end of 2025/26, which will significantly increase the stock of suitable temporary accommodation. Additionally, 270 homes have been purchased via the Council's Acquisitions and Disposals policy for use as temporary accommodation, adding to the supply of suitable temporary accommodation.

In addition to changing the mix of temporary accommodation stock, a number of other actions were taken forward. An update on these actions is set out below.

Psychology in Hostels pilot (ongoing) – Rowan Alba, the NHS and the Council worked together to get grant funding for a pilot 'psychology in hostels' project. The project is entering year 2 and the project has enabled access to psychological support for residents who would otherwise wait a very long time, putting them at serious risk. This has also hugely benefited staff, importantly in training for reflective practice, risk management, identifying triggers and signposting. Feedback from the service notes that staff having onsite access to the Psychologist has been invaluable.

Ensuring we use our stock more effectively— Given the pressures on temporary accommodation, the RRTP set out a need to ensure that people's needs are matched to their temporary accommodation placement as soon as possible. A link worker continues to support people in Rapid Access Accommodation to ensure that people are matched to suitable 'move on' accommodation to meet their needs. To support this, any available Homeless

Accommodation with Support is offered to Rapid Access Accommodation residents in the first instance.

Recruitment is underway for officers who will work within the temporary accommodation to support households to access temporary accommodation that meets their needs. These officers will work closely with the Link Worker.

Introduced a dedicated Family and Household Support team working with families in bed and breakfast or shared houses - this team work with housing colleagues to identify a suitable settled housing option for families. FHS provide ongoing support which may include accompanied viewing to the property, support to get essential items to make a house a home and any practical support to help the family move into their settled home as quickly as possible.

Should a need for ongoing support be identified, the wider FHS team will ensure this is provided. At the end of March, 12 families had moved out of bed and breakfast or shared house accommodation and a further 9 families had offers and were waiting to move.

Introduced a dedicated Family and Household Support team working with households in temporary accommodation (complete) – this team work with households in temporary accommodation who have a start date agreed for a settled tenancy, to ensure that they can move out of temporary accommodation and into their home as quicky as possible.

These dedicated officers are informed as soon as a tenancy start date is agreed. From that point, they will work with each household on whatever is required, without a strict remit. This may include supporting the household to access goods to make a house a home, support with setting up utilities and other bills and any other support the household requires. The team will ensure that where a requirement for ongoing support is identified, this is provided by the wider FHS team. This has reduced the time between getting a tenancy and leaving temporary accommodation from 26 days in December 2023 to 11 days in March 2024.

Explore the possibility of 'flipping' temporary furnished flats into permanent homes, if and when stock allows (ongoing on a case-by-case basis) – Given the ongoing demand for temporary accommodation, it is not currently possible to flip properties on a regular basis. Temporary furnished flats are currently "flipped" on case-by-case basis, based on individual household circumstances. 'Flipping' will not be possible until such time as supply exceeds demand.

Work with Education Services – The service continues to engage with Health Visitors from the NHS to alert them of all under 5s in temporary accommodation with their family, to allow health visitors to connect with the family and ensure they are known and linked into services. Going forward, the focus will be on accelerating the reduction in the use of unsuitable temporary accommodation. This will include exploring other development opportunities in vacant larger properties for multi-use, establishing a year-round welcome centre as well as other hybrid supported accommodation services with access to other statutory and voluntary agencies.

4.3 Supporting people to access settled accommodation as quickly as possible

Lets to homeless households - Where an individual/household has been assessed as statutorily homeless as per the Housing (Scotland) Act, silver priority is awarded for bidding for homes through Choice. During 2023/24, the Council and partner housing associations let 2,112 homes. Prior to the Council's declaration of a Housing Emergency, there was a commitment in Edinburgh for a minimum of 70% Council social rented homes (across existing and new build homes) to be let to homeless households, and 50% for lets from RSL's. Through the Housing Emergency Action Plan, this has increased to 80% of Council social rented homes and 65% of social rented lets from RSLs.

Moving people through the system more quickly– The Transformation Team, based within the Homelessness Prevention and Housing Options Team, has supported 616 households to move from temporary accommodation to settled

accommodation. This team has been expanded and will look to focus further on homelessness prevention activity. Given that the most prevalent reason for a household presenting as homeless is relationship breakdown, investment will also seek to implement a mediation service to further enhance homelessness prevention activity.

Income Maximisation Officers (IMOs) - Income Maximisation Officers are embedded alongside the locality homelessness housing officers offering quick access for any household presenting for housing options advice to income maximisation services, potentially expanding housing options for service users. The team supported 69 households to move on from temporary accommodation more quickly. The IMOs work with people on initial presentation and discuss the process for managing finances when a household gets an offer of permanent accommodation. Over the course of the coming year, the team will work with more people during this transition period to ensure that income continues to be maximised.

Mid-Market Rent (MMR) as an option for homeless households - The Council's PRS team work to prevent households from becoming homeless by supporting them to remain in their PRS tenancy or to access alternative accommodation. Consideration of Mid-Market Rent forms part of this. Previously, there was a target of 50% of MMR properties to be let to homeless households. However, MMR allocations from the Council's Edinburgh Living portfolio in 2023 were 75% to households who were homeless or at risk of homelessness or moving from temporary accommodation.

Long-term supported accommodation services – An additional two long-term supported accommodation services have been introduced where households have a PRT, to meet demand in this area. This has involved working with the third sector to ensure support funding is in place to allow them to purchase settled homes for households with funding secured via social investment models. This work has resulted in the delivery of 32 additional homes, purchased by the Simon Community for service users with complex needs. In addition, Cyrenians' have currently delivered 8 homes for homeless people experiencing domestic abuse and anticipate this growing to 30 homes.

Social investment models have an important role to play in helping to deliver both temporary and longer-term supported accommodation. This is recognised in the Housing Emergency Action Plan, with an ongoing action to continue working with partners to encourage use of social investment funds to deliver suitable or settled accommodation when properties become available.

4.4 Reducing the number of people sleeping rough

Prior to Covid-19 it was estimated that there were approximately 80 – 120 rough-sleepers on any one night in Edinburgh. Throughout the pandemic, the Council and partners worked collaboratively to ensure that there is accommodation available for everyone.

The latest data provided by the commissioned outreach services notes that there are an estimated 42 rough-sleepers in the city. Officers from the Council continue to work with the commissioned street-based outreach service to identify potential accommodation options for rough-sleepers.

Rapid Access Accommodation—We continue to provide Rapid Access accommodation for rough-sleepers, including a dedicated accommodation service for females. This allows the commissioned street-based outreach service to support people directly from the street into accommodation. There are also dedicated 'link workers' who support households in Rapid Access Accommodation to find a suitable move on placement.

Welcome Centre – The Council continues to work with partners to deliver the Welcome Centre which operates between October and May. This provides additional accommodation for people at risk of rough sleeping. The Council is currently working with partners to identify a new venue for the welcome centre and the aim is for this to be a year-round service, rather than only operating during the colder months

Chapter Summary

Strategic Objective(s):

Prevent homelessness wherever possible

Where temporary accommodation is required, this will meet the needs of the household

Support people to access settled accommodation as quickly as possible Reduce the number of people sleeping rough

Key Challenges

Increase in the number of open homeless cases. For each of the last 13 years, there have been more homeless presentations than cases closed. As on 31st December 2024, there were 7,768 open homeless cases where the Council has a duty to provide settled accommodation.

The removal of the requirement for a local connection to Edinburgh continues to add pressure to our services. This means that individuals can present in any area without having to establish a 'local connection', such as family members or employment.

Demand on services is anticipated to increase further as a result of the forthcoming 'ask and act' duty and other national legislative and policy changes.

The Housing (Scotland) Bill also proposes to extend the time-period where households threatened with homelessness can seek assistance. Households will be able to present to local authorities and receive support up to six months prior to being homeless (rather than the current two). It is foreseeable that there will be a rise in the number of households seeking or receiving homelessness assistance from Local Authorities as a result. This will impact on resources required in homelessness services to deliver the desired policy objectives of the Bill and, given the financial memorandum accompanying the Bill, it is anticipated that this will be largely unfunded.

Ongoing lack of affordable housing options and solutions for homeless applicants, leading to lengthy stays in temporary accommodation whilst waiting on social housing.

Market pressures have exacerbated the supply of temporary accommodation, for example a reduction in the number of properties in the Private Sector Leasing (PSL) Scheme

Increase in presentations from Ukrainian Displaced People following changes to the 'Warm Scottish Welcome' Policy.

An increase in households presenting from elsewhere in the U.K, who have recently received a positive asylum decision.

Proposed Actions

- 38. Develop new ways to intervene earlier to prevent homelessness.
- 39. Develop ways to publicise homelessness prevention activity and ensure people know how to access it.
- 40. Develop pathways for vulnerable groups
- 41. Youth Homelessness Prevention including the development of a Youth Housing Hub*
- 42. Develop pathways to avoid homelessness at key transition points such as leaving hospital or prison
- 43. Continued development of the Keys and a Kit Programme
- 44. Change mix of temporary accommodation*
- 43. Ensuring we use our stock more effectively
- 44. Explore the possibility to flip temporary accommodation, if and when stock levels allow
- 45. Develop Mid-market rent (MMR) as an option for homeless households
- 46. Continue to increase the supply of long-term supported accommodation services
- 47. Continue to provide Rapid Access Accommodation
- 48. Establish a year-round Welcome Centre
- 49. In line with the Housing Emergency Action Plan, continue to identify and support opportunities for Social Investment Funding *
- 50. Ensure full data on homelessness demographics *
- 51. Work in Partnership with H&SCP*
- 52. Work in Partnership with Children Services*

- 53. Explore removing duplication and develop a plan to ensure information on service availability is more easily available*
- 54. Investigate the impact of tourism on temporary accommodation*
- 55. Deliver pre tenancy support to homeless households*
- 56. Continue to develop options to prevent homelessness in the first place including using data to target interventions*
- 57. Assess the link between children in unsuitable accommodation and the impact on their education with the change in schools they attend*
- 58. Continue to work with RSL partners to maximise lets to homeless households*
- 59. Develop a plan to increase the supply of Short-term Let accommodation*
- 60. Develop a plan to increase the supply of Private Sector Leasing (PSL) accommodation*
- 61. Plan to proactively identify and increase reach of prevention services*
- 62. Develop a plan to increase the supply of supported accommodation*
- 63. Develop a plan to support those who find a gap between their rent charge and their housing benefit income*
- 64. Community based and home-based support services are increasingly important to support people with mental health issues which affects homelessness presentations if not maintained or improved upon*
- 65. How will we provide mental and physical tenancy support throughout the tenancy journey of homelessness and ensure tenancy sustainment's are reinforced*
- 66. Ensure that the Council and partners are prepared to respond to Prevention Legal Duties*
- 67. Continue delivery of the Housing First model*

*actions with an asterix are also captured in the Housing Emergency Action Plan

Chapter 5. Provide suitable homes with the right support to meet people's needs

Strategic Objective(s):

Ensure housing is accessible with the right support to meet everyone's needs

Introduction

The links between housing, health and wellbeing are widely recognised and housing has a key role to play in supporting and enabling independent living. This is a key priority for the Scottish Government, as reflected in National Health and Wellbeing Outcome two:

"People, including those with disabilities or long-term conditions, or who are frail, are able to live as far as reasonably practicable, independently and at home or in a homely setting in their community"

This chapter also covers the importance of joint working between housing, health and social care partners, and other key partners, to ensure people have the right kind of housing, care and support in the right place, at the right time.

National Context

The <u>Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014</u> provides a framework for the integration of health and social care services in Scotland. It places a duty on integration authorities (IA) to create a Strategic Plan for the integrated functions and budgets. The Act focuses on the importance of effective joint strategic planning and commissioning of services and sets out functions and services that must be delegated.

Local Context

Health and Social Care Integration

In Edinburgh, the Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership (Edinburgh HSCP) is made up of integrated services provided by the Council and NHS Lothian. This brings together staff from both organisations to work in partnership to deliver services under the direction of the Integration Joint Board (IJB).

The IJB is the formal legal body that makes the decisions about how health and social care services are delivered in the city based on the IJB's three-year Strategic Plan. Funding for delivery of health and social care services is made up of allocations from the two partner organisations.

Edinburgh IJB Strategic Plan

At the time of writing, the <u>draft Edinburgh IJB Strategic Plan 2025-28</u> is being consulted on. This follows a three-month period of public consultation on an earlier draft over the summer of 2024.

The current draft Strategic Plan sets out four key strategic priorities for the IJB between April 2025 and March 2028:

- Prevention and Early Intervention
- Maximising Independence
- Protecting Our Most Vulnerable
- Using Our Resources Effectively.

The draft Strategic Plan outlines the many complex challenges facing Edinburgh's health and social care system and how the IJB plans to use the resources it has available to address them. It is explicit about the severity of the financial challenge facing the IJB and that things will continue to get harder because of the way the city's population is changing.

It is recognised that the work of the IJB often overlaps with that of other organisations and there some key areas that affect the work of the IJB that are outside its areas of delegated responsibility e.g. housing, children's services and

justice service. There is a commitment to develop relationships with partner organisations and collaborate to address complex challenges whilst concentrating attention and resources on areas of responsibility delegated to the IJB.

The areas of responsibility delegated to Edinburgh's IJB are: Unscheduled care, Adult social care, Pharmaceutical services, Rehabilitation, Mental Health, Substance Use, Palliative Care, Carers support, Sexual Health and Disability services.

The draft IJB Strategic Plan notes that the IJB is responsible for commissioning services to help prevent and treat addictions as well as commissioning mental health services where some overlap exists for certain service users. There is a commitment to focus efforts in this area on reducing the harms that occur due to substance use.

Discussions will continue with health and social care colleagues to ensure there is joint understanding of the areas where housing partners can contribute to meeting priorities and actions identified within the IJB Strategic Plan as it is finalised and implemented, with a Housing Contribution Statement included in the final version. The housing sector in Edinburgh carries out a wide range of activities which have a significant impact on the health and wellbeing of citizens and support prevention and early intervention priorities. Housing organisations provide services to help people live independently in their own home or homely setting and provide services within local communities, building strong relationships with customers and partners to help tackle inequalities.

5.1 Housing, Health and Social Care working together

A report to the Edinburgh IJB in February 2024 on the <u>'Health and Social Care contribution to addressing the City's Housing Emergency</u> outlined the existing contribution of the Edinburgh HSCP to homelessness pressures. It proposed that services provided by the Edinburgh HSCP are reviewed to maximise opportunities for collaborative and transformational change with partners to meet the needs of people with complex needs, of which homelessness is a significant factor.

Work has started on developing a joint working protocol between Housing and Homelessness and the Edinburgh HSCP. The work is focused around two main themes: **prevention**, including preparing for the Homelessness Prevention Duties and preventing delayed discharge and **housing needs**, including the housing needs of older people and those with multiple and complex needs. This work will continue to be progressed over the coming year, informed by themed workshops with health and social care partners as part of the Housing Emergency Action Plan work.

There are also specific actions on specialised support within the Housing Emergency Action Plan in recognition that people whose housing needs require additional consideration, including Care Experienced Young People, those living with disabilities, and those with intersectionality's should be able to access housing with the right level of support to live independently. The IJB draft Strategic Plan also has a section on people transitioning from young people's services to adult services, with a commitment to begin planning for transition at an earlier age to enable people to be as independent as possible. There are housing specific actions are around supporting access to disability-accessible housing where appropriate and developing additional core and cluster accommodation schemes.

5.2 Accessible and wheelchair accessible homes

The Council commissioned a study into accessible housing in 2021/22 to develop a greater knowledge and understanding of existing accessible and wheelchair housing in the city and to inform future need.

The study demonstrated an ongoing need and demand for accessible housing overall, noting the challenges in meeting this need in the context of Edinburgh's housing stock profile (older, flatted properties) and market pressures. The importance of the location of homes in terms of access to support, amenities and workplace as well as the accessibility features and safety of the external environment, like pavements, were recurring themes in the feedback. These points were reinforced by participants in LHS consultation activity. Increasing use of technology and digital service delivery was also highlighted as being

important in design standards. The study also highlighted some of the difficulties in obtaining robust data in this area of work and definitions around accessibility.

Most new build properties funded through the Affordable Housing Supply Programme are designed to meet Housing for Varying Needs (HfVN) standards. HfVN means homes are more accessible and more easily adaptable for people with mobility needs, so specific housing requirements can often be met through allocation of a standard general needs' property, particularly if it is a level access property. However, the majority of housing stock in Edinburgh, including new build homes, is flatted accommodation, which can be a barrier to accessibility.

Around 39% of homes owned by the Council and EdIndex partners are classed as ground floor properties but not all ground floor homes are accessible.

In 2023 the Scottish Government consulted on Enhancing the accessibility, adaptability and usability of Scotland's Homes, which focused on the review of HfVN design guidance (part 1). Some of the proposals in the updated draft guidance include additional design features to help people with dementia and visual impairments, which are welcomed.

The Home Accessibility Referral Team (HART) in the Council's Housing and Homelessness Service assess EdIndex applicants whose mobility needs mean they need specific types of housing. They also assess properties to ensure that they meet applicants' assessed needs.

Applicants get Gold Priority (category within choice-based letting system) if:

- They have a lifelong and enduring mobility issue
- Their current home cannot be adapted, or they are currently assessed as homeless
- They provide evidence from a specialist consultant, specialist physiotherapist or occupational therapist confirming that they need ground floor/accessible housing (private OT assessments and GP letters are not accepted)

Applicants are given Urgent Gold Priority if:

- They are in hospital and unable to return to the home from which they were admitted (due to a significant change in their mobility)
 OR
- They are at risk of long-term hospital or care home admission

Homeless households can also be awarded Gold Priority if the household has a need for accessible or ground floor accommodation to meet their needs. Accessing suitable temporary accommodation for homeless applicants with mobility issues can be challenging due to the pressures on the service.

As of 31st March 2024, there were 497 applicants on Edinburgh's common housing register (EdIndex) with Gold Priority or Urgent Gold Priority. At any one time, around 10%-15% of applicants with Gold or Urgent Gold priority require fully wheelchair adapted housing, including some larger wheelchair homes. There is also a need for homes for people with bariatric conditions.

The LHS consultation saw many comments on the desire to see the private market sector provide more accessible and wheelchair accessible homes and homes designed so that they can be adapted as people's needs change throughout their life. The lack of accessible housing options in the private rented sector (PRS) and lack of larger accessible and wheelchair homes were themes that emerged through the LHS consultation. It was also suggested that highlighting the accessibility features of properties to let within adverts for PRS and homes for sale would be helpful.

The Scottish Government are proposing to introduce a new Scottish Accessible Homes Standard, which all new homes across all tenures in Scotland will be expected to meet. The 2023 consultation on Enhancing Accessibility, Adaptability and Usability of Scotland's homes proposed that the new standard would be introduced by bringing the general needs design criteria from the updated Housing for Varying Needs guide into the Building Standards Technical Handbooks.

Wheelchair accessible housing

The Scottish Government defines wheelchair housing as homes suitable for wheelchair users to live in which should, as a minimum, comply with the design

criteria indicated as a 'basic' requirement for wheelchair users, as outlined in Housing for Varying Needs (HfVN). HfVN states that wheelchair accessible housing "is for people who use a wheelchair most or all of the time. The home will be level access throughout, have space for a wheelchair to circulate and access all rooms, a kitchen and bathroom that suits the occupant's particular needs and fittings and services that are within reach and easy to use".

The City of Edinburgh Council was one of the first local authorities to have a Wheelchair Accessible Homes target; with a target of 10% for social rented homes, with many sites developed by the Council and RSL partners including wheelchair homes. In most developments the wheelchair homes will be limited to ground floor properties. Challenges in delivering affordable housing at scale, with additional costs for wheelchair housing due to larger space requirements, need to be considered in terms of overall deliverability. There are competing priorities for ground floor space through the planning system and new technologies (bin stores, large cycle storage spaces, retail, plant), which can mean more accessible homes need to be upper floors, requiring lifts and increasing costs.



Craigmillar Town Centre development, accessible kitchen

Additional funding is available through the AHSP for some additional quality measures, but these do not include extra funding for the provision of wheelchair or specialist homes, which almost always require above benchmark levels of grant funding. RSL partners have also noted that they may have limited influence on the design of sites provided through the Affordable Housing Policy, which can be a barrier to providing more specialist homes.

The Accessible Housing Study analysis suggested that 7% of new-build homes across tenures should be wheelchair accessible homes. The current target of 10% for affordable housing has been retained as this is well understood by partners and reflects the fact that the affordable sector currently delivers more wheelchair housing than the private sector.

City Plan 2030, adopted in November 2024, and National Planning Framework4 (NPF4), published in February 2023 provide the planning policy to be applied to new developments in Edinburgh. Provision of specialist housing is supported, and the policy requires that, where housing is proposed, the mix should respond to the differing needs of residents, in particular accessible, adaptable and wheelchair housing.

Edinburgh Design Guidance sets out expectations for the design of new developments. The guidance is being updated to take account of NPF4 and City Plan 2030. The draft non-statutory guidance promotes housing for varying needs as good practice for all housing development, encourages developers to provide adaptations for independent living, includes the cross-tenure target of 7% and refers to the established 10% for social rented homes and requires that wheelchair accessible housing should comply with HfVN basic requirement for wheelchair users and encourages desirable design criteria. Early preparation of City Plan 2040 is underway which provides an opportunity to

further consider the housing needs of people with disabilities.

5.3 Help to find a home and support for independent living

New build housing only accounts for a small proportion of overall stock in the city, so making best use of existing stock is also important in enabling people to live in a home that meets their needs with the provision of services such as adaptations and Technology Enabled Care playing an important role.

Stakeholder feedback from the Accessible Housing Study indicated that the delivery of wheelchair and accessible housing needs to be wider than just new supply and adaptation of existing built assets should also be considered. The need to ensure that appropriate support and care, where needed, is provided alongside suitable housing, was also highlighted as a key point in feedback from the study.

Another key theme that emerged from the consultation activity is a need to improve advice and support to help people find a home that meets their needs.

Allocations Policy Review

The Housing Emergency Action Plan includes an action to review the Allocation Policy for Council homes to ensure it continues to enable fair access to housing, including consideration of protected characteristics. One of the drivers behind carrying out a review is the unprecedented levels of demand for social housing. There are on average 290 households bidding for every social rented home that becomes available for let through EdIndex (September 2024). Initial scoping work for the allocations review is underway, while the full review will be a longer-term piece of work, engaging with EdIndex partners, partner agencies and tenants/ housing applicants. It will provide opportunities to review support for applicants who do not have online access or who need additional support to navigate the application and allocation process and also examine how accessible homes are allocated.

We will also continue to strengthen links with private sector partners (for example Estate Agents and private developers) to encourage more consideration around accessibility, when advertising homes.

The overall policy direction, informed by the Accessible Housing Study, is to increase the supply of accessible homes and improve understanding of accessibility features within existing stock and to plan for future need.

5.4 Adaptations, Care & Repair and Delayed Discharge from Hospital

It is estimated that 16% of homes within Edinburgh have been adapted; 26% within the social rented sector, 17% in the owner-occupied sector and 9% in the private rented sector. This compares to an estimate of 15% of homes in Scotland overall. (SHCS).

It is widely recognised that adaptations are vital in helping to support people with a wide range of care needs to live in their own homes and can enhance the quality of people's lives. Housing adaptations can range from minor installations, such as safety rails, to major adaptations, such as a wet floor shower or permanent ramp. They can also reduce demands on other health and social care services by:

- Preventing unnecessary admissions to hospital.
- Speeding up discharge arrangements from hospital.
- Reducing or eliminating the need for homecare services and support from carers.

The Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 delegates the planning and resourcing of adaptations for private homes and council homes to Integration Joint Boards (IJBs). The Act and accompanying regulations do not prescribe the delivery arrangements for adaptations – this is decided locally. In Edinburgh health and social care, housing and children's services work together to deliver adaptations across tenures.

Adaptations are delivered and funded differently depending on housing tenure but all customers in Edinburgh seeking or referred for an adaptation in a Council home, Registered Social Landlord (RSL) home or private home have their adaptation request assessed by an Occupational Therapist (OT) within the Health and Social Care Partnership or Children Services for adaptations for children. The Children's OT Service includes young people up to the age of 16, or 18 years if Looked After by the Authority and/or in full-time Education. The same eligibility criteria is applied across services, for equity and consistency.

Over £3 million was spent on adaptations to Council homes, RSL homes and private homes in 2023/24. The table below shows a breakdown of spend and number of adaptations by tenure for the last 6 years.

Table 9. Adaptations - Breakdown of spend and number of adaptations by tenure for the last 6 years, 2018-24

	Council	S	RSLs		Private Sec	tor
Year	No. of major adaptat ions	Spend (£) including minor adaptation s	No. of adapta tions	Spend (£)	No. of grant funded adapt-tions	Spend (£)
2018/19	130	749,000	345	659,400	244	956,777
2019/20	120	680,000	392	794,144	269	1,047,629
2020/21	20	185,000	292	661,156	269	879,025
2021/22	51	293,224	350	797,719	192	879,452
2022/23	94	705,000	430	978,772	234	1,227,458
2023/24	115	811,000	349	930,272	200	1,262,228

Adaptations to Council homes are funded through the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). Staff in the Housing and Homelessness service lead on procurement of contractors to carry out major adaptation work to Council homes once OT colleagues have passed on details of the adaptations required. Wet floor showers are the most common type of adaptation to Council homes. Between 300 and 700 minor adaptations are also completed each year to support tenants in Council homes.

In Edinburgh, the grant funding for adaptations to RSL homes (referred to as Stage 3 adaptations) is administered by the Council on behalf of the Scottish Government. This mostly covers social rented homes but can cover mid-market rent homes owned by RSLs. RSLs carry out the adaptations for their tenants. Spend has been increasing in recent years and the budget in 2024/25 was maintained at the 2023/24 level despite an overall cut to the Affordable Housing Supply Programme allocation, from which Stage 3 adaptations are funded.

Adaptations for homeowners and private tenants' homes are supported by grant funding provided through the Council's Capital Budget Strategy. There is a statutory duty to provide grants of 80% or 100% for those living in the private sector, who are assessed as needing adaptations.

The draft IJB Strategic Plan states that people with long-term health conditions will be provided with home care and assistive technology where required and assess and adapt people's home environments when required. This will also support the work identified in the draft plan for people who have had or are likely to have falls.

In Housing to 2040, the Scottish Government made a commitment to streamline and accelerate the adaptations system by developing recommendations on how best to improve the system so that it will be fit for purpose and able to deal with the increased demand that an ageing population will place upon it. Partners will review delivery and funding of adaptations in the city to provide a more streamlined and person-centred service.

Care and Repair

Care and Repair Edinburgh receives funding from the Edinburgh HSCP. This supports the Small Repairs Service, Volunteer Handypersons, Trade Referral Service and Keysafe Fitting Service (which assists patients leaving hospital and prevents hospital admissions).

Care and Repair Edinburgh also offer assistance with adaptations, for example, by providing support to help people apply for grant funding.

Delayed Discharge

As outlined above, there is provision within the allocations policy to award Urgent Gold Priority to support applicants who are delayed in hospital. This is the highest level of priority within the choice-based allocations policy. There is an established Delayed Discharge Matching Group (comprised of Housing, NHS and Edinburgh HSCP colleagues) that has been in place since 2016.

The Delayed Discharge Matching Group meets monthly and EdIndex partner landlords support the process, offering suitable properties for patients upon

discharge wherever possible. On occasion, patients awarded Urgent Gold Priority for rehousing, who are initially discharged to an Interim Care Home, will retain the priority in an attempt to have them permanently rehoused to suitable accommodation that meets their assessed needs, as quickly as possible.

There are currently four "step down" flats in the city for patients to use when they have been assessed as medically fit for hospital discharge, but there are delays in identifying or adapting a suitable permanent home for them within the community. They can also be used, following a community referral, to avoid hospital admission, or as a temporary solution to allow a deep clean to happen, or other works within the property to be undertaken.

Work continues on hospital pathways through the Homelessness Prevention Working Group and the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan, as covered in the Homelessness chapter of the LHS. This work ensures that an early intervention approach is applied to anyone in hospital whose housing situation may be a barrier to their discharge, as well as supporting homeless households.

5.5 Housing and support to meet the needs of our changing and diverse population

An estimated 28% of households in Edinburgh contain members who are Long Term Sick or Disabled (LTSD), lower than the Scotland figure of 44%. In an estimated 4% of Edinburgh households, an LTSD individual is restricted by the dwelling. These figures are higher for older households compared to families and other households in both Edinburgh and Scotland (SHCS 2022).

The most recent Census data shows the number of people reporting a physical disability, mental health condition, and/or long-term illness has increased between 2011 and 2022 in Edinburgh, as well as across Scotland as a whole. In Edinburgh the figure for physical disability increased from 5.1% to 6.7% and for mental health condition the figure increased from 4.2% to 11.9%. The percentage of people reporting deaf/hearing impairment or blind/vision impairment has stayed around the same level between Census years. 2022 Census figures for deaf or hearing impairment are 29,000 people in the city and for blind/vision impairment the number of people is 11,000.

Overall, Census 2022 figures report that nearly 88% of people over 65 in Edinburgh said they are in fair, good or very good health.

However, the Census 2022 figures report that 19.5% of people in Edinburgh have their day-to-day activities limited, either a little or a lot, due to disability. The figure increases to over 50% for people aged 65 or over.

Older People

In 2022, 16% of the population of Edinburgh were 65 plus. NRS Population Projections for Scottish Areas (2018-based) indicate that the age groups with the greatest population growth to 2030 are for those aged 65 and over. The age group showing the largest increase is 75-84 years.

Most older people live in their own homes rather than in specialist accommodation. Providing accessible and adaptable homes and services that support people to live independently in their own homes for as long as possible is important to meet the needs of an ageing population and prevent unplanned admissions to hospital or moving into a care home. Demographic change also brings changes in aspirations and demand for diversity and choice in housing and support. The availability of advice and information about housing options across tenures for older people if they want or need to move is also important.

The Council has just over 1,500 sheltered housing properties. RSL partners also have sheltered housing or similar, such as retirement housing, later living housing or amenity housing.

The LGBT+ Health and Wellbeing <u>Fit for Purpose</u> report explores the specific needs of older members of the LGBT+ community with regard to housing and social care and highlights the intersectional needs of the community.

The recent CaCHE report 'Housing for older people in Scotland: a call for discussion' presents key topics for discussion that highlight housing for older people as a key priority area for policy and practice for the Scottish housing sector.

In June 2023, the Edinburgh IJB directed a strategic commissioning exercise on older people's bed-based care. As noted in the draft Strategic Plan, Edinburgh

has comparatively few care homes for its population. The city has about six care home beds per thousand of its population compared with eight for Scotland as a whole. The city manages with comparatively few care home beds because it has a large market for care at home. Around 3,500 people are supported in care homes and nursing homes across each year in the city.

In Edinburgh, 65.7% of older people aged 65 plus who have high levels of care needs live at home (compared to 63.5% Scotland overall).

Demographic change in Edinburgh will create more demand for health and care services. NHS Lothian recently undertook a comprehensive demand forecast programme which included projected demand for care homes in Edinburgh until 2043. The review used projected demographic changes based on the most recent population projections from 2018 onwards. More up to date projections reflecting the 2022 Census are expected in 2025 and may shift the longer-term trends. The impact of demographic change only, assuming a similar need to the current, suggests significant growth in Care Home numbers of 50% from the 2022 baseline of 2,633 occupied care home beds, or 1,300 care home places by 2043.

Housing and health and social care will continue to work together, with housing needs of older people included in the work on the joint working protocol.

Dementia

With an ageing population comes an increase in the number of people living with dementia. In 2019 there were 7,784 people aged 65 plus estimated to be living with dementia in Edinburgh: 9.8% of the population. An estimated 281 people under 65 years were living with dementia. Between 2018 and 2030, the number of people estimated to have dementia in Edinburgh is expected to increase by 26.5% (Edinburgh HSCP JSNA Paper on Dementia).

Those with dementia face a range of challenges within housing including:

 Sensory impairments, including visual perception, may make it difficult to manage stairs. Touch sensitivities may impact wellbeing and create risks around hot water, kettles, or ovens.

- Individuals may face a decline in mobility and find that they are less able to walk up and down stairs easily or use kitchen appliances.
- Isolation and not feeling connected to the community due to stigma or being unable to access the community outside one's door because it lacks accessibility features and is not 'dementia friendly'.

Key areas of work with a focus on housing and dementia include '<u>Living well at home</u>: Housing and dementia in <u>Scotland</u>' and the <u>housing and dementia framework</u>, commissioned by the Place, Home and Housing portfolio of Healthcare Improvement Scotland's Improvement Hub (ihub) with Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH) Scotland and Alzheimer Scotland. The framework notes that:

"There is an increasing desire to support people living with dementia to selfmanage and retain their independence for as long as possible. All the evidence suggests that staying at home helps people living with dementia achieve the best outcomes for themselves in familiar surroundings and where they can maintain connections with community life."

There are opportunities to link in with Edinburgh HSCP partners as they develop a specific strategy for Dementia.

Learning Disability

A learning disability is a significant, lifelong condition that starts before adulthood, which affects a person's development, and which means that they may need help to understand information, learn skills and live independently. Having a learning disability means a person may take longer to learn things and often needs support to develop new skills, be aware of risk, understand complicated information and interact with other people. ('Keys to Life', 2019).

There is an estimated 2,255 people (18 years plus) with a learning disability in Edinburgh. The national population of adults with a learning disability is predicted to increase by 2% each year. (Learning Disability Statistics Scotland 2019).

There has been significant consultation and engagement on a national level with people with a learning disability, from 'The Same As You?' (2000) and 'Keys to Life' (2013 and 2019). These documents, combined with the 'Coming Home Report' (2018) and the 'Coming Home Implementation Plan' (2022), clearly lay out the priorities for people with learning disabilities.

The more recent Scottish Government consultation on the <u>Learning Disabilities</u>, <u>Autism and Neurodivergence Bill</u>, informed by the Lived Experience Advisory Panel has a detailed section on housing and independent living noting that:

"Unsuitable housing can have a negative impact on neurodivergent people, people with learning disabilities, their families and their carers, including impacting on mobility, mental health, social isolation and a lack of employment opportunities. Appropriate housing is therefore an essential requirement of independent living. It supports health and wellbeing allowing neurodivergent people and people with learning disabilities to live safely, offering greater choice and control over their lives".

A 2022 report from the Scottish Commission for Learning Disabilities highlighted the particular challenges faced by people with learning disabilities in being able to choose where and how they live. LHS consultation feedback reinforced many of these points, with Edinburgh Learning Disability Advisory Group members stressing that people with learning disabilities should have a choice if they want to live on their own or with others and that the right care and support packages, built around them, also need to be in place to live an independent life.

The IJB draft Strategic Plan identifies the lack of suitable housing for people with a learning disability as a chronic challenge. This can lead to people with a learning disability who have a high level of need remaining in hospital for years at a time because there is no suitable environment for them to be discharged to. It also leads to higher costs for care at home when individuals with specialist care needs are spread out over too wide an area and care teams need to travel a lot.

The Edinburgh HSCP is updating their Learning Disability Delivery Plan and will work with housing partners to identify housing needs for people with learning

disabilities over the next 3-5 years so this can be factored into future social housing developments through the SHIP. Around 2,000 people are supported through learning disability services provided/commissioned by the Edinburgh HSCP. The Council and RSL partners already help provide Core and Cluster homes through the new build programme and refurbishing existing buildings but seek to take a more strategic, evidence-based approach going forward.

The <u>Scottish Government's Coming Home Implementation Report</u> sets out a clear objective to reduce the number of out of area residential placements and inappropriate hospital stays for people with learning disabilities and complex care needs who have intensive support needs.

The Dynamic Support Register was launched in May 2023, as one of the key recommendations from the report.

Mental health

The IJB draft Strategic Plan outlines that the term 'mental health' describes a person's capacity to lead a fulfilling and enjoyable life. It is broader than just the absence of mental illness and changes over time in response to a wide variety of factors. The IJB is responsible for commissioning all mental health services for people experiencing problems with their mental health except for secure forensic hospitals which remain the responsibility of NHS Lothian. The IJB commissions a range of services to meet different needs, including services that focus on reducing the risk of people harming themselves or others and supporting people under safeguarding legislation. There are a wide variety of support services provided by third sector organisations. The Thrive Edinburgh mental health and wellbeing strategy emphasises the importance of supporting and promoting mental health in addition to addressing mental illness.

Feedback from service users is that services for mental health problems do not always feel joined up and waiting times for some services are too long. The IJB draft Strategic Plan commits to focusing on streamlining the mental health pathway and reducing waiting times.

Discussions are underway between housing and health and social care on how we support people with severe mental illness. This is looking at how we can provide stable and suitable accommodation before people reach a crisis point and ensuring existing tenancies are protected if there is an admission to hospital during an acute mental health crisis (and facilitating discharge back into an existing tenancy more quickly).

The work is also looking at actions needed to ensure an adequate supply of suitable housing for individuals with complex long-term mental health issues such as psychosis that are conducive to affordable care and support packages.

We will continue to work with health and social care partners to improve our understanding of the housing and support needs of people with a learning disability, mental health problems and for people with complex care needs. This can include mainstream housing with appropriate support, extra care housing, supported accommodation and core and cluster models of housing. The information can be used to shape and inform new build projects and look at existing resources across housing and health and social care portfolios to help meet needs, alongside discussions on funding (capital and revenue) where it is required.

Gypsy Travellers

National Context

In Scotland, Gypsy/Travellers are recognised as an ethnic minority and the Scotlish Government is committed to improving outcomes for all Gypsy/Travellers in Scotland. Alongside COSLA, the Scotlish Government launched an action plan 'Improving the Lives of Gypsy Travellers' in 2019 (updated in 2023). The plan focused on reviewing five areas identified by the Gypsy/Traveller communities as being important to them:

- More and better accommodation.
- Improved access to public services.
- Better incomes in and out of work.
- Tackling racism and discrimination.

Improving Gypsy/Traveller representation.

In the 2022 Census, 3,343 people identified themselves as "White Gypsy/Travellers" in Scotland but it is likely that some chose not to declare their ethnicity. Organisations that work with Gypsy/Travellers believe Scotland's community comprises 15,000 – 20,000 people. The table below shows the breakdown of those giving their ethnicity as 'White Gypsy Travellers' at the 2022 Census for Edinburgh.

Table 9. All Ethnicities and white gypsy travellers, 2022 Census, City of Edinburgh

	All Ethnicities		White Gypsy Travellers	
0 – 15	75,126	15%	30	12%
16 – 24	76,188	15%	47	18%
25 – 34	87,342	17%	47	18%
35 – 49	103,067	20%	66	26%
50 – 64	90,742	18%	42	16%
65 and over	81,935	16%	17	7%
Total	514,591	% all people	257	% all people

The <u>Scottish Government Evidence Review 2020</u> found that the location of any new provision was a key factor in assessing need. Gypsy/Travellers have often not been able to access culturally appropriate sites in the areas they wish to live in, and enforcement activity may have distorted where they have settled. It also found that "there is no agreed methodology for quantifying the need for different types of accommodation among the population, particularly when attempting to account for future demand and cultural differences within Gypsy/Traveller communities". The preference for private sites amongst Gypsy/Traveller communities was referred to in the Scottish Government Evidence Review 2020.

Interim Site Design Guidance produced by the Scottish Government in 2021 for RSL and local authority development provides guidance on site size. It states that sites identified in development plans should provide a suitable and safe environment for Gypsy/Traveller families and be capable of providing accommodation that meets their cultural needs. The size of the site should be appropriate for the location and be big enough to accommodate shared facilities e.g. community space and visitor parking as well as the accommodation itself.

City Plan 2030 says that the development of a site for caravans for Gypsy/Travellers and Travelling Show people will be permitted provided:

- it has been demonstrated that a site is needed in the location proposed.
- the site would not detract from the character and appearance of the area.
- the site would not detract from the amenity currently enjoyed by residents in the area.
- the site can be adequately screened and secured and provided with essential services and.
- it has been demonstrated that the site will be properly managed.

Local Authority Gypsy Traveller Site in Edinburgh

Edinburgh has one permanent site for the gypsy traveller community located at North Cairntow in the Northeast of the city, with twenty bays. The community have been living at the site for a number of decades. Extensive refurbishment of the site has been carried out to improve living conditions, which completed in December 2022. Works involved the wholesale removal and replacement of all existing accommodation and an upgrade of utility services, roads and landscaping, including the introduction of a sustainable pond drainage system. This has brought the site in line with the site standard set out in the Scottish Social Housing Charter. Each bay now provides a chalet with utilities, 2 bedrooms (1 en-suite), vehicle parking spaces, space for a roadside caravan and a fixed utility block with washing facilities, sink and WC. Residents now have

a Scottish Secure Tenancy Agreement, providing greater security of tenure and increasing rights. This was a tailored agreement which acknowledged and respected the community's culture with an allowance built-in for set periods of travel throughout the year, in line with cultural traditions.



Photo: North Cairntow gypsy traveller site, Jan 2023

The needs of the community were at the forefront throughout the renovation project, and extensive work took place to build relationships and ensure the community were fully engaged in the process. This involved organised visits to other sites for residents to look at best practice, and early engagement between residents and architects. As well as the physical build the programme of work addressed fuel poverty, choice of utility supplier, digital inclusion and training/employment opportunities.

Now that the refurbishment is complete, work is continuing to support the community. Council officers have been working with Edinburgh Tenants Federation (ETF), supporting the community to set up a Registered Tenants Organisation (RTO), which would enable access to wider funding. The on-site Community Hub programme is used by the community and a variety of partners and external agencies. The Cyrenians, in partnership with Minority Ethnic Carers

of Older People Project (MECOPP), deliver a thriving surplus food hub, providing good quality food that otherwise would have been sent to landfill. MECOPP also deliver nutritional and active lifestyle advice sessions. Community Education colleagues are planning to deliver literacy support to the community. Similarly, MECOPP are engaging with the Education Department to explore the provision of support to school aged children. Income Maximisation surgeries have been held on site to provide access to financial advice and to identify underlying benefit entitlement.

A Site and Roadside Encampment Manager is based at North Cairntow and is the first point of contact for residents, providing support to access additional Council and external services. The role also supports colleagues across the Council to implement a consistent approach to unauthorised encampments. The role is to ensure that the Scottish Government's Management of Unauthorised Encampment Guidelines, are put into practice and to co-ordinate the Council's response to Roadside Encampments, balancing the management of roadside encampments with the identified needs of those residing in these encampments.

Travelling Show People

Historically, Travelling Show people moved around the country, usually between March and October, attending fairs and living in caravans on the fairgrounds, and in the winter, months secured permanent bases for the storage of equipment and more particularly for residential purposes. Now, many Travelling Show people live on permanent sites, which allows their needs, such as access to health facilities and the education of their children, to be better met. HNDA 3 reports that anecdotal evidence suggests that obtaining private land is difficult for Travelling Show people and discrimination continues to impact their ability to acquire land sufficient for their needs. Sites tend to be privately owned compared to Gypsy/Travellers who rely on public sites.

Armed Forces Communities

Finding somewhere to live can be challenging for some people when they leave the Armed Forces. The City of Edinburgh Council adopted the Armed Forces Covenant to support service personnel, veterans and their families. The aim is to ensure that those who have left military service, or are about to leave, are aware of all the sources of information and advice to help on the transition to civilian life. The Council has a policy that if ex-service personnel have left the UK regular Armed Forces within the last 3 years their application for a local authority house may be backdated to the date, they entered the Armed Forces. Through their Military Matters service, Housing Options Scotland can provide specialist housing support to those serving, leaving or having already left the Armed Forces. The Council also commissioned 85 bedspaces for veterans at Whitefoord house, in the Canongate area, as a registered housing support service provided by Scottish Veterans Residences for former members of the UK Armed Forces who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Data from the 2022 Census shows that the City of Edinburgh has one of the lowest proportions of veterans, relative to population (2.6%).

Refugees and Asylum Seekers

Edinburgh has supported delivery of UK Government resettlement schemes since 2015, when the Council agreed to engage with the Syrian Vulnerable People's Resettlement scheme. This built on previous city responses to humanitarian crises dating back more than 80 years.

Refugees and Asylum Seekers are at risk of socio-economic disadvantage through a range of factors that include unfamiliarity with language and culture, disrupted education and career development and physical or mental trauma associated with their status as a refugee. The goal of resettlement as a process is to mitigate these risks to the fullest extent possible and enable people to live full, independent lives.

The Council participates in various refugee settlement programs, including the resettlement of refugees and asylum seekers (including support for unaccompanied children). Refugee and asylum seeker services are significantly influenced by UK and Scottish Government policies and funding, as well as the global political climate, which affects the demand for these services. Although the Council closely monitors these factors, they can be unpredictable, making it

essential for the Council to adapt quickly and maintain ongoing engagement with service users.

The Council currently provides support through two dedicated teams: one created specifically for Ukrainian refugees in response to the war in Ukraine, and another team that supports refugees and asylum seekers from other regions, including Syria and Afghanistan. The Council also supports vulnerable families and single adults with no recourse to public funds under Children's and Social Work legislation. The Council collaborates with various partner organisations to offer comprehensive support in areas such housing, healthcare, education, social work, language and social integration, provision of household goods and clothing and addressing ad hoc essential needs.

The Council has assisted over 11,000 Ukrainians arriving through Edinburgh's transport hubs, with around 3,000 individuals currently residing in the city (October 2024). Housing has been arranged across various tenures, as detailed in the table below.

Table 10. Housing support for Ukrainians by type, to October 2024

Tenure type	Number of households
Social rent	140
Private rent/Mid-market rent	100-150
Hotel and apartments provided by Scottish Government	300
Host arrangement	200
Assessed as homeless	75
Family	unknown

In the 6 months between April and October 2024 the Council has:

- resettled 17 people under the UK Resettlement schemes (total to date: 633).
- resettled 54 people under the UK Government's Afghan relocation schemes (total to date: 288).
- opened discussions with an existing local community sponsorship group with a view to their resettling a further household in the coming year.
- supported a further 18 people with a refugee background who have arrived in Edinburgh out with formal resettlement schemes.

and currently:

supports 103 adults and 61 dependents with insecure immigration status and no recourse to public funds (NRPF)

hosts 155 single male asylum seekers and 1 asylum-seeking household in property managed by Mears Group (the Home Office's asylum accommodation provider in Scotland).

The global refugee crisis is expected to worsen as a result of further armed conflict and climate change, leading to increased demand for emergency housing. The Ukraine refugee visa scheme was initially granted for three years, with plans to return these homes to the general housing supply. However, the visa program has been extended until 2027, requiring either new housing for refugees or adjustments to current plans. The visa extension may also result in host households no longer being able to provide accommodation.

The UK Government has a national dispersal plan for asylum seekers in which all local authorities are mandated to play a role. Under this plan, Edinburgh would host a share of the number of current asylum cases proportionate to the city's population. Asylum seekers would be accommodated in properties procured by the Home Office via its contracted accommodation provider. After a successful asylum application, people often present as homeless as their existing Home Office accommodation is no longer available to them. The Council is given no prior notice of accepted applications, creating an unpredictable strain on the homelessness service and pressure on the city's housing stock. The UK

Government has recently signalled its intention to increase asylum decisionmaking capacity, which may see numbers increase.

After a negative decision, people also lose access to their Home Office accommodation and frequently become reliant on local authority 'no recourse to public funds' (NRPF) support while either challenging the previous decision or submitting further claims. Along with the support provided to vulnerable families and adults with NRPF, this adds to pressures on temporary accommodation capacity in particular.

The Council's longer-term strategy will include continuing to collaborate across services to support the dedicated refugee and asylum seeker teams. Strong relationships will be maintained with the UK and Scottish Governments to quickly respond to changes in needs or policies, ensuring services remain of high quality. Ongoing engagement with service users and openness to feedback will be essential, with a positive approach to adapting to change

The Scottish Government, COSLA and Scottish Refugee Council launched the refreshed New Scots Refugee Integration Strategy in March 2024. Following this, an Edinburgh specific strategy and implementation plan is being developed.

In addition to the national strategy and implementation plan, development of the strategy is built on key documents which include research published by <u>Glasgow University</u>, the <u>Home Office</u> and the <u>Commission on Integration of Refugees</u>. The Scottish Government has recently published an <u>analysis of the engagement process</u> that informed development of the New Scots Strategy's latest iteration, based around feedback gathered at an engagement event in November 2023.

Chapter Summary

Strategic Objective(s):

Ensure housing is accessible with the right support to meet everyone's needs

Key Challenges:

Building homes to meet the needs of a diverse and ageing population in a time of funding pressures.

Responding to a growing global refugee crisis at a time when the city faces an acute housing crisis.

Responding to need and demand for more accessible and wheelchair homes, including larger homes, in the context of funding pressures.

The role of the private sector in providing more accessible and adaptable homes.

Improving the way we deliver and resource adaptations.

Gaps in knowledge about existing provision and future needs

Meeting housing and care/support needs of people with complex learning disabilities.

Joined-up approach to housing and care and support.

Proposed Actions:

- 68. Develop a Joint Working Protocol between Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership, Housing and Homelessness, focusing on prevention and housing need. *
- 69. Improve monitoring and reporting around accessible housing.
- 70. Work with affordable housing partners, private sector partners and other key organisations to support provision of an adequate supply of accessible and wheelchair housing and suitable housing for people with complex needs, through new and existing homes.
- 71. Allocation Policy for Council homes* Review the policy to ensure it continues to enable fair access to housing, including accessible homes. *

- 72. Adaptations Review of Governance, Delivery and Funding for Adaptations.
- 73. Support H&SC partners in the development of the Edinburgh Dementia Delivery Plan.
- 74. Continue to support refugees and asylum seekers through partnership and direct work.

^{*}actions with an asterix are also captured in the Housing Emergency Action Plan

Chapter 6. Develop vibrant, connected, safe and inclusive communities

Strategic Objective(s):

Support communities to be vibrant, connected, safe and inclusive Take all the local actions necessary to help end poverty

Introduction

This chapter focuses on the wider neighbourhoods that people live in, recognising how fundamental the surrounding environment, local facilities and sense of safety and belonging are to overall perceptions of 'home'. This is recognised more than ever following the Covid-19 pandemic, which reinforced the importance of the local environment and access to high quality, well managed spaces.

National Context

Housing to 2040 highlighted the importance of sustainable communities. In addition, the Scottish Government set out the following principles for Placemaking:

- <u>Place principle</u> working and planning together alongside local communities to encourage better collaboration and to enable better outcomes. This feeds into NPF4.
- <u>Town Centre First</u> Putting the health of town centres at the heart of decision making, e.g. bringing back empty properties for housing and services. This feeds into NPF4 and is also reflected in Housing to 2040.
- <u>20 Minute Neighbourhoods</u> living well locally, giving people the ability to meet most of their daily needs nearby. This is reflected as part of NPF4.
- <u>The Place Standard Tool</u> helps to structure conversations about place. It encourages thought of both physical elements and social

aspects of a place, prompting discussions and consideration of all elements of a place in a methodical way

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 made significant changes to community planning legislation, setting out how public bodies should work together and with the local community to plan for, resource and provide public services which improve local outcomes in the local authority area, all with a view to reducing inequalities.

Spatial principles and policies set out in **National Planning Framework** (NPF4) inform the delivery of housebuilding and placemaking and are reflected in this strategy. This includes the application of the 20-minute neighbourhood principle, along with prioritising of brownfield sites, adopting a 'fabric first' approach to decarbonising homes. Under the NPF 4, Nature Networks are a requirement within every local authority in Scotland. Edinburgh's Nature Network was the first and was developed in partnership between the City of Edinburgh Council and the Scottish Wildlife Trust, as part of the Thriving Green Spaces project.

Local Context

City Plan 2030 is the Local Development Plan - for Edinburgh for the period 2024-2034 and beyond. A Local Development Plan protects places of value, sets out locations for new homes and businesses, and ensures essentials for a good quality of life are in place - such as public transport, active travel, schools, healthcare and green space. The plan sets out policies and proposals relating to the development and use of land in the Edinburgh area, and where new infrastructure and community facilities are required. It sets out where development should happen and where it should not. The policies in the plan are used to determine planning applications.

Evidence gathering is already underway for the next iteration (City Plan 2040). It is anticipated that City Plan 2040 will have an increasing place-based focus, presenting a 'place-based plan', in line with the expectations set out in NPF4. A place-based plan will look at Edinburgh as a series of places and enables a

more targeted understanding, recognising that different people have different experiences and perspectives across different parts of the city.

Declaration of a Nature Emergency: In February 2023, the Council declared a nature emergency, recognising the current state of nature, its inherent value and the crucial role its recovery and restoration will play in realising climate targets. The Council has signed up to the <u>Berlin Urban Nature Pact</u>, a global initiative for cities, which follows on from the <u>Edinburgh Declaration</u> (which the Council signed in 2020).

Edinburgh Nature Network (ENN) is a long-term strategic approach to manage, restore and enhance the urban landscape of Edinburgh. It highlights opportunities to take action across the city, using natural solutions to address the threats of biodiversity loss and climate change. It focuses on creating a well-connected, healthy, resilient ecosystem whilst enhancing the ability of the city to adapt to climate change, providing multiple benefits to wildlife, human society and the economy.

6.1 Regeneration and Placemaking

Council Housebuilding Programme

The Council has been delivering homes through an in-house team since 2011/12, when the first Council homes in a generation were delivered at Gracemount in the South-East of the city. To date, over 2,000 homes have been delivered by the Council over 19 sites across the city. This has been a mix of social rent, mid-market rent and homes for private rent or sale. Over 700 homes are currently under construction, with over 4,000 more in design and development.

Mixed use and mixed tenure principles have been central to this. A bespoke approach is required for each site, but some core principles apply to all: considerations around access and the impact on the local community while the works take place; considering the overall 'place', including landscaping and management; and infrastructure as key to developing sustainable communities and good places.

This is not without its challenges and in the current financial climate, financial pressures can put placemaking and regeneration objectives at risk. This can also present as a challenge across other service areas and budgets. In roads maintenance, for example, budgetary pressures can be at risk of impacting on design. There is an increasing stipulation for easier and cost-effective straight tarmac pathways as opposed to more innovative designs, which would previously have been built in. Reduced Capital budgets mean it is more imperative than ever to explore options for external funding opportunities on a site-by-site basis to help ensure wider placemaking objectives can be achieved, alongside housebuilding.

There are some legislative tools, such as Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPO), that can be used to enable regeneration. CPO is an important power which has been used to bring forward housing and regeneration. However, this is only utilised where necessary, appropriate and proportionate. CPO can be a lengthy process and as such, a revised approach is being developed where the CPO process is initiated in the background, but the development would seek to progress without it, through wider negotiations with owners and/ or landowners to seek resolution without the requirement for CPO.

Looking ahead, there is an increasing focus on a masterplan approach, further integrating new-build and regeneration with wider improvement programmes, such as whole-house retrofit and mixed tenure improvements. New strategies for estates, high-rise and low-rise will be developed to support this approach over the coming years, ensuring clarity in direction and alignment with financial planning.

Partnership working is key to affordable housebuilding and regeneration. A series of case study examples are set out at the end of this chapter which bring to life some of the housebuilding developments across the city. These are examples of Council housebuilding developments, delivered in partnership with a variety of contractors and design teams.

20-minute neighbourhood model

The 20-minute neighbourhood model is a key concept in Housing to 2040 and National Planning Framework 4. In 2024, the Scottish Government published Planning Guidance on Living Well Locally and 20 Minute Neighbourhoods, which highlights Edinburgh's application of this model as a case study example. The concept of the 20-minute neighbourhood is supporting people to live well locally and providing people with access to services and facilities to meet most daily needs within a 20-minute walk or wheel.

The Council's Neighbourhood Strategy was first approved in June 2021, updated in August 2023. The 20-minute neighbourhood concept has also been integrated into the Council's City Plan 2030, City Mobility Plan and Corporate Property Strategy which has a key theme around *living well locally*.

Edinburgh has ambitiously adopted a 20-minute round-trip principle: 10-minutes there and 10-minutes back. However, the distance that people are willing or able to walk or wheel will vary and there will be different needs and expectations for urban, suburban and more rural communities. Providing good local cycle and public transport provision for people to have the choice of accessing a wider range of services and facilities is therefore also important.

There is no template for an ideal '20-minute neighbourhood'. The services and facilities needed to meet daily needs will depend on individuals and the unique characteristics of their communities. However, for most people these types of services and facilities would likely meet most daily needs:

- schools and lifelong learning opportunities.
- local centres, shops and employment opportunities.
- advice and support services, health and social care facilities.
- community and cultural spaces, public toilets.
- greenspaces and playgrounds, opportunities for food growth, sport and recreation facilities.
- safe, high-quality walking, wheeling and cycling networks.
- access to public transport.

The 20-minute neighbourhood strategy builds on recommendations from the End Poverty Commission, findings from the Climate Commission around net-zero design and reducing unnecessary travel, and findings from Thrive Edinburgh about the connections between health and place. This is a long-term commitment which will require all parts of the Council and partners to embed the 20-minute neighbourhood concept within day-to-day activity and investment decisions.

Funding to support the implementation of the strategy has included the Scottish Government Place Based Investment Programme and Sustrans Places for Everyone with projects aligned to priority areas of focus. These are town centres, areas where need is greatest and where there are opportunities to capitalise on work that is already planned. For example, work is underway to improve local town centres such as Dalry and new school investments in Liberton and Currie will have wider community uses. Further consideration will be given to the potential for local hubs across the city with co-located facilities and shared service delivery to better meet community needs.

20-minute neighbourhood principles are also being embedded in local authority-led regeneration work in areas such as Granton, Craigmillar, Wester Hailes, Pennywell, and Muirhouse, and on the development of key brownfield sites across the city. The Granton Waterfront regeneration, as detailed in case study 4, will deliver a new coastal town with an ambitious 20-minute neighbourhood vision over the next 10-15 years.

Co-location and strategic asset management

This plays an important role in delivering on the aspirations of the 20-minute neighbourhood model, where multi-use facilities are located close to where people live and work. For this to work effectively, there needs to be buy-in from organisations and communities to engage in this approach. The Council's Corporate Property Strategy has 'live well locally' as a key theme and is aligned to the aspirations of the 20-minute neighbourhood concept in that it aims for people to be able to access key services and facilities in their local area. Property investment and improvement will take a place-based approach to change, to make sure that proposals meet local needs, are acceptable to

communities and improve local service delivery. This will mean more community hubs that provide attractive, inclusive, and accessible spaces for citizens to engage in a wide range of personal and work-related activities.

Development and Infrastructure

The importance of aligning new housing delivery with the infrastructure and transport links to meet the needs of the community was a recurring theme throughout the LHS engagement. City Plan 2030 sets out three aims around this:

- Promoting an 'infrastructure first' approach, directing new development to where there is existing infrastructure or where the development can deliver the infrastructure necessary to mitigate any negative impacts. Were, by the nature of the infrastructure, it cannot be delivered by the developer directly, developer contributions will be sought. Proposals are required to deliver or contribute to transport proposals and safeguards, education provision including new schools, early years nursery proposals, school extensions to accommodate additional classrooms, primary healthcare infrastructure capacity, Green Blue Network actions and, where identified, infrastructure of a regional scale.
- Directing housing development to where residents can access a range of key services within a reasonable distance. Delivering a network of 20-minute neighbourhoods and embedding a 'place-based' approach to the creation of high quality, high density, mixed use and walkable communities, linked by better active travel and public transport infrastructure, green and blue networks and bringing community services closer to homes. This covers facilities such as schools/ lifelong learning, green spaces, community gardens, allotments, sport and recreation, local doctor and dental surgeries, local shops, community halls and shared work/ meeting spaces. Where this is not demonstrated, proposals will only be considered where these services can be delivered relative to the scale of development and managed as an integral component of a mixed-use development.

 Where new infrastructure is required, we will take a consultative approach with communities to address future healthcare and education requirements alongside rising school rolls and the requirements of the Edinburgh Local Development Plan 2016.

Housing development sites are also required to demonstrate that local, city-wide and cross-boundary individual and cumulative transport impacts identified in the City Plan Transport Appraisal can be timeously addressed where this is relevant and necessary for the proposal and the required transport infrastructure, set out in the Plan has been addressed where relevant to the proposal.

Supplementary Guidance on infrastructure delivery and developer contributions is being prepared and will set out detail of the likely costs and method of calculation of developer contributions for the infrastructure detailed in City Plan.

6.2 Greenspaces and Nature

Edinburgh is very fortunate in its geographic setting, situated amongst seven hills and several river valleys between the Pentland Hills and the Firth of Forth. Almost half of Edinburgh is classed as greenspace and as the largest landowner in the city, the Council cares for just under half of this greenspace. However, like many cities in the UK, Edinburgh faces challenges in looking after its greenspaces, including a declining workforce and increased workloads. The Council's desire to find better options to sustainably resource our greenspaces was a major driver for initiating the Thriving Green Spaces project.

Thriving Greenspaces Strategy

The Thriving Greenspaces Strategy sets out the vision for Edinburgh's public greenspaces up to 2050 in terms of their care, management and improvement, and reflects the ambitions of the Council and its project partners, as well as the citizens of Edinburgh. It seeks to deliver on many of the capital's aspirations for placemaking, health, sustainability, and biodiversity, as well as looking to build stronger links and to connect greenspace ambition with the Council's Learning and Housing green estates, Edinburgh Leisure's green estate.

The Thriving Greenspaces Strategy notes that "two of the most urgent global issues we are currently facing are biodiversity loss and climate change. Ecosystems are being degraded, habitat fragmented, and nature is being lost at an increasing rate. These crises are threatening both wildlife and human wellbeing in Edinburgh, the UK and around the world. By connecting our greenspaces for people and wildlife and using nature-based solutions and green infrastructure to "green the grey", we can not only reverse the biodiversity decline and mitigate climate change, but we can adapt our city to the changing climate whilst also helping to meet City's goals of becoming a sustainable, net-zero carbon city by 2030".

The strategy should be seen in the context of the Council's City Plan and the Council's Open Space Strategy, which guide the proposals and policies to shape development and plans for the future open space needs in the city and informs planning and sustainability decisions in the city.

Edinburgh Nature Network

The <u>Edinburgh Nature Network</u>, a statutory requirement under the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy by 2030, is a long-term approach to manage, restore and enhance the urban landscape of Edinburgh. The Council and partners are creating, restoring and connecting green areas of the city to produce attractive and biodiverse landscapes that are healthy, nature rich and resilient to climate change.

The changes have included the creation of floral meadows, a reduction in grass cutting, pathways mown through areas of longer grass, more trees planted in urban areas and parks, and an increase in herbaceous perennial planting.

By allowing grassland habitats to develop in a more natural manner within urban settings, the biodiversity of wildlife has been increasing, the costs of managing intensively maintained areas have reduced, and less regular cuttings have slowed rainwater run-off helping to lock-up carbon in soils and reduce CO2 release.

The planting of flowering species has also added colour through the changing seasons and encouraged the public to use these outdoor spaces throughout the year.

Managing our Estate for Nature

In May 2024, the Council's Parks and Greenspace Service introduced a new cutting regime as a pilot in residential plots in three wards (Sighthill/ Gorgie, Forth, part of Pentlands) with the intention that this is gradually rolled out citywide. The Living Landscape programme started this shift in management back in 2015 and resulted in naturalised grassland verges within many parks in addition to higher numbers of perennial and annual meadows and planted bulbs.

Throughout the grass cutting period, Standard Amenity Grassland is cut more often than is necessary when most of these areas are not used for any specific purpose. This traditional practice is detrimental to biodiversity, specifically our pollinators and nature at a fundamental level. Through the pilot 'Managing our Estate for Nature', the mowing frequency of residential plots identified as part of this trial has been reduced to approximately once every 4-6 weeks from the previous practice of every two weeks.

To date, the pilot has primarily focused on adapting and refining approaches to relaxing grassland. Going forward, phase two will begin enhancing some of these plots through additional planting. Longer-term, it is envisioned that this approach will be upscaled to additional areas across the city.

Partnership approach to neighbourhood improvements and opportunities for nature

Work is ongoing to continue to build closer work relationships across Housing and Parks and Greenspaces teams to pursue opportunities to help address the Nature Emergency, increase biodiversity and improve health and wellbeing in line with a climate justice approach. Joined up working is increasingly taking place across large scale improvement programmes such as the Whole House Retrofit programme to explore opportunities for nature, such as making best use of community benefits arrangements to enhance the local area. This could

include opportunities for biodiversity or community growing, or delivering improvements to local parks, helping to improve community safety as well as nature objectives. This supports more aligned working and driving forward a 'whole place' approach.

A funding application is in development for the Urban Forestry Challenge Fund. If successful in this application, this will be a further opportunity for joint-working across Parks and Greenspaces and Housing teams, with a focus on increasing the number of trees on housing land where there is particular capacity for this. This funding is aimed at increasing biodiversity in urban areas.

Landscape design for Council-led developments

The landscape design of Council-led developments is an essential part of the master planning process. It is crucial that the landscape spaces between buildings are attractive, biodiverse, safe and resilient to the effects of climate change.

Through the design process it is essential to adhere to both national and local planning policy, and to listen to the needs of the local community when developing proposals, whether it is well lit paths or places for children to play.

Large scale, mixed tenure sites are guided by the Building with Nature standards which provide evidence-based guidance on delivering high quality green infrastructure.

In the current financial climate, there is significant pressure to ensure that the capital costs for the landscaping are as efficient as possible and that they are designed to be as straightforward to manage and maintain, which may require the use of external factors.

Community gardens and growing

There are a range of different models for community gardening and growing across Edinburgh. This includes <u>Council-run allotments</u> of which there are over 1,600 across 32 sites, along with independently operated allotments and community growing initiatives.

There is also a network of community gardens on housing owned (Housing Revenue Account – HRA) land across the city. In 2021, a Council Community Garden framework was created for the first time. The initial focus of Growing Together was to survey all community gardens currently in situ on HRA land, before focusing on helping to improve the use and quality of existing gardens where required and looking for opportunities for new gardens.

The survey was carried out in the first half of 2022 and identified 46 gardens which had a range of characteristics such as size, condition, participation levels, as well as location and garden grouping. A work programme was then developed using this survey information and commenced in October 2022. The programme was bespoke for each garden and offered passive support for gardens which were well managed and in good condition, and active support for gardens who were in more need of help.

Achievements to date include three new community gardens being created, 101 people newly engaged in community growing, 92 raised beds built or replaced, 10 new composting facilities across the city, 7,000 litres of rainwater harvesting equipment installed and 591 hours of community gardening sessions delivered. This is on top of other benefits such as helping to improve mental and physical wellbeing, creating nicer places, and creating closer communities (with two new tenant/resident association being formed as a result of the framework). In addition to this, the community gardens project has also supported community initiatives such the 'Growing Youth' programme which works with high school pupils, and the 'Lend a Hand' programme which helps people over 50 and out of work. Both of these schemes give positive outdoor learning opportunities in horticulture, construction, and landscaping, and provide wellbeing and training opportunities across the city.



Muirhouse Community Garden

Estates Improvement Projects (EIP) on Housing Land

There are areas of land in estates throughout the city where the Council was previously the single owner of housing and where open space was developed when the estate was designed. These estates are now largely mixed tenure, with homes sold through Right to Buy over the years but these areas of open space remain the responsibility of the Housing Service to maintain. The land assets vary significantly in nature, size and use, with some well maintained and well used by the community, and others that bring little benefit to the community or the natural environment.

The Council has a programme called the Estates Improvement Programme (EIP), formerly known as Neighbourhood Environment Projects (NEPs). This is a programme to carry out improvements on land owned by the Housing Service. Projects delivered through the EIP are intended to be community-led, improvement projects that bring benefits to local residents. Over the years, the type of projects funded through this budget have varied significantly in scale and

scope and have included community growing projects, tree planting, soft landscaping, hard landscaping, creation of parking spaces, installation of fencing and have been largely driven by suggestions from local people, groups or officers who have identified opportunities to resolve local issues or improve the local environment. More recently, the funding has also been used to part-fund larger scale improvement projects where other capital funding has been levered in through other funding routes.

In efforts to track the contributions towards nature and climate change objectives, the referral forms the EIP has been revised to specifically capture these amongst the benefits delivered.

Work is currently in development to establish a separate programme focused on community wealth building. Still in the early stages of development, this community-led investment programme would aim to set up a framework of local, registered organisations who could take forward relatively low-level improvement works with the involvement of local people.

Community Walkabouts

Community walkabouts (or 'estates walkabouts' as they are often referred to locally) play a role in supporting communities to take ownership of their local area and collectively identifying hot spot areas for prioritised work. Community based inspections and estates walkabouts are undertaken at the request of Elected members, local residents and stakeholders, but also proactively through the Estate Improvement Programme, Community Weeks of Action and Bonfire season inspections and intervention citywide. It is recognised that the frequency of walkabouts can vary across different parts of the city, and there is action captured as part of the Housing Emergency Action Plan to promote walkabouts, ensuring there is a minimum in every 'patch' area (localised area of responsibility for a housing officer) each year. This was also identified as an important issue in the recent consultation to inform the development of the new Tenant Participation Strategy, and actions are also captured as part of this.

6.3 Safe, Connected and Inclusive Neighbourhoods Taking the local actions needed to end poverty in Edinburgh

Edinburgh is a flourishing, wealthy city – but this wealth is not distributed equally. It is recognised that the housing crisis is driving poverty. Almost one in three families living in poverty in Edinburgh are pulled below the water line solely due to their housing costs. Working to alleviate pressures in the housing system is key to working towards ending poverty.

Whilst the percentage of people in relative poverty in Edinburgh continues to sit below the Scottish average, the number of people living in deep poverty has been increasing. 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. To meet the headline targets set by Scottish Government and the Edinburgh Poverty Commission, it 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.

There is a higher risk of poverty among women and families in particular groups. This includes families with three or more children; families with one of more children under one; single parent households; households with a carer; minority ethnic households; and families with a disabled household member.

There are significant spatial inequalities in poverty risk across different parts of Edinburgh. However, evidence shows that poverty, often severe poverty, is found in all four of the cities' localities, and in every electoral ward. Very often these households will be affected by physical and mental health issues related directly to the poverty they experience.

There is also a long-term trend of increasing risk of very deep poverty across Scotland. Data from NHS Lothian estimates that 12.6% of people (equivalent to 65,000 people in Edinburgh) experienced food insecurity in 2023, with rates even higher among people living in low-income areas. This means they worried they would run out of food because of a lack of money or resources. 14.2%

(equivalent to over 70,000 people in Edinburgh) experienced a time when they were unable to heat their home or cook food.

The Edinburgh Poverty Commission noted that the majority of people living in poverty in Edinburgh are of working age, in employment, living in rented accommodation.

Housing and poverty are intrinsically linked, and poverty cannot be eradicated in Edinburgh without addressing the housing challenges set out throughout this strategy. Much of the work outlined in this strategy will have a contributing role in working towards ending poverty in the city and improving associated health outcomes – from homelessness prevention work to delivering more affordable homes to improving housing quality.

However, there is a recognition that more needs to be done and a different way of working is required to really turn the tide and end poverty in Edinburgh.

Combatting poverty through prevention and early intervention

The <u>Programme for Government 2024/25</u> sets out a focus on prevention and early intervention in key policy areas, including health inequalities, poverty and homelessness. This is set in a Community Planning context, which fits well with the current review of community planning in Edinburgh outlined in this chapter.

Work has been initiated across the Council and partner organisation in late 2024 to develop an effective preventative approach across all services and budgeting. This is not an issue that can be solved through change within the Council alone - transformation needs to take place across the whole system to achieve the scale of change required.

The Edinburgh Partnership agreed to the development of a roadmap of change actions needed to make substantive progress for prevention of poverty and other harms.

Following stakeholder and partnership engagement, a report was taken to the Edinburgh Partnership in December 2024, setting out draft proposals for a new

Edinburgh Partnership Poverty Prevention Programme, to be delivered through the proposed new Edinburgh Partnership Management Group and structures set out as part of the Partnerships' Transformation and Improvement programme. In September 2023, it was agreed that a new Edinburgh Partnership Housing subgroup would be established as part of this structure, to ensure a citywide community planning focus on the housing and homelessness issues facing the city. This sub-group has now been set up, with an ambition to jointly align housing / homelessness alongside the public health agenda.

The Poverty Prevention Programme will aim 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.

It also seeks 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.

Housing and related service areas have a central role to play, with housing identified as one of the five local 'anchors' for this programme. This will be an important cross-service and partnership priority for 2025, with a new prevention strategy for poverty and other harms to be developed, alongside the development and implementation of a strategic approach to embedding prevention activities in organisational design and culture.

Figure 6: Draft Edinburgh Partnership Poverty Prevention diagram

Draft Edinburgh Partnership Poverty Prevention Programme

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



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 Al 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.

Antisocial Behaviour

The importance of safe, well-maintained neighbourhoods has been a recurring theme throughout the LHS engagement and previous engagement exercises. From dog fouling and fly tipping to drug abuse in stairwells, people want to feel safe in their home and to have a sense of pride in their local area. This was particularly highlighted by younger residents in LHS engagement sessions held with both teenagers and primary school children, with an emphasis on noisy or disruptive neighbours, poor street lighting, risk of violent anti-social behaviour and particular concerns around Bonfire season.

Edinburgh Community Safety and Justice Partnership

Through collaborative working between the City of Edinburgh Council and Police Scotland, and with key strategic partners including the Scottish Fire and Rescue, Youth Justice and the NHS Mental Health Services, the Edinburgh Community Safety and Justice Partnership works across the city to achieve common objectives and tangible benefits to the safety and wellbeing of all residents. Especially important within this is that this collaboration reflects core values of addressing inequality, poverty, operating sustainably, and attaining wellbeing for all residents.

Community Safety and Antisocial Behaviour Strategy

Under the Antisocial Behaviour Act, every local authority must prepare, publish and review a strategy for dealing with antisocial behaviour in their council area. Edinburgh's Joint Community Safety Strategy 2020-2023 set out a vision: "we live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe". This was supported by three key priorities:

- Reduce harm and safeguard people from Antisocial Behaviour specifically the impact of noise
- Reduce the likelihood of children and young people engaging in harmful or offending behaviour
- Digital Safety: Safeguard people from online harm

The next Community Safety and Antisocial Behaviour 5-year Strategy 2024 – 2029 is currently in development. Through the consultation process, the issues of residential noise, hate crime and youth related disturbances were confirmed as ongoing priorities for residents. This is reflected in the work across the local multi-agency Community Improvement Partnerships (CIPS) who meet on a monthly basis to consider any trends in reported crime and antisocial behaviour, taking appropriate and proportionate action against those responsible through a partnership working approach.

This consultation also identified concerns around women's safety and links between the neighbourhood environment and feelings of safety. This aligns closely to the ongoing work of the Women's Safety in Public Places Community Improvement Partnership, a multi-agency partnership between the City of Edinburgh Council, Police Scotland and the Third Sector. In addition to ongoing campaigns, consultation and awareness raising, priorities for 2024/25 also include the improvement of offroad path networks to make them safer and more welcoming, including improvements to street lighting and consideration of CCTV installation.

The links between safety and the physical environment are considered as part of the design process for new-build developments. Engagement with Police Scotland through Secure by Design principles seeks to design out crime as far as possible.

Concerns around drug abuse in stairwells is another frequently recurring theme. The Edinburgh Drug and Alcohol Partnership, along with its partners, are currently developing the city's drug and alcohol strategy for the next 3 years. This will be the guiding document on how the city addresses drug and alcohol related harm from 2024-2027.

Household and Advice Service

The Council's Household and Advice Service focuses on a strength-based approach, building resilience and seeking to secure the best and most sustainable outcomes for Edinburgh's residents. It focusses on keeping people in their tenancies, increasing safety, social mobility and reducing the impact of

poor mental health, drugs, and alcohol on families, households and community relationships. This adopts a solution focused methodology and advocating for a single agency coordinated approach, rather than many separate service plans. Professionals supporting the household are jointly responsible for reviewing the support and where possible negotiating a way forward by identifying and addressing the issues that may be contributing to the behaviour, including housing, debt, education or addiction. This recognises that need, vulnerability and strength can be present for both the victims and the persons responsible and supporting them to make positive behavioural changes that increase quality of life and avoid further disruption for residents.

Environmental Issues

The issues of dog fouling and fly tipping are frequently raised in community engagement, and it is recognised that these issues can have a significant impact on local residents. There is information and reporting mechanisms on the Council's website for these matters.

The Council can issue fixed penalty notices of £200 for fly tipping on public land. Courts can impose a penalty of up to £40,000 or imprisonment. Where items are fly tipped on private land, the landowner is responsible for clearing it away.

Fixed penalty notices of £80, under the Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act 2003, will be issued to those caught not picking up after their dog in any public place.

Accessing Services and Digital Connectivity

Getting Connected

A lack of digital 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. In partnership with CityFibre and Openreach, the Council has been installing fibre infrastructure to all Council-owned homes. This project focused on providing infrastructure only, allowing tenants to connect to the internet through open networks, (allowing access to over 600 providers), reducing set up costs to tenants and minimising disruption to the Council's estate.

This work has benefited tenants, staff, and hard-to-reach groups, such as those in Sheltered Housing as these buildings often lacked internet access. By prioritising these sites, staff can now work on-site, and tenants can access online services. The infrastructure work is nearing completion, with 19,880 homes within (5,493 buildings) already completed to date. The remaining properties are awaiting completion of the network roll out by CityFibre who, along with Openreach and other suppliers, continue to provide improved connectivity to all of Edinburgh residents. Housing and related service areas continue to have discussions around digital strategy and exploring new ways to utilise this infrastructure in the future.

Improving Online Services

It is recognised that many people choose to access services online and it is important that online services are accessible and easy to navigate. Feedback through the LHS engagement has reaffirmed the importance of this. Work is underway through the Housing Emergency Action to deliver digital improvements to Council systems and online services to Council tenants and prospective tenants.

Improvements delivered to date include the introduction of Browsealoud software on the EdIndex website; a supply and demand tool which allows applicants to search and see where homes became available last year and how many bids were received; and a bedroom calculator when applicants can input their household members to determine how many bedrooms they should be eligible for.

Improvements currently underway include an online housing options tool; an online application form for social housing; and the introduction of auto-bidding for digitally excluded applicants.

Making services more inclusive

Feedback gathered through LHS engagement identified a particular challenge in navigating the housing system – both digitally and non-digitally - for non-English

speakers or where English is not the first language. This was further explored as part of the LHS Integrated Impact Assessment process.

Examples of good practice include the EdIndex and Key to Choice website which uses a tool called Reachdeck which can translate English into 250 different languages and can also speak out the information in any of these languages. For those who are visually impaired, users can choose colours and shading to suit their vision requirements and words can be magnified as they are spoken. Reachdeck can also simply the website information for those who are dyslexic or have dyspraxia. In addition, housing specific support for Ukrainian refugees includes Ukrainian speakers along with access to interpreters.

Currently, housing publications and communications, such as the tenant newsletter, can be made available in different languages through translation services. However, it is recognised that more proactive steps could be taken to improve this and help ensure this information reaches everyone, including non-English speakers.

The LHS sets out a commitment to explore and trial more proactive approaches, such as the inclusion of an introductory paragraph provided in the next round of LHS engagement in the most popular languages across Edinburgh. This could include actively promoting the translation services that are available for the full Local Housing strategy document. Over the lifespan of this LHS, we will seek to build on this across various housing communications.

6.4: Engaged and Empowered Communities

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 made significant changes to community planning legislation. It set out explicitly how public bodies should work together and with the local community to plan for, resource and provide public services which improve local outcomes in the local authority area, all with a view to reducing inequalities. The guidance sets out that community planning partnerships should be engaging with communities in identifying and prioritising outcomes and working with communities to develop their capacity to contribute to community planning and to achieve better outcomes.

Community Engagement and Empowerment

A Community Planning Partnership (or CPP) is the name given to all those services that come together to take part in community planning. There are 32 CPPs across Scotland, one for each council area. Each CPP focuses on where partners' collective efforts and resources can add the most value to their local communities, with particular emphasis on reducing inequality.

In Edinburgh, the CPP is the Edinburgh Partnership. CPPs are responsible for producing two types of plans to describe their local priorities and planned improvements:

- Local Outcomes Improvement Plans, which cover the whole council area
- Locality Plans, which cover smaller areas within the CPP area, usually focusing on areas that will benefit most from improvement.

Community participation lies at the heart of community planning, and applies in the development, design and delivery of plans as well as in their review, revision and reporting. Consultation is no longer enough - CPPs and community planning partners must act to secure the participation of communities throughout.

In Edinburgh, communities have been key partners in community planning arrangements for many years. However, it is recognised that this is an area that needs strengthened. Community planning works best where trust and relationships are strong, and there are already a lot of examples of this across Edinburgh. The direction of travel for Edinburgh is a community centred, place-based approach, aimed at working more closely with existing community groups and, where existing structures are not in place, helping to develop community capacity.

As outlined earlier in this chapter, a transformation and improvement programme is currently underway, which will put in place a new and improved structure, focusing on collective leadership.

Participatory Budgeting

In Edinburgh, Participatory Budgeting has been used as an approach to distribute funding since 2010, starting with small grants funding and expanding to other areas such as the Neighbourhood Environment Programme and the Health and Social Care Change Fund.

Since 2021, COSLA and Scottish Government have put forward a framework for at least 1% of local government budgets to be subject to participatory budgeting. Whilst this is not a duty, the Council works towards this target every year. There is a three-pronged approach to this: grants; commissioning; and mainstream. Different areas are explored under each of these strands, including equity funding in schools; enhanced use of community benefits funding; and potential use of the Tourist Visitor Levy to support participatory budgeting (subject to public consultation).

Tenant Engagement and Participation

The Council has a longstanding working relationship with registered tenant organisations across the city.

All social landlords must have a Tenant Participation Strategy (TPS), setting out support and actions to enable Council tenants to participate in the delivery and development of the Housing Service. It's important that tenants feel able to influence and have a say on the housing services they receive. We want to understand how we can better support tenants' participation in developing services and what opportunities or ways they want to get involved.

Council tenants were consulted on a new draft TPS 2024-27 over the summer of 2024. The draft strategy has been developed with tenants and builds on previous strategies, achievements and activities. A final Strategy will be prepared by early 2025. The Council will continue to support the important role of tenant participation delivery partners to ensure tenants are empowered to have their say.

Chapter Summary

Strategic Objective(s):

Support communities to be vibrant, connected, safe and inclusive Take all the local actions necessary to help end poverty

Key Challenges:

Financial pressures can put placemaking and regeneration objectives at risk. It is more imperative than ever to explore options for external funding opportunities on a site-by-site basis to help ensure wider placemaking objectives can be achieved alongside housebuilding.

Aligning new housing delivery with the infrastructure and transport links to meet the needs of the community. City Plan 2030 includes specific aims around this: 20-minute neighbourhoods and embedding a 'place-based' approach; promoting an 'infrastructure first' approach; and following a consultative approach where new infrastructure is required

Supporting households at risk of or experiencing poverty is a key challenge and priority for the Council and partner organisations. A focus on prevention is key to addressing this, with a new prevention strategy to be developed in 2025.

Tackling anti-social behaviour across the city is a multi-faceted challenge, requiring strong partnership working. The development of the Community Safety and Antisocial Behaviour Strategy for 2024-2029 is central to this.

Maintaining and improving greenspaces in the face of the twin challenges of the climate emergency and biodiversity crisis. This requires partnership working and this strategy sets out a commitment to continue to build on opportunities for Housing Service collaboration and joint working with colleagues across Parks and Greenspaces.

Improving and strengthening community engagement in Edinburgh: This strategy seeks to support wider Council and partnership ambitions to strengthen community engagement in Edinburgh.

Proposed Actions:

- 75. Develop an Estates Strategy
- 76. Develop a new Prevention Strategy against poverty and other harms
- 77. Develop the Community Safety and Antisocial Behaviour Strategy
- 78. Continue to investigate digitalisation of systems and customer access*. Include trialling more proactive approaches to make housing communications more accessible for non-English speakers.
- 79. Continue to maximise opportunities to improve greenspaces across the city in line with objectives around biodiversity, sustainability and community safety.
- 80. Fully embed the Edinburgh Partnership Housing sub-group, 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.
- 81. Roll out the new Tenant Participation Strategy and continue to build on tenant engagement.*

^{*}actions with an asterix are also captured as part of the Housing Emergency Action Plan.

Chapter 6: Placemaking Case Studies

The following case studies are examples of partnership working between the Council and a wide range of partner organisations, contractors and design teams.

Case Study 1. Innovative design at Leith Fort

The multiple award winning site* at Leith Fort has combined modern design with an appreciation of heritage to create a development which has positively impacted both existing tenants and the wider local community. The developed site created 94 new affordable homes, combining low rise blocks and modern colony style housing, together with innovative grouped south-facing garden allocation.

Comprehensive engagement with tenants and residents helped shape the site and informed the bespoke works which took place, such as the reduction in height of a listed wall which had previously created a division between the site and the rest of the community. The local community were encouraged to engage with the development process through consultation events, public archaeology open days and street naming, for example. Five historical canons from the site were used as features, helping to bridge the gap between old and new.

Since its completion, the design and layout of the development has proved particularly successful from a tenancy management perspective, with tenants taking real pride in their homes and the local area. The garden allocations have been particularly effective and have helped increase interactions between tenants, and the reduction of the wall has helped to improve natural surveillance on North Fort Street which has benefitted the wider neighbourhood.

*RIAS Award 2018, Saltire Housing Award 2018 - Multiple Dwelling, Saltire Housing Award - Saltire Medal, Edinburgh Architectural Association Award Large Project – Commendation, Homes for Scotland Large Affordable Housing Project of the Year 2018, Herald Property Awards Affordable Housing Project of the Year 2018





Case Study 2. Engaging younger residents at Pennywell

The major regeneration of the Pennywell area has included the construction of new homes, a new school, a medical center, retail units, public realm areas including a civic square, active travel routes, and, central to the development, the MacMillan Community Hub. The hub is a joint project between the Council and North Edinburgh Arts, a community owned arts organisation. The completed hub will provide a new nursery, library, homes for social rent and an expanded and refurbished community arts facility.

For many younger residents, the long-term regeneration of this area and at times, the unavoidable disruption, has been an ongoing feature throughout their upbringing. In a bid to positively engage younger residents, the Council have appointed an Arts Consultant who has started engagement with a local school. This will result in school pupils producing art which will be used during the current development and as part of the final public square works. This technique aims to positively engage young people who live locally and are impacted by the development works, in a bid to foster positive relationships.

In addition to this, community benefits such as modern apprenticeships have been provided by developers, employing and upskilling local people and those in the wider development area.





Pennywell Hub, Paul Zanre Photography

<u>Case Study 3. Working together with the local community at Fountainbridge</u>

Partnership working and local community engagement is an integral part of regeneration and development work. There is not a 'one size fits all' approach – the specific nature and requirements of each development help to guide the approach.

The Fountainbridge site is an example of successful engagement with various local stakeholders, including the Canalside initiative, the Fountainbridge Community Trust and the Merchiston Community Council, to promote local input and involvement. A policy of opening up the site to the local community has helped to promote transparency and trust in the planned works, and design workshops have been an important channel for getting the local community involved in the development from an early stage. Consultation has been a key focus of this project from the start, with events having been held at various local venues at different times of day, to raise awareness and encourage a wider mix of people to share their views. In addition to residents, the community engagement has also involved local businesses and local councillors.

Partnership working has taken place in a number of other ways, such as holding a canal festival next to the site and working with the University of Edinburgh who have used the site as a living case study for their planning students. The community have a presence on site in the form of a community gardens and a mushroom farm. This is a good collaboration as a 'meanwhile use', which maintains activity on the site until development gets underway.

<u>Case Study 4. Sustainable development at scale at Granton Western</u> Villages

The Granton waterfront regeneration is a blueprint for future sustainable development at scale. The work will take place across four phases and will transform the area, with the planned creation of over 3,500 net zero carbon

homes (over 35% to be affordable). 660 homes are already under construction as part of early action projects.

The delivery of new homes is part of a wider development to establish a new community, with other planned amenities in the area such as a new school, doctor surgery, parks, active travel infrastructure, community space and art installations.

An early example of a successful restoration project is that of a former gas holder, which has been transformed into a large park area containing multiple spaces within, such as a play area for children and an art and sculpture area.

This project has demonstrated the importance of strong relationships with strategic partners and contractors, from financial viability to providing targeted community benefits. Innovation is at the heart of the regeneration, with a ground-breaking district heating network which will serve as a heat source to be fully built out in the area as well as off-site manufacturing.

The project is underpinned by engagement with local communities. Extensive consultation took place at the start of the process which helped shape the creation of a development framework and has continued as work has started on site.



Western Villages, Granton

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

A&D	Acquisition and Disposal (buying and selling of homes)
AHP	Affordable Housing Policy
AHSP	Affordable Housing Supply Programme
ALACHO	Association of Local Authority Chief Housing Officers
ARC	Annual Return on the Charter
ASB	Anti-Social Behaviour
BRMA	Broad Rental Market Area
BTR	Build To Rent
CaCHE	Collaborative Centre for Housing Evidence
CAPEX	Capital Expenditure
CCTV	Closed Circuit Television
CIH	Chartered Institute of Housing
CoSLA	Convention of Scottish Local Authorities
CPO	Compulsory Purchase Orders
CPP	Community Planning Partnership
EAHP	Edinburgh Affordable Housing Partnership
ECO	Energy Company Obligation
Edinburgh HSCP	Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership
EES: ABS	Energy Efficiency Scotland: Area-Based Schemes
EESSH	Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing
EHD	Edinburgh Home Demonstrator
EHO	Empty Homes Officer
EIP	Estates Improvement Projects
ENN	Edinburgh Nature Network
EPC	Energy Performance Certificate
EPH	Edinburgh Partnership Housing
ESESCRD	Edinburgh and Southeast Scotland City Region Deal
ESPC	Edinburgh Solicitors' Property Centre Limited
ETF	Edinburgh Tenants Forum
ETF	Edinburgh Tenants Federation
FHS	Family and Household Support
GP	General Practitioner
GVA	Gross Value Added
H&SCP	Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership
HARSAG	Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group
HART	Home Accessibility Referral Team
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HAWS	Howeless Accommodation with Support
HEAP	Housing Emergency Action Plan
HESA	Higher Education Statistics Agency
HfVN	Housing for Varying Needs
HMO	Houses in Multiple Occupation
HNDA 3	Housing Need and Demand Assessment

HRA	Housing Revenue Account
HSCP	Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership
IA	Integration Authorities
IHUB	Healthcare Improvement Scotland's Improvement Hub
IJB	Integration Joint Board
IMOs	Income Maximisation Officers
JSNA	Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
LAR	Local Affordable Rented
LCHO	Low Cost Home Ownership
LGBT	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender
LHA	Local Housing Allowance
LHEES	Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy
LHS	Local Housing Strategy
LTSD	Long Term Sick or Disabled.
MDT	The Multi-Disciplinary Team
MECOPP	Minority Ethnic Carers of Older People Project
MIS	Minimum Income Standard
MMR	Mid-Market Rent
MTIS	Mixed Tenure Improvement Service
NCS	National Care Service
NEPs	Neighbourhood Environment Projects
NHS	National Health Service
NPF4	National Planning Framework 4
NRPF	No Recourse to Public Funds
NRS	National Records Scotland
OMSE	Open Market Shared Equity
ОТ	Occupational Therapist
PBSA	Purpose-Built Student Accommodation
PRS	Private Rented Sector
PSL	Private Sector Leasing
RDA	Regional Delivery Alliance
REH	Royal Edinburgh Hospital
RIBA	Royal Institute of British Architects
RPP3	Climate Change Plan: Third Report on Proposals and Policies 2018-2032
RRTP	Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan
RSL	Registered Social Landlord
RTO	Registered Tenants Organisation
SFHA	Scottish Federation of Housing Associations
SG	Scottish Government
SHAPE	Strategic Homeless Action Partnership Edinburgh
SHCS	Scottish Housing Condition Survey
SHIP	Strategic Housing Investment Plan
SHN	Scotland's Housing Network
SHNZHF	Social Housing Net Zero Heat Fund
SHNZS	Social Housing Net Zero Standard
SHQS	Scottish Housing Quality Standard

SHR	Scottish Housing Regulator
SIMD	Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation
SST	Scottish Secure Tenancy Agreement
STLs	Short Term Lets
TCAC	Through Care and Aftercare
TFF	Temporary Furnished Flats
TPS	Tenant Participation Strategy
UDPs	Ukrainian Displaced People
WHR	Whole House Retrofit

Appendix 2

Edinburgh's Local Housing Strategy: DRAFT Consultation and Engagement Report Nov 2024

Introduction

The Housing (Scotland) 2001 Act requires that local authorities consult on their LHS, and the statutory Equality Duty on public bodies requires the involvement, consultation and engagement of as wide a range of local residents, tenants and stakeholders as possible.

Consultation and engagement play an integral role in the development of the Local Housing Strategy. Developing the strategy has presented a unique opportunity to engage with a wide range of stakeholders on the housing system as a whole, as well as reflecting on specific topics and issues. These inputs have helped paint a picture of Edinburgh's current housing challenges, as well as the priorities and concerns of our residents and those who work in the city.

This report is a supporting document for the LHS and sets out a summary of the range of engagement and consultation that was carried out across the city to help inform the development of the draft strategy.

Please note: This Consultation and Engagement Report is a summary of the thoughts, opinions and beliefs of those that took part in engagement events and workshops. This means that there might be inconsistencies in language used or language which is not used by the City of Edinburgh Council.

Consultation and Engagement Approach

A three-phase approach to engagement was established to support the development of the LHS. The feedback from each phase has helped to inform the next phase of engagement by drawing out key issues, recurring themes and underdeveloped areas. The insights gathered across all three phases will help to shape the strategy and, in particular, will help inform the development of the Action Plan which will accompany the final strategy.

Phase	Timeline	Detail		
Phase 1:	May – June 2024	Early engagement discussions with		
Early Engagement		colleagues and partners. Early engagement		
		survey, open to residents and organisations.		
		345 survey responses received.		
Phase 2:	August – October	Stakeholder and resident workshops,		
Targeted Engagement	2024	partnerships/ forums and community		
		engagement events. 20 events in total and		
		over 550 people participated.		
Phase 3:	To follow	This phase will include an online		
Formal Consultation	(February 2025-	consultation on the draft strategy,		
	April 2025)	supplemented with further targeted		
		engagement.		

Scottish Government Guidance

The Scottish Government Local Housing Strategy Guidance sets out some key considerations for engagement and consultation. This is summarised below.

Engagement and consultation is undertaken early on in the LHS development process Early discussions took place with colleagues and partner organisations to gain some initial insight in challenges and to start building a picture of the wind strategic landscape. An early engagement survey ran for six weeks during May-June 2024, open to residents and organisation. The survey included questions about current house circumstances and future housing aspirations. It asked respondents to identify their housing priority for Edinburgh and gave an opportunity for further comments in relation to the development of the strategy or housing issues more generally.	ng ns. sing
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outstagg of moderning resource generality.	
A range of media and advertising is A mix of digital and non-digital platforms were use	ed to
used to ensure as wide an audience as advertise and carry out engagement. This include	
possible within local communities and Council's website, social media platforms and e-	
from relevant representative groups footers, as well as advertising via partner organisa	itions
including people with or who shared to reach their networks through their webpages, s	ocial
protected characteristics media platforms, newsletters and word-of-mouth	
Posters were displayed in community buildings ac	ross
the city, a dedicated telephone line was set up an	d
paper copies were available for all materials.	
In an effort to end inequality, that the Demographics data was captured to enable analy	sis of
make-up of the local population is this. Whilst the survey respondents were broadly	
accurately reflected reflective of the city as a whole, a couple of gaps will dentifie deliberation and a state from an algorithm.	
identified: low response rate from under 16's and 75's, and lower response rate from males than	ovei
females. Targeted engagement activities were	
organised for the next phase of engagement to he	ln.
address these gaps.	۹.
At the conclusion of the first two phases of	
engagement, opportunities to further strengthen	our
engagement have been identified. This includes	
dedicated engagement with the private sector, with	
individuals with no recourse to public funds and v	
minority ethnic people. This will be built into the t	nird
phase of engagement.	
Less traditional forms of engagement A range of engagement opportunities were carried	out
methods are undertaken to ensure all to offer choice and flexibility, in a bid to make the	blo
those willing or able to engage have engagement as accessible and inclusive as possible the opportunity to do so.	JIE.
These included workshops held online and in-personal control of the opportunity to do so.	son
attendance at a range of different partnerships/	,011,
forums as well as a selection of community outre	ach
events. The community outreach events proved	

Scottish Government Guidance	Approach taken		
	particularly effective in reaching out to people who		
	may otherwise not have participated.		

Governance

The LHS engagement proposals were reviewed and approved by the Council's Consultation Advisory Panel. This process helped to shape the planned engagement activities, with feedback provided on additional stakeholders to include and extending the early engagement survey from four to six weeks.

The LHS reports into an internal Steering Group comprising senior managers from a range of key service areas. Updates on the LHS are also reported regularly to the Council's Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee.

Promoting the engagement

The promotion of the engagement activities followed the principal of making this as accessible and inclusive as possible, using both digital and non-digital platforms. Digital platforms included promotion on the Council's website and social media channels, as well as development and distribution of an email footer. Information published online was made accessible for Read Aloud software and all materials could be provided in other languages through the Council's translation services.

Partners played an important role in helping to promote engagement opportunities and supported this through their own social media channels, as well as through newsletters and word-of-mouth.

Other non-digital methods included the use of posters displayed in community building across the city, as well as promoting the engagement through various meetings and forums. Face-to-face engagement was carried out in Council office buildings and colleagues were encouraged to help raise awareness across their networks. A dedicated telephone line was set up and paper copies could be made available on request.

What worked well and lessons learned

The LHS engagement has been a learning opportunity and there has been reflection throughout on what has worked well, and what could be improved in future.

The inclusion of a free-text box in the early engagement survey was very successful and yielded more responses than anticipated (over 200 out of 345 respondents). The responses to this question were very helpful in painting a picture around key issues and helped to shape the second phase of engagement. Indeed, many of the themes identified from the early engagement survey were recurring throughout the second phase of engagement.

The stakeholder workshop was particularly effective. Bringing together a range of organisations, in-person, for a full morning session creating the space for in-depth discussions across a range of topics.

The community outreach events also worked well. This enabled residents to take part in community-based settings which they identified as a safe space – often with the involvement of trusted individuals from those community settings, such as Team Leaders and Support Workers.

The resident workshops had a lower attendance than the stakeholder session. This enabled more in-depth discussion, more akin to a focus group than a larger workshop. The feedback from those who attended was positive and they welcomed the opportunity to participate in this way. However, the low uptake was slightly disproportionate to the level of organisation and venue cost incurred for the in-person event, and didn't enable us to reach as many residents as was hoped. This is something to reflect on for future engagement, both in terms in terms of how these events are promoted and how they are pitched, recognising that an additional number of smaller 'focus group' style sessions might be more effective than a larger resident workshop.

Overview of key themes

The key themes that arose across phases 1 and 2 of the engagement were:

- Housing supply this was by far the most frequently recurring theme
- What is meant by affordable housing/ is affordable housing truly affordable?
- Lack of funding and competing priorities such as building homes vs the costs of energy efficiency standards
- High housing costs across all tenures
- Comments on specific types of housing: short-term lets, Purpose-Built Student Accommodation and the private rented sector more broadly
- Potential impacts of the Housing (Scotland) Bill
- New build housing developments and infrastructure
- The need for more accessible housing
- Neighbourhood safety and anti-social behaviour

Phase One: Early Engagement

Initial discussion took place early on in the process with a range of colleagues and partner organisations to capture some initial views on the strategy, the early engagement survey and to explore avenues for promotion and further engagement. This included:

- Edinburgh Tenants Federation (ETF)
- Equalities Leads within the Council
- Equalities and Rights Network (EaRN)
- Strategic Homelessness Action Partnership Edinburgh (SHAPE)
- Elected members
- Internal Steering Group, made up on senior managers across a range of key service areas

From there, an early engagement survey was developed which ran from the 6 May to 14 June 2024. The content and findings from the survey are set out below.

Phase 1: Early Engagement Survey Results



An <u>early engagement survey</u>ran until 14 June 2024 to help inform the development of the Local Housing Strategy. This was open to all residents and organisations. Further engagement activities will follow from June October 2024.

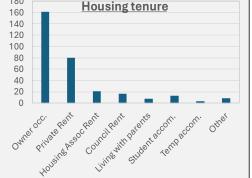
Total no. of responses	345
Responses by individuals	318
Responses by organisations	27

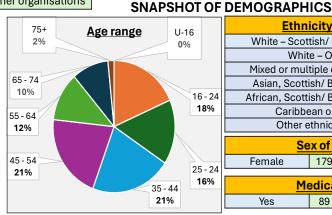
Summary of promotional activity Posters displayed in locations across the city

- Newsbeat Article (internal) and Press release (external)
- Social Media promotion and E-signatures
- Promotion to, and through, a wide range of partner organisations

Organisations who responded included:

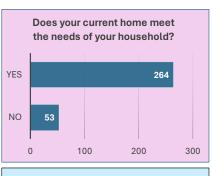
- Charities
- · Community Groups/ Tenant Organisations
- Campaign Groups
- Housing Associations
- · Housing Developers
- Private Sector Organisations
- City of Edinburgh Council officers (x6)

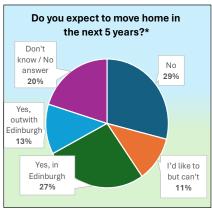


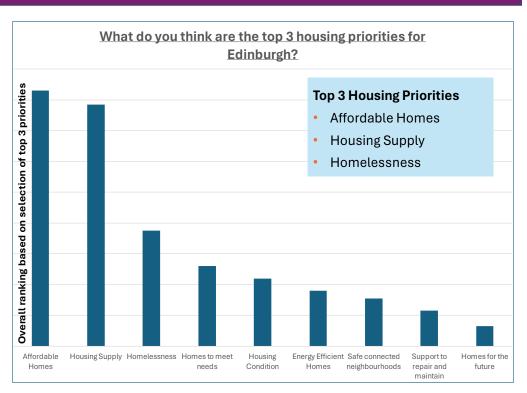


Ethnicity of respondents					
White – Scottish/ British/ Irish 247					
Whit	e – Oth	ner		42	
Mixed or mul	tiple et	hnic group		13	
Asian, Scottish/ British Asian 12					
African, Scottish/ British African			0		
Caribbean or Black			1		
Other ethnic group				1	
Sex of respondents					
Female	179	Male		119	
Medical Condition?					
Yes	89	No.		199	

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Phase 1: Early Engagement Survey Results

The survey included a free-text box for respondents to provide additional comments. 206 respondents provided commentary, much of which was in-depth, covering a wide range of themes. Initial thematic analysis summarised below.

Theme/ Issue	No. Comment	Explanatory Detail
Housing Supply/ More Affordable Homes 72		The need for more housing, and affordable ("genuinely affordable") homes in particular. Many referenced links to homelessness. x11 additional comments solely re need to tackle homelessness.
High costs of housing	35	Much of this re costs in the private rented sector as well as other rising costs incl. energy/utility bills.
Housing for different needs and circumstances	35	Incl. the need for more accessible housing; younger people trying to access the housing market; students accessing suitable HMO accommodation. Common theme that local residents should be
Location and infrastructure for new build housing	31	New building housing proximity to and demand on local facilities/ infrastructure. Green belt building.
Innovation/ Partnership Working	30	Suggestions for new ways of working and opportunities for improved partnership working e.g. with the private sector. Many of these comments were from the organisations who responded.
Policies/ access to services	28	Various comments incl. the bidding system and allocations policy, Council repairs, cost of temporary accommodation.
Student Accommodation	25	Comments on the volume of Purpose-Built Student Accommodation/ perception that this takes priority over housebuilding
Short term lets	23	Comments on the volume of short term lets and need for greater regulation/ limitations around this
Private Rented Sector/ Landlords	24	Lack of regulations, comments around rent controls.
House Condition/Improving existing homes	21	Comments on the importance of support for homeowners, particularly in Conservation areas/old tenemental properties. Improving the condition of Council and private rented homes.
Empty Homes	15	Comments around both the volume of Council voids and privately owned empty homes. Comments around Council acquisitions.
Neighbourhoods/ ASB	10	Misc: more children's play areas, litter/ fly tipping, youth disorder, stairwell activity, partnerships

SELECTION OF COMMENTS

"I have never known there to be such a crisis around housing Social housing is imperative for our future generations to have a family in a safe, secure and longterm accommodation"

"Rents are insanely
expensive and there is too
much competition for so few
properties"

"Housing cannot stand alone to ease the homelessness across Scotland, as well as the current crisis post-pandemic.

Safer communities are crucial to maintaining connection and belonging"

"To meaningfully address the Housing Emergency, we must focus on increased delivery of all tenures alongside supporting people to remain independent in their homes for longer

Provision of care and support and stronger linkages between these services and housing are needed to ensure people can be supported to remain at home for as long as they choose"

"I am concerned that insufficient consideration is given to whether existing infrastructure (such as schools and GP's) can support more households when granting permission for new build estates"

"Stop allowing universities and businesses to build **student flats** and bring the people of Edinburgh back to their own city"

"There needs to be urgent work carried out on current tenancies that are not fit for habitation and causing multiple issues with health and wellbeing. Support to repair and maintain is critical to make best use of available housing stock"

"Ensure existing homes are prioritised for residential use over short term lets"

Phase Two: Targeted Engagement

A wide range of engagement activities were carried out between August and October 2024. Overall, it is estimated that over 550 people were engaged with during this time. A summary of the engagement activities is set out below.

Event	Event Type	Date	Attendees
Edinburgh Tenants Federation (ETF) Meeting	Forum	06-Aug-24	16
Development Directors Forum	Forum	23-Aug-24	9
ETF High Flats meeting	Forum	26-Aug-24	14
Learning Disabilities Group	Community	06-Sep-24	8
Council Housing Colleagues via Service Director			
Engagement Session	Forum	16-Sep-24	145
Older adults group - Newhaven knitters	Community	17-Sep-24	5
Primary school pop-up	Community	18-Sep-24	20
Stakeholder Workshop Event	Workshop	23-Sep-24	53
Edinburgh Homelessness Task Force	Forum	23-Sep-24	30
Edinburgh Poverty Network Meeting	Forum	24-Sep-24	121
Residents Event On-line	Workshop	25-Sep-24	6
Refugees and asylum seekers - English class	Community	01-Oct-24	4
Residents Event In-person	Workshop	01-Oct-24	7
Older adults group - Leith Men's Shed	Community	02-Oct-24	5
Strategic Homeless Action Partnership in Edinburgh			
(SHAPE)	Forum	02-Oct-24	16
Edinburgh Local Employability Partnership Summit	Forum	02-Oct-24	35
Older adults group - Libertus	Community	03-Oct-24	17
Student Union Sabbatical Officer engagement	Community	08-Oct-24	3
Joint Council Housing/ Planning meeting	Forum	08-Oct-24	6
Muirhouse Youth Music Club	Community	08-Oct-24	37
Total			557

Overview and Summary Outputs

Stakeholder Workshop

An in-person half-day workshop was held on 23 September 2024 to explore a range of topics. The event was open to and promoted to any organisations operating in Edinburgh and 30 organisations signed up for the event:

- The Poverty Alliance
- Fresh Start
- Edinburgh Tenants Federation (ETF)
- Equality and Rights Network (EaRN)
- Edinburgh Access Panel
- Simon Community Scotland
- Living Rent

- Cyrenians
- Tenancy Rights and Support Service
- Hallam Land
- Edinburgh Poverty Commission
- Home Energy Scotland
- End Poverty Edinburgh
- University of Edinburgh
- Shelter Scotland
- Manor Estates
- Cairn Housing Association
- Viewpoint Housing Association
- Prospect Community Housing
- Hillcrest Homes
- Wheatley Homes East
- Muirhouse Housing Association
- Home Group
- Harbour Homes
- Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce
- NHS Lothian
- Health and Social Care Partnership
- City of Edinburgh Council various departments

The workshop was centred around four break-out group discussions, supported by discussion papers which are attached at Appendix 1. For each topic, there was reflection on challenges and opportunities/ actions. The outputs of these discussions are summarised below.

Accessible Housing/Independent Living

Accessible Housing

- Need for larger family homes
- Accessible housing needed across all tenures
- More planning controls needed for accessible housing and S75 for affordable
- Housing to be accessible from the outset refer to SG consultation on Housing for Varying Needs Standard
- Issues with Passivhaus and accessibility
- Conflicting priorities e.g. loss of ground floor for bike storage
- Adequate parking for H&SC workers
- Accessibility in wider neighbourhood e.g. dropped kerbs, smoother pavements

Allocations

Sheltered housing – 'stage rather than age'

Modern, Warm and Sustainable Homes

Challenges

- Retrofit and large-scale repairs and concerns about decants – communication is key
- Funding gap and resources to carry out the work required is a major challenge.
- Council has multiple roles and sometimes conflicting priorities - owner, landlord, factor.
- Asbestos issues ongoing, tenant knowledge needs to be built up about different types of asbestos and the dangers
- Ban on new gas boilers will be challenging particularly for tenement owners
- Restricting Scottish Welfare Fund has caused issues with tenancy sustainability and pushed more people in to poverty.
- Ageing population and more vulnerable people would benefit from more advice and support.

- Issues with households being allocated homes/ having to bid for homes that don't meet their needs
- Greater flexibility needed with EdIndex more nuanced consideration of need
- More flexibility to advocate for own needs
- Allocations are failing people and leading to issues further down the line

Adaptations and forward planning

- Adaptation assessments could be simplified for some, needs more nuanced approach
- Delays with simple measures can have major consequences e.g. falls, hospital admissions
- Neurological disabilities can be overlooked
- RSL funding pressures for adaptations
- Tenants unable to return home from hospital
- Broken lifts in high rise blocks
- Consider accessibility when decanting

Support/ wider comments

- Could sheltered housing be repurposed?
- Staffing level concerns for support workers
- More support needed for using technology
- Small but growing group with very high needs who will not manage a tenancy – Housing First good but not a panacea.
- People with low level need can be overlooked
- Opportunities to flip temp if it meets needs
- Impact on dignity of having a home that meets your needs – cannot be underestimated
- More use of Mutual Exchange Schemes

- The 2030 net zero target may be too ambitious – misalignment of funding as well as technology development.
- Lack of support for PRS tenants
- Inconsistent advice from energy companies
- Challenge of raising repairs in PSL/ temp
- Risk of a build standard that is too difficult/ costly to achieve – drive developers out?
- Lack of capacity for repairs and retrofit work e.g. recruitment and keeping up with new technologies. Expertise and knowledge is lacking in the market. As the work intensifies throughout Scotland all RSLs will be competing for same limited number of contractors.

Priorities/ Opportunities

- Communicate mixed tenure work to tenants and owners as early as possible and set clear expectations of Council's role
- Clearer expectations for maintenance (specifically at point of purchase for new owners) and net zero responsibilities.
- Consider consolidation of advice to one contact rather than multiple organisations and contacts (benefits, income max, training and employment, housing improvement, etc)
- Engagement "strategy" that is sustainable and could be rolled out across all service areas.
- Consider drying facilities in new builds
- Consider resources to enforce new legislation
- Transparency and scrutiny of contractors
- Link up with employability agenda can we work with universities and colleges to build skills gaps into housing workforce?
- Damp and mould issues should remain a priority issue - tenants should be provided with practical help/ intervention from the beginning.
- Fabric first policy is still in a journey with design teams and need to future proof buildings to enable future technologies

Private Rented Sector

Challenges

- Agreement with challenges set out
- Lack of accessible housing in PRS
- Challenges in PRS are down to overall housing supply across all tenures
- PRS often not a choice but a necessity due to lack of affordable housing
- What is 'affordable' subjective
- Concerns re. landlords leaving the sector
- High rents = wider impact on economy
- Uncertainty on how to report landlords
- High rents, risk of eviction & mental health

Opportunities/ Priorities

- Private Sector Leasing (PSL) Scheme scope to expand?
- Landlords should be supported risk of shrinking PRS sector and switch to STL's
- Improved comms message around funding shortfalls for affordable housing
- Increase awareness of prevention support
- Increase awareness of Rent Service Scotland
- Explore opportunities to prevent excessive rent increases
- Explore employment opportunities to support people into work esp. in construction sector

Partnership Working and Innovation

Challenges

- Housing (Scotland) Bill risk of unintended implications of policy, preventing investment in the PRS
- Clear direction needed around increasing affordable housing. More MMR?
- Landlords in the PRS remortgaging and unable to cope with rates – leaving sector or increasing rents
- Use of data/ data sharing

Examples of innovation/ partnership working

- Partnerships with specialist housing providers for acquisitions
- 'Homes for Good' model from P&K Council
- Wheatley Group work to avoid terminating tenancies e.g. housing for prison leavers
- Social Investment Funding Cyrenians using this approach to provide temp accom for people fleeing domestic violence
- Direct matching Wheatley working with Glasgow City Council – seek to reduce refusal rate
- Edinburgh Partnership working more closely with Scottish Government re. policy
- Hillcrest modular housing and knowledge exchange

Opportunities/ Priorities

- More partnership working with third sector to support tenancy sustainment
- Could RSL's support the Council with voids
- Could we do more with data e.g. demographics to guide house type requirements, school attendance records to inform homelessness prevention
- More joined up working e.g. between the Council and developers on housing need
- Public sector estate explore opportunities for affordable development before selling
- Improve tenant and resident consultation to guide strategy development and budget allocation. More meaningful participation – third sector/ charities can help facilitate

Resident Workshops

Two resident workshops were held, an online session on 25 September 2024 and an in-person event on 1 October 2024. Six people attended the online session and seven people attended the in-person event. Both sessions included an overview presentation followed by discussion around four questions. The discussion outputs are summarised below.

Thinking about the issues and challenges we've outlined so far, is there anything you would add or draw particular attention to?

- What is meant by 'affordable' housing? A definition is needed if LHS is to be accessible to the public.
- Concerns around mid-market rent and what happens if circumstances change e.g. income?
- Housing costs a recurring theme particularly PRS and PBSA rent levels.
- PRS and the Housing (Scotland) Bill risk of unintended consequences
- Greater transparency needed between landlords and tenants
- 'Catastrophe looming' in rent rises across all sectors due to financial pressures and inflation increases
- Cumulative effect of lack of grant funding for affordable housing private developers pausing
- Public sector estate being sold off for 'high end' development
- Location of new-build should not just be on the fringes of the city and infrastructure is key
- Graduates unable to afford to stay in Edinburgh loss of talent for the city
- Reflections on how challenging it is to get on the property ladder in Edinburgh
- Social worker for the over 50's current case load is mainly housing related/ accessibility issues. More social housing is vital in this regard.
- Older housing stock presents real challenges for accessibility/ adaptations
- Issues around over occupation and length of time to facilitate a move shortage of one-bedroom homes
- Households who are not homeless but trapped in a home that doesn't meet their needs
- Balancing Housing for Varying Needs design principles/ future proofing with budget implications.
- Tensions between 20 minute neighbourhood model and perceived lack of infrastructure for new build housing developments
- Concerns about housing quality for new-builds

Do you agree with the top three priorities from the early engagement survey? Housing Supply, Affordable Homes and Tackling Homelessness

- Yes housing supply and affordability are central to everything
- "Housing supply is key. We must focus our efforts there"
- Child homelessness raised as a particular issue unsuitable accommodation
- Property condition and links to health also highlighted
- Risk of vulnerable people being moved into mainstream housing where needs are not fully met – availability is only part of the answer

What actions would you like to see taken to help address the housing situation in Edinburgh?

- Continue to build on engagement with residents
- Provide a clear definition of what affordable housing is

- Consider a Right to Buy policy for PRS tenants when the landlord seeks to sell
- Sufficient grant funding for affordable housing is vital along with a longer-term funding commitment to enable forward planning
- More flexibility around commuted sums to improve viability for RSL's
- Brown-belt land should always be prioritised over green-belt
- Scale is key example of the Liberton Hospital site
- Improved information and communication between the Council and tenants

Any further comments to make about housing or the development of this strategy?

- Reflections on whether declaring a Housing Emergency enables additional powers/ resources, or whether it's more a focusing of minds, accountability and priority actions.
- LHS should consider safeguarding nature
- How do residents know where s.75 contributions go?
- Who is best placed to deliver housing? Who are the risk takers? Ref. to housing co-op models.

Homelessness Task Force and Strategic Homeless Action Partnership in Edinburgh (SHAPE) Partnership Meetings

Two meetings were attended with homelessness service providers on 23 September and 2 October 2024. An introductory presentation was followed with general discussion on the LHS and more focused discussion on the homelessness chapter. This discussion considered the four strategic objectives set out in the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan and whether these still remained relevant.

A housing association representative provided an input from the perspective of the EdIndex Board, summarised below:

- Supply is key
- Highlighted the financial strain and how that manifests in delivery tough decisions need to be made, we want to deliver more than we can
- PRS and unintended consequences a diminishing PRS sector would have a huge knock on effect
- Allocations Review forthcoming this is important and needed but it won't change the supply
- Support for housing homelessness households risk of setting people up to fail if the appropriate support is not in place importance of pre and post tenancy work
- Partnerships are absolutely key
- Net Zero standard has a huge financial impact potential for further strain on supply

Reflections on the RRTP

- Broad agreement that the RRTP's four strategic objectives still stand and still remain relevant
- We need to "continue to focus on getting the basics right"
- The four strategic objectives are:
 - o Preventing homelessness in the first place

- Where temporary accommodation in required it meets the needs of the household
- o Supporting people to access settled housing as quickly as possible
- o Reducing the number of people rough sleeping in the city
- It was noted that there is no confirmed funding for the RRTP beyond March 2025 and it is intended that the RRTP will be mainstreamed into the LHS
- In relation to the strategic objective for temp to meet the needs of households it was highlighted that a key action here around changing the mix of temporary accommodation. Workshop on this was to follow.
- Question around whether temporary accommodation can be flipped to permanent. It was explained this is case-by-case as we simply don't have the supply of either temporary or permanent accommodation at the moment.

Wider Questions/ Comments:

- Interest in HNDA3 and whether there's a risk of 'hidden homelessness' being missed?
- Allocations Review highlighting the importance of early communications for providers and possible changes. For example, IT impacts for housing officers. Reflections on pros/ cons of choice based letting. SHAPE keen to be involved in the allocations review.
- Comment around <u>Forth Green Freeport</u> fantastic job creation opportunity but how will these workers be housed? Has this been considered?

Edinburgh Poverty Forum

A meeting of the Edinburgh Poverty Forum was held on 24 September 2024 dedicated to the Local Housing Strategy. An estimated 40 people were in the meeting and the meeting was recorded and made accessible to a total distribution of 121 people. An introductory presentation was given then the session opened up for discussion. Key points are summarised below:

- "Housing is driving poverty. Addressing the housing crisis is a key part of addressing poverty"
- Defining affordability affordable housing is not affordable for many on low incomes.
- Student accommodation is there a definition of student housing? Request for the LHS to include figures for this. Noted that college students generally don't require accommodation, should this be defined as university student housing?
- Housing Emergency and the impact of declaring this
- Sustainable housing reference to embodied carbon and considering this at planning/ procurement stage
- LHS engagement consider whether views differed between younger and older residents. Low number of under 16's is a common theme across other engagement – is a different approach required for this age group? Good uptake from 16 -24 age group, indicating that housing is a key issue for this age group
- Housing and health links between housing and public health should be strongly made in the LHS. Links to LOIP outcome 3 – a good place to live. Health shouldn't be considered in the LHS solely in relation to accessible housing

- Homelessness what is good practice re. homelessness support? Do we manage expectations? Will the LHS consider how the Council can move away from costly temporary accommodation.
- PRS PRS is less of an option for many people that Income Maximisation Officers now support – they can feel frustrated by lack of options to offer people
- Reflections on potential unintended impacts on the PRS of the Housing (Scotland) Bill will LHS take a view on volume of PRS properties in the city?
- Poverty Commission suggestion to engage with Libertus group

Elected Member Sessions – members of the Housing, Homelessness & Fair Work Committee and members of the Planning Committee

Briefings were held with members of the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work (HH&FW) Committee on 17 April and 5 August 2024. In addition, a session was held on 8 October 2024 to bring together the members of the HH&FW and Planning Committees, to focus on a number of topics which span across the remits of housing and planning. The key discussion outputs are summarised below:

- Are we identifying sufficient land and sites to meet housing needs? Yes, reference to City Plan 2030.
- Will the LHS strategy be an aspirational document (e.g. how many homes we need) or a
 realistic document (e.g. how many homes we can build based on current funding?)
 Response that it will seek to strike a balance a visionary document but grounded in
 reality. Annual updates will help to report on progress.
- Discussion around unavoidable financial uncertainty, around future budgets and what
 this might mean for HRA finances and finances more broadly, as well as in legislative
 terms e.g. impacts of the Housing (Scotland) Bill. How will this uncertainty be dealt with
 in the LHS?
- How do we know we're building the right type of new housing that's needed for people
 with accessibility needs? Will the LHS also consider adaptations and the demographics
 around accessible housing/ housing for particular need as this isn't noted within the
 HNDA? Response made reference to Policy 16 of NPF4 Part C, sets out different
 housing responses within it. City plan 2040 will need to look at this in more detail.

Student Housing; PBSA, PRS and HMOs

- Discussion around data obtained from the universities around PBSA, current and projected student numbers. Direction to clearly set out the facts.
- Have we been analysing PRS HMO levels i.e. how many are there and are they open to students? Do we have data on HMO's/ students living in HMO? This is an important part of the picture

Short Term Lets

 Does the data take into consideration change of use where it was previously a business premises? As this could distort figures around loss of housing. Reference to the separation between licencing and planning.

New Build & Infrastructure

Can specific infrastructure requests sometimes be made of developers? Specific
infrastructure is sometimes needed e.g. to support ageing population with mobility
issues and people who are disabled.

Edinburgh Local Employability Partnership Summit

The Edinburgh Local Employability Partnership SUMMIT was a half day online workshop on 2 October 2024. This focused specifically on the challenges around supporting Universal Credit claimants who are not working (currently 9,600 citizens) and what factors may be preventing them moving into work. To do this effectively, input was provided from a wider range of stakeholders within the Local Employability Partnership and related areas that impact on this client group. A paper with learning, insights and next steps has been produced for consideration at the Edinburgh Partnership.

For the housing input at this summit, an overview presentation was delivered covering housing, homelessness and the LHS. Key discussion points are summarised below:

- <u>Co-location of advice and support services</u>: it makes sense to embed the same approach to co-location in hospitals (which Cyrenians are doing) and other places where people at very high-risk of homelessness are found, including HMP Edinburgh.
- Additional employability training can be made available for colleagues across homelessness services.
- Housing supply and specifically a need for more social housing. This is not just a
 challenge for the Council but for the whole Edinburgh Partnership. Reference to the
 public sector estate and a need for strong leadership to cut across the silo mentality of
 separate budget holders.
- Housing is vital feedback that the presentation and discussion served as an important reminder of how vital secure housing is and how much of a barrier this can be to other areas of life, including access to employment. Focus should be support with housing first but raising awareness that support with employment is there, will be there for them when the time is right. Reference to the Scandinavian model of prioritising housing first.
- <u>Discussion in relation to high housing costs</u>, around leaving UC/ potential loss of housing benefit. Noted as a particular issue for people in private sector lets who claim housing benefit. The move to work can have much bigger cliff edges.
- Perception of solutions doesn't always align with the problems they are intended to solve.
- <u>Discussion around 'ask and act duties'</u> could and should local employability services be considered one of the public bodies subject to this duty?

Edinburgh Tenants Federation

Meetings were held with the Edinburgh Tenants Federation on 16 April, 17 June, 6 August and with the ETF High Flats Group on 26 August 2024. A summary of key discussion points are noted below.

<u>Promoting the strategy:</u> Opportunities were highlighted from ETF, including future meeting
dates and opportunities to share across their social media platforms. Request for both
digital and non-digital, with paper copies for tenants when requested.

- Involving younger people: This was highlighted as importance. "Can we reach out to all the schools in Edinburgh, especially those in poorer areas?" Limitation of time and resources was noted, but a commitment given to carry out a session in a primary school and a session with teenagers.
- Sheltered Housing: "Sheltered Housing doesn't seem to be being discussed. Why isn't there proper sheltered housing any more and why aren't Wardens available on-site?"
- Neighbourhoods: "Can Councillors come out to visit different areas of the city and do walkabouts to see the state of the different schemes so they can see what's going on and what's going wrong? They will see the anti-social-behaviour if they visit. "
- Improving frequency of contact with Housing Officers "I haven't seen my Housing Officer in years. It's not really good enough."
- <u>Issues raised in relation to high rise:</u> Poor quality of work, mixed tenure challenges, lack of accountability, energy billing issues, high fuel bill costs, issues with lifts, accessibility concerns, bin issues,.
- Improvements to communication "when capital investment comes what will be done?" and a call for greater resident involvement.

Development Director's Forum

The Development Director's Forum brings together representatives from the Council and housing association partners with development programmes in Edinburgh. On the 23 August 2024 a discussion was held on the Local Housing Strategy. Key discussion points summarised below:

- Conflicting priorities: "Can we highlight the tensions in the strategy i.e. what do we prioritise when tensions are created due to limited funding? The same funding is needed to build new homes and to make energy efficiency improvements to existing homes."
- <u>Alternative Tenures</u>; can the LHS make reference to other tenures including low-cost home ownership?
- Alternative funding mechanisms: "There should be reference to alternative funding mechanisms to delivery affordable housing and the impact on the tenure mix. It is incredibly difficult to achieve the required minimum level of 70% homes for Social Rent within affordable housing in the current economic climate."
- <u>Mid-market rent:</u> There's an important role to promote MMR as a good housing option. There is an education piece on this to be done. Provision of MMR links to supporting key workers.
- <u>Differing targets</u>: Social Housing energy efficiency requirements and Council commitment to meet Net Zero Standards should be included. The difference between the two requirements should be highlighted i.e. the Council having a higher standard it is trying to meet with the higher costs associated with this aim.
- <u>Climate Change mitigation</u>: will the strategy touch on this?

Community Engagement Events

Student Representatives

A meeting was held with student sabbatical officer representatives from University of Edinburgh, Napier University and Heriot-Watt University on 8 October. A Council representative from Planning also joined this discussion in relation to City Plan 2030 and 2040.

An introductory presentation was provided before opening up for discussion. Key discussion points are summarised below and a further meeting is to follow to continue the conversation.

Purpose-Built Student Accommodation:

- What about students that live in PRS and their voices? Most of our students don't live in PBSA and many students don't want to live in PBSAs. Consideration of housing for students should be broader than that.
- Pricing differential highlighted between university owned and privately owned PBSA
- Affordability How are we defining it?
- Are students being considered in all areas of the LHS not just in the student section?
- Reflections on public perceptions of PBSA, which are often felt to be negative. It's
 difficult for students who need the accommodation. How do we tackle the negative view
 that students aren't members of the community? Students are valid members of the
 community and aren't tourists. How do we increase community building of students
 within the accommodation blocks themselves? Student reps can work with the
 Residents Assistants. It is more difficult to do this in the privately owned PBSA.

Private Rented Sector

- The high cost of the PRS means e.g. that 9% of Heriot-Watt students after paying their monthly rent have £50/ month left of available money. These students can't afford to engage with activities and can't contribute to the local economy.
- Many students leave quickly after finishing University as they can't afford to stay so they
 are lost to the City.
- The issues students face are the same as other people in the PRS. Students are often impacted by limited finances.
- Some concerns raised about some landlords who take advantage of students and students are often not respected as much as working people. Viewed as "silly kids". Is there an opportunity here to support students to become more informed and more empowered to navigate the system?

Location and Travel

- Students are more often staying further away from their university and commuting in, sometimes considerable distances. They then spend more time (and money) commuting which has a negative effect on their education and overall student experience.
- The free bus cards are good but extensive time spent travelling means people miss out on socialising or building community at the University.
- University of Edinburgh has data on the number of students living in each postcode area and data on where they are via address, but this is inconsistent across other universities.

Information/ Support

- How can students be supported to become more informed and know their rights as tenants?
- Where do students go for information to try to find accommodation?
- How helpful are the Universities in trying to help students find accommodation?
- Do the Universities provide enough information to prospective international students before they come to the UK and how difficult it can be to find accommodation in Edinburgh?
- It's a huge challenge to find housing for students, especially international students.
- The steps you need to take to find housing aren't clear. Information on the University websites can be limited and inconsistent.

'UK based rent guarantor' requirements

- For international students trying to secure accommodation in the PRS they need a 'UK based rent guarantor' document. Landlords will request this. It's a UK resident guaranteeing the rent will be paid.
- It was noted that some letting agents won't accept the UK based guarantee that is provided by University of Edinburgh. Could the Council work more closely with letting agents to encourage them to accept the guarantee? (It was noted that the Council has limited powers to intervene here).
- Could the University of Edinburgh request some information from the letting agencies that are refusing applications?

Student Transition from student to non-student and Council Tax requirements

• When students leave university, they start paying Council Tax the day after their last exam. Could this be reviewed to consider a slight grace period? At this point students don't have their degree as they haven't graduated yet. It's a stressful time with increased expenditure whilst income has likely not changed.

Alternative visions for student accommodation

• There's room for more housing co-operatives in the City. Noted that there is to be further discussion on this.

Castleview Primary School

Castleview Primary School is located in Craigmillar in the North East of the city. An engagement event was held with 16 pupils from the primary seven year group on 18 September. An introductory presentation was delivered, followed by two interactive group activities.

Activity One: Your Housing Priorities

The group were asked to think about developing a local housing strategy. If they were given this task, what sort of things would they consider and what would their priorities be. The outputs are summarised below:



- Think about how many homes you have space for land
- Need to work well with architects/ consultants have a clear plan

- Think about the size and layout of homes make sure there's enough space for the household
- Budget management we'd need to deliver as much as we can. Budget should be spread across new-build and improvements so that everybody benefits in equal ways
- Get the right mix of housing e.g. accessible build homes based on the needs of the population
- The home should be value for money
- Solar panels (the group mentioned that they had used these in their science classes and were very supportive of this type of technology – but they need to be affordable)
- Lots of discussion and questions about private rent, landlords and how this works
- New homes and infrastructure example of new homes being built behind their school, but with the school almost at capacity, what will this mean for children who move into these new homes?
- The size of temporary accommodation was raised as an issue (overcrowding)
- Homes should have more outdoor space
- There should be control over evictions. Children should not have to worry about being evicted or moved from one home to the next.
- Discussion around financial support if a household is evicted, to help them get back on their feet
- Anti-social behaviour issues and noisy/disruptive neighbours
- Neighbourhood facilities are important
- Community growing and nature
- Think about the location of new-build homes e.g. is it going to be really noisy?
- Discussion about labour shortages and whether this is an issue

Activity Two: Your Neighbourhood Priorities

The group gathered around a map showing a fictional town with some existing community facilities on it. The group discussed the facilities and whether or not they were felt to be important and the reasons why. Provided with post-it notes, the group added on additional community facilities that they felt were important. Gold stars were stuck on to identify which facilities they felt were most important overall.

The top-ranked facilities included:

- More buses and bus routes
- Libraries more computers, more books for teenagers, more rooms for different groups/ uses
- Gym that allows entry to teenagers
- Additional sports facilities football pitches, swimming pool (and access to a swimming instructor), tennis courts, skate park and dance studios
- More/ bigger GP surgeries
- Community growing
- More bins to address issues with litter and fly tipping
- More diverse local shops and cafes



On 8 October 2024, a discussion on the LHS was held at a Youth Music Club in Muirhouse, in the North West of the city. The club is run by Tinderbox, who run a number of music programmes open to children and young people aged 10 – 25 years.

The session was attended by 30 teenagers aged between 12 -16 years, along with 10 youth group leaders. The leaders took an active role in the session, splitting the participants into groups for discussion.

Participants were asked to identify their housing priorities for Edinburgh. Interestingly, the responses differed slightly from the early engagement survey. Tackling homelessness was the top ranked priority, followed by safe and connected neighbourhoods. Anti-social behaviour was a particularly strong theme amongst this group.

When asked whether they liked the neighbourhood they live, 63% answered yes and 37% answered no.

<u>Positive about the area included</u>: proximity to school, an area that's familiar ("it's where I grew up") and local facilities ("a good chippy!")

Negative reflections about the area included: safety concerns and anti-social behaviour, particularly "youth trouble" and concerns about knife/machete crime. Bonfire night was highlighted as a particular issue. Comments were raised about a lack of street lighting. When asked what would improve the area, community spaces for teenagers was highlighted, along with more police and more street lighting.

When asked about whether their current home met their needs, there were differing views on this. Positive and negative reflections were again primarily tied to anti-social behaviour issues and noisy neighbours, along with housing quality issues such as damp and mould.

When asked where they saw themselves living in five years time, the majority felt they would still be at home due to their age. However, some of the older participants shared thoughts on this which included: "still in Muirhouse", "still at home – probably won't be able to afford to move out" and for one, "probably living in a shed". Housing aspirations for the future were low amongst this group, with reflections on housing costs and a perception of limited options for social mobility.

English Language Class for Asylum Seekers and Refugees

On 1 October 2024, a discussion on the LHS was held at an English Language class. Often attended by up to 15 students, this class was quieter with three students attending. It is a Council run, beginner level, English language class. Two students were Ukrainian and one Japanese. In addition, there was a Ukrainian translator, the class tutor and ESOL Lead worker and all completed the LHS questionnaire.

Reflecting on their current housing situation, the Ukrainian students, both in the 65-70 years age range, noted that they had to move multiple times before being given more settled accommodation. They lived for a year on the ship first, followed by hotel accommodation and then moved into social housing. This was difficult for them.

One of the Ukrainian attendees was unhappy with their accommodation as they are living in a Council social housing studio flat which is small for two people. They report using EdIndex every week to try to bid for a new home. The other was very happy with their accommodation in South Queensferry where they live with their daughter and her family in Council social housing.

The Japanese student's accommodation is 'tied'/ a part of his work as a live-in chef. Issues with old tenement housing being cold was mentioned by two respondents.

In terms of more general comments re housing in Edinburgh, it was highlighted that there needs to be more affordable housing for working people. It was also suggested that the Council should create new financial opportunities, so it can build more social homes.

Edinburgh Learning Disability Advisory Group

On 6 September 2024 the LHS was discussed at a meeting of the Edinburgh Learning Disabilities Advisory Group. The meeting co-chaired by representatives from Edinburgh's Health and Social Care Partnership and FAIR. Six service users were preset (from People First Scotland and the Action Group) along with two support workers. Participants had a range of different circumstances and accommodation, ranging from supported accommodation, living with family but looking to move out and living in an adapted property.

The group had a broad discussion and two participants had prepared written contributions which they shared with the group. The discussion and written contributions are summarised below:

- Choice is key not everyone wants to live in shared accommodation and if they do, they'd like to choose who they live with. Location also important (for family support, transport links, close to doctors, dentists etc).
- There should be the support there to enable people to live independently if they choose to do so flexible services built around our needs so that we have more control
- There is not enough housing for people living with disabilities. It shouldn't all be in the same location, it should be spread out
- We need housing for young people to move out and live independently
- "we should have the same rights as everyone else, to live the life we want to live"
- Moving can be very stressful experience shared of needing a lot of help with the practical things and getting organised. Moving is costly too.
- Too much student housing
- Question about acquisitions
- Concerns about government cutting social care budgets.
- Lack of information about the rights people have when it comes to housing. People don't always know where to get advocate to help them.
- Group highlighted role of digital support.
- Mention of good experience with housing support worker really helpful.
- Comment that parent carers of children with a disability (including adult children) not necessarily seen as a risk or high priority as they are in a home and being looked after. However, many worry about what will happen to their child as they get older and it's not a conversation that people find easy to have.
- More disabled children than ever before.
- Should be discussions at school age information about support services and transition.
- EdIndex is not that accessible. Really need a phone number and paper copies (of adverts) like it used to have. But need to be careful with phone lines being put on hold and asked to select from options can be difficult for some people.

- Sometimes writing is too small in information
- Easy Read information about services is useful but can be difficult to find. Online isn't good for everyone.
- Need specialist workers to deal with disabled people and their families to help with housing issues. Further training for housing officers.
- It's difficult to navigate all the different services.
- Support Worker gave example of Easy Read checklist they were working on to help people with moving. Can be harder for people with disabilities might have specialist equipment that needs moved too.

Newhaven Knitting Group

On 17 September, five women were interviewed at the Newhaven Knitting Group. Ages ranged from 25 to 75 years. Four were home owners and one lived with family.

<u>Home meeting your needs and future plans to move:</u> All felt their home currently meets their needs. Two had no plans to move, one plans to downsize, one will require a bigger family home, and one would like a garden in the future.

Comments on the local area: Generally positive with reflections on good sense of community. Some specific issues highlighted: poor quality pavement (concerns for wheelchair users in particular); more care of local area needed (reference to a former playground that is now a railed concrete area); more facilities needed for younger people; issues with fly tipping; and some issues with anti-social behaviour.

Further comments:

- More social homes are needed. Ensure 'affordable' homes are affordable
- Infrastructure is needed in areas where new-homes are built.
- More sheltered housing.
- There should be an initial focus on the most deprived areas/ most sub-standard housing.
- Challenges in trying to rent privately with a pet
- High housing costs and challenges getting on the property ladder
- Scottish First Homes Fund highlighted as very helpful greater awareness needed
- Importance of community and 'nice neighbours'
- Positive reflection on community growing and the 'knock-on effect' of taking pride in the area
- Can newbuild development support deprived areas e.g. community benefits
- Shared repairs in tenements are extremely challenging

Leith's Men Shed

On 2 October 2024, five men were interviewed at the Leith Men's Shed, based in the Heart of Newhaven Community Centre. Ages ranged from 60-80 years, and the group comprised four home owners and one Council tenant.

<u>Homes meeting their needs</u>: home owners generally felt their home met their needs. However, comments raised about the challenges of living in a Conservation Area e.g. can't put in solar panels or charging points for electric vehicles. The Council tenant highlighted issues with

repairs, exacerbated by living in a mixed tenure block, along with issues around anti-social behaviour.

<u>Positives about local area:</u> transport links including the Tram. Good local facilities, including the primary school, shops, restaurants and pub. Positive reflections on natural green spaces, including community gardens and re-wilded ponds.

<u>Negatives about local area:</u> Dog fouling and fly tipping. Anti-social behaviour issues by a minority of residents. Poor state of Newhaven Harbour.

<u>General comments:</u> More social housing is desperately needed. Affordable housing a major issue for the younger generation. There should be greater priority given to preserving and improving green spaces.

Libertus

Libertus Day Care Centre is located in Gracemount, in the South East of the city. The centre was visited on 3 October 2024 for a discussion on the LHS. 17 people attended along with 4 volunteers and 2 care-workers as part of a Libertus day-care and lunch club session in Gracemount. Participants ranged from 35 – 94 years old, with 10 participants aged 75 and over.

A game was used to introduce the session, asking participants to guess Edinburgh housing market issues and challenges. Questionnaires were then handed out for people to fill in individually, with support provided as required. 14 people completed the questionnaire, including 13 day-care attendees (4 men and 9 women plus one care worker.

Most of the attendees were owner occupiers who were very happy with their home and areas reporting that it mostly meets their needs. Problems were reported by two attendees living in sheltered housing and in social housing. They raised issues around a lack of co-ordinated support and not being able to access the upstairs of their home. The Care Worker who completed the survey was also very unhappy with her private rented accommodation. Wider points were raised around a lack of housing, a lack of support for those who need it and reflections on households who are less fortunate and the challenges they are facing.

Written Submissions

In addition to the range of engagement activities, there was also the option for individuals and organisations to provide written submissions throughout phase 2. Two written submissions were received, one from an individual and one from Shelter Scotland. The feedback from these submissions has been taken into account as part of the overall analysis of engagement and consultation carried out to date.

APPENDIX 1: DISCUSSION PAPERS FOR STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP

Edinburgh's Local Housing Strategy

Stakeholder Workshop Event 23rd September 2024

Private Rented Sector: Background Paper



Data

No.	Edinburgh	Number	Data from
1	Registered landlords	44,111	Sep 2024
2	Registered HMO properties	6,596	Mar 2023
3	Registered short-term lets licences granted	4,005	Sep 2024
4	Purpose Built Student Accommodation bed spaces (incl. university & privately owned)	22,058	Jun 2023
5	Private Sector Leasing scheme properties	1,830	Mar 2023
6	Homeless cases resulting from loss of PRS tenancies	520	23/24
7	Average PRS Rent by property size	1 bed £1,035 YoY up 11.8% 2 beds £1,385 YoY up 6.3% 3 beds £1,896 YoY up 10.7% 4 beds £2,553 YoY up 6.3% All £1,481 YoY up 7.9%	Q1, 2024

Data source 7 - City Lets (YoY = year on year)

Key Messages

- Increased importance of the private rented sector in Edinburgh within the housing system. PRS makes up 24% of homes in Edinburgh.
- Highest ever rents and increases in the private sector since records began. This means renting is becoming increasingly unaffordable in Edinburgh for many people.
- Changing policy landscape impacts of recent actions such as the mini-budget, legislation re PRS; 2020 emergency legislation and the Housing Bill (Scotland) 2024, leading to unknown impact and implications for tenants, landlords, and investors.

Feedback on Housing Supply and PRS through LHS engagement

Housing Supply

"We have a chronic lack of affordable rented accommodation this needs to be addressed by increasing supply"

Rent controls and affordability

"Housing in Edinburgh is completely out of control with the cost of just renting a room in someone else's house becoming unaffordable. We need more social housing and we need rent controls..."

"...the rents must be affordable. People are having to claim benefits to enable them to pay the very high rents charged by private landlords which therefore means the public purse ie the tax payers are subsidising and lining the pockets of private enterprise."

Housing benefit not covering rents in PRS

"...not enough housing benefit to cover rents of the PRS; average housing cost is no longer reflected in housing benefit."

Housing Quality

"Housing in Edinburgh is abysmal and is at the mercy of uninterested landlords who do nothing to maintain or improve the property but will gouge prices as much as possible."

Multiple properties

"It lacks any ideas regarding tackling landlords who own multiple properties and how they exploit the current state of the market"

Landlord Registration

"Living Rent: Greater resources should be used in landlord registration, to ensure that the council is properly enforcing the "fit and proper" requirements of landlord registration. Issues of serious prolonged disrepair, bad practice (such as threatening or illegal behaviour) failure to upkeep EPC standards should lead to the Council penalising landlords..."

Young people and Single people

"Urgent need to supply houses that can be bought or rented by young people or those on modest incomes. Desperate need to consider single people and affordable rental properties ..."

Purpose Built Student Accommodation (PBSA)

"Edinburgh desperately needs homes to rent at an affordable rent. There seems to be a focus on the build of student accommodation."

Fear of eviction in PRS and Support for Mid-market rent

"I lived in private lets in Edinburgh for 20 years ... Over those 20 years rents went up and up and I had a constant rumbling anxiety that I would be evicted and not be able to afford anything. Buying was impossible so my options were very limited. I feel incredibly privileged to have my current (mid-market rent) home with a reasonable rent and no worries about being evicted."

Short Term Lets (STL)

"More needs to be done to regulate Airbnbs/short-term lets, as this impacts on the availability of affordable accommodation for local residents."

Accessible Housing in the Private Rented Sector

"...There's also a huge accessibility problem with so many properties only accessible by climbing stairs."

Increasing regulations

"The amount of taxes and laws against landlords are setting the example for young people not to follow that path ..."

Private Sector Key Issues/ Challenges

- Rent levels in the City are at the highest since records began. Demand far outweighs supply and affordability for renters or prospective renters is a significant problem.
- The sustained Cost of Living Crisis is impacting on tenants' abilities to pay rent.
- Uncertainty about how the sector will develop in terms of growth or reduction in the number of lets.
- Housing quality in the private rented sector for some properties can be poor.
- Single people's incomes are often stretched the most by high PRS rent levels.
- Whilst improvements have been made in recent years the PRS currently offers less stability than social rent and home ownership
- Short Term Lets reduce the number of longer-term accommodation options available to residents.
- PBSA rent levels are high and developments are often not well received by local residents and students

Examples of work currently underway

- The LHS will focus on continuing to improve the operation of the Private Rented Sector through landlord registration and licensing.
- The Council's Private Rented Sector Enforcement Team deals with over 2,000 complaints per annum. The team takes a range of enforcement action from providing advice and guidance, issuing Rent Penalty Notices, to submitting reports to the Procurator Fiscal where offences are identified.
- Landlords are required by law to register with the Council to ensure they are fit and proper and comply with their legal responsibilities to ensure their properties meet the required safety standards.
- Properties licenced in the private rented sector such as HMOs and STLs are subject to additional safety checks and inspections and additional licence conditions. The aim is to ensure these properties meet the required standards.
- Ensuring Landlords are aware of responsibilities/actions required from them.
- Continue to ensure that Short Term Lets only operate with the relevant planning permission and licences in place, taking robust enforcement action against operators who do not comply with their responsibilities.

- Continue to support people to consider the PRS, where relevant, as a housing option through advice and information.
- Continue partnership working with the police etc to ensure enforcement action can be taken where needed.
- Monitor and report on private rent levels and landlord registrations to fully understand the sector's size, changes and rent (affordability) levels.
- Create links between Planning and Housing departments and elected members to review housing provision for students.

Discussion Questions

- o Do you agree with the list of current Private Rented Sector Issues/ Challenges?
- o Which challenges should be prioritised?
- o What key actions should be taken?

Housing Quality and Sustainable Homes

Background Paper

Key Messages

- The characteristic/ profile of Edinburgh's housing (tenement flats, listed buildings, and conservation areas) poses additional challenges to repair, maintain and improve existing homes.
- Timely and good standard of repairs is crucial to keep homes free of draughts, mould and dampness, which in turn helps residents to heat their homes efficiently, reducing fuel poverty and improving health and well-being of the residents.
- Bringing existing homes to net zero standard comes with a cost. For social housing, this is primarily funded by tenants' rents. It is questionable whether social tenants, who are often the most vulnerable people in the society, should bear these costs.

Example feedback received so far through LHS engagement

Additional challenges due to housing types and characteristics:

"I love how Edinburgh is trying to protect its own historical building and the cityscape. However, with majority of the housing being tenement buildings (plus many are listed!) it brings difficulties to maintain and live in for a long time comfortably ..."

More support to homeowners:

"Help should be provided to support home owners to upgrade their house to meet environmental priorities. Refunds should be offered to owners who shouldered those costs to improve the house they live in or they rent out."

Housing conditions (repairs) and residents' well-being:

"Several children we (Children 1st) have supported have experienced ill health due to poor housing conditions, including mould, damp, broken windows and mice. This, in turn, has led to children missing school or nursery because they are unwell or need to attend medical appointments. We have experienced families who feel embarrassed by the condition of their home environment, and on this basis have refused professionals or family/friends to visit, limiting the support that families can receive."

Costs to Council tenants:

"The burden of repairing and building housing stock should not be placed solely on tenants through year on year rent increases, Edinburgh City Council should seek to keep rents fair for council tenants by keeping yearly rent increases at a fair level, supplementing the HRA with other funds and making sure that tenants are able to use the Discretionary Housing Fund."

Bringing empty homes up to standard to help increasing supply:

"Too little affordable houses within Edinburgh. Many empty properties that could house people after some maintenance work. Existing empty buildings need to be reviewed and fixed."

"... Edinburgh council need to build new properties to replace [what] has been sold off, bring the housing stock up to a better standard and get all the voids back into circulation ..."

Issues and Challenges

- The City of Edinburgh Council has a target to reduce carbon emissions to net zero by 2030, i.e. 15 years before the Scottish Government's target and 20 years before the UK Government's target. This potentially creates a misalignment between the Council's plan and possible funding available from the governments for relevant work.
- Homeowners, especially those living in tenement flats, found it difficult to organise repairs, maintenance and improvement to the communal areas of the buildings. Additional challenges for those in listed buildings and conservation areas.
- Costs involved are often the major barrier for homeowners (and private landlords) trying
 to improve their homes to high energy efficiency/ net zero standard. For social landlords,
 there is a challenge to keep rents affordable while raising enough rental income to fund
 the investment required to meet the net zero standard.
- Approximately 50% of the Council homes are situated in mixed tenure blocks, where consent/ agreement is required from a majority of owners in the blocks to proceed with repairs and maintenance in the common areas of the buildings.
- There is little incentive for private developers to build new homes that are above and beyond what is required by the legislation/ building regulations.

Examples of work currently underway

Improving standards of existing (Council) homes

The Council's Housing Service has a large Whole House Retrofit (WHR) programme already underway which will make existing Council homes as energy efficient and as close to net zero as possible. The WHR programme will be progressed through a two-prong approach, with the low-rise blocks using the model developed by the Mixed Tenure Improvement Service (MTIS) Pilot in Wester Hailes and working as part of area-based regeneration; and the high-rise blocks to develop specific bespoke design and intrusive survey processes for various construction types found across the blocks.

Since the implementation of the Acquisition and Disposal policy, the Council has purchased 405 homes and sold 205 homes. This has led to 82 blocks becoming fully Council-owned, 150 blocks where the Council has divested its interest and 306 blocks where the Council has further consolidated its majority ownership. This in turns helps the Council to manage blocks repairs and improvements. The policy will continue to work along the MTIS to help facilitate WHR in mixed tenure low-rise blocks.

Supporting flat owners to organise repairs, maintenance and improvement in communal areas of buildings

The Council's Edinburgh Shared Repairs Service (ESRS) offers free advice and information to help owners organise repairs to the shared or common areas of the property. Its Missing Shares Service helps flat owners, who are having problems getting other owners to pay their share of

repair costs, to progress essential repairs and maintenance in the common areas of a tenement or block of flats.

The Council has also been working closely with Under One Roof, a charity that provides impartial advice on repairs and maintenance for flat owners in Scotland. In 2023, the charity organised and ran two events for the ESRS, and an on-line event for Landlord Registration which provided information to private landlords in Edinburgh regarding the new repairing standard.

Future proofing new build homes

The Council-led housebuilding programme prioritises delivery of homes on brownfield sites, reducing pressure on Edinburgh's green belt. Building more homes will inevitably produce more carbon, however, the Council aims to build homes which are as energy efficient and sustainable as possible. Since November 2020, all new build Council homes have been designed to achieve net zero carbon.

The Council has also started to roll out heat networks through large scale regeneration in areas where the Council has significant influence and/or areas of strategic importance to the city, for example, at Granton Waterfront.

Mould and Dampness (in Council homes)

The Council developed a Dampness, Preservation and Mould Service Improvement Plan, which was agreed at the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee in May 2023. It includes actions to review and develop all processes and procedures relating to the treatment of dampness and mould in Council homes. A dedicated Damp and Mould team to support the delivery of the actions in the improvement plan has also been established.

Bringing empty homes up to lettable standard and back in use

The post for a dedicated private sector Empty Homes Officer (EHO) was made permanent in April 2022. Since 2019, 221 homes have been brought back in to use by the Council's EHO. Due to the success of the EHO work, the Council's Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee agreed to recruit an additional EHO for 18 months in February 2024.

The post will be funded by the use of Rapid Rehousing Transition Funding and will aim to create a supply of "empty homes" in the market that can be used as temporary accommodation for homeless households, through the development of a 'match maker' scheme – matching homeless households to potential landlords. There may also be scope for using the Council's acquisitions policy to increase the number of properties in its own stock.

As well as providing advice and information to owners to help bring the empty homes back in to use, the EHO has developed relationships with colleagues in other service areas, including Edinburgh Shared Repair Service (ESRS), typically to identify owners of empty properties where communal repairs are needed, and identify potentially dangerous properties where ESRS may need to carry out emergency works.

Opportunities

- Scottish Government consulted on a new Social Housing Net Zero Standard (SHNZS) between November 2023 and March 2024. The new standard will replace the second Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing (EESSH2). Based on the anticipated timeline, the new SHNZS is to be introduced in 2025 at the earliest. With the introduction of new standards, it is possible that a new funding regime may be introduced to support social landlords to meet the new standards.
- Housing to 2040, the Scottish Government's strategic plan for housing, includes an
 action to introduce legislation to implement a new Housing Standard, which will cover
 all homes (new and existing). This new standard could potentially help to improve
 conditions in all homes, especially those in the private sector.
- The Scottish Law Commission published a discussion paper on Tenement law: compulsory owners' associations in April 2024 for consultation (until 1 August 2024). The discussion paper includes proposals on the establishment, formation and operation of compulsory owners' associations and the rights and responsibilities to be imposed on them. The discussion paper was prepared in response to the Final Recommendations Report of the Scottish Parliament's Working Group on Maintenance of Tenement Scheme Property, which contains three interconnected recommendations: a building condition inspection every five years; an owners' association for every tenement building; and a building reserve fund, to be administered by the owners' association. The three recommendations aim to help to address disrepair, and to facilitate building improvements to enhance the energy efficiency of the tenement stock. After analysing responses to this discussion paper and carrying out any further research required, the Scottish Law Commission will provide the Scottish Government with a report detailing its recommendations on compulsory owners' associations and provide a draft Bill for consideration, estimated to become available in the Spring of 2026.

Discussion Questions

- Do you agree with the list of current issues/ challenges identified in relation housing condition and sustainable homes?
- Which challenges should be prioritised?
- What key actions should be taken?

Accessible Housing/Independent Living: Background Paper

Data

- Around 39% of Council and EdIndex Registered Social Landlord (RSL) partner social rented homes are classed as ground floor, but not all ground floor homes are accessible.
- As of 31 August 2024, 470 applicants on EdIndex (Edinburgh's common housing register) with Gold or Urgent Gold Priority (mobility needs). Around 10%-15% of applicants with Gold or Urgent Gold priority require fully wheelchair adapted housing.
- £3 million spent on adaptations to Council homes, RSL homes and private homes in 2023/24.
- In 2019 there were 7,784 people aged 65 plus estimated to be living with dementia in Edinburgh; 9.8% of this demographic. An estimated 281 people under 65 years were living with dementia.
- Between 2018 and 2030, the number of people estimated to have dementia in Edinburgh is expected to increase by 26.5%
- In Edinburgh, 65.7% of older people aged 65 plus who have high levels of care needs live at home (compared to 63.5% Scotland overall).
- Edinburgh has comparatively few care homes for its population (about 6 care home beds per thousand of its population compared with 8 for Scotland as a whole). The city manages with comparatively few care home beds because it has a large care at home sector.
- Estimated 2,255 people (18 plus) with a learning disability in Edinburgh. National population of adults with a learning disability is predicted to increase by 2% each year.

Edinburgh Health and Social Partnership delivers and commissions services which include:

- Technology Enabled Care to around 9 -10,000 people a year
- Around 2,000 people supported through learning disability services
- Dementia services
- Care at Home services to around 8,000 adults and older people at some point in a year
- Substance Use services
- Sight Loss rehabilitation, access and advice for sight loss, deaf equipment and deaf social care
- Carers Support Services
- Health interventions to people who are homeless
- Services to prevent admission to and support discharge from hospital, with about 5,000 discharges supported each year
- Thrive Edinburgh prevention, early intervention and treatment services (mental health)

Key Messages

- Demographic change in Edinburgh will create more demand for health and care services.
- Housing sector can help meet health and social care objectives around shifting the balance of care from expensive clinical and institutional settings to helping people live independently at home or in a homely or community setting as far as possible.
- Access to a safe, warm and affordable home that can support changing needs is important for overall health and wellbeing.

- Need more accessible and adaptable homes across tenures, but also need to adapt existing homes.
- Care and support services alongside the right housing are key to supporting independent living.
- People with learning disabilities and complex care needs want to be supported to live in their own homes and communities and want to be involved in decision-making around this.

Accessible Housing Study 2021/22 feedback and findings

- Challenges in meeting need in context of Edinburgh's housing stock profile (older/flatted), market pressures and supply issues.
- Consider role of market housing and Mid Market Rent in contributing to wheelchair & accessible housing.
- Delivery of wheelchair & accessible housing needs to be wider than new supply. Adaptation or change of use of existing built assets should be considered.
- Enhance provision of wheelchair and accessible homes in the city across tenures, engaging with partners to set achievable targets, taking into account property size and location.
- Explore ways of improving data sharing and analysis between partners, to support forward planning and commissioning.
- Location of accessible & wheelchair homes is important for access to support, amenities & workplace as well as the accessibility features & safety of external environment.
- Understand role of Planning in provision of accessible homes across tenures.
- Importance of good quality care & support as well as appropriate accommodation.
- Need for information & support to be provided to help people search for suitable properties & get advice on adaptations.

Feedback received so far through LHS early engagement:

"Provision of care and support and stronger linkages between these services and housing are needed to ensure people can be supported to remain at home for as long as they choose"

"Urgent need to address failure of private sector house builders to provide accessible housing beyond the affordable sector"

"There should be more affordable and accessible accommodation available for all ages"

"We need more disabled accessible homes, particularly "family sized" homes (minimum of 3 bedrooms)"

"People with learning disabilities should have a choice if they want to live on their own or with others. The right care package to live an independent life also needs to be in place. Support services do not always offer what we need. We need flexible services built around us"

Key Issues/ Challenges

- Responding to need and demand for more accessible and wheelchair homes, including larger homes, in context of funding pressures.
- Role of private sector in providing more accessible and adaptable 'homes for life'.
- Improving the way we deliver and resource adaptations.
- Gaps in knowledge about existing provision and future needs.
- Meeting housing and care/support needs of people with complex learning disabilities.
- Joined-up approach to housing and care and support.

Opportunities

- Potential to make better use of existing assets across partner organisations repurposing/refurbishing.
- New IJB Strategic Plan and LHS identifying needs and joint priorities for housing and health and social care.
- Role of technology in supporting independent living.
- Improve access to advice and support for people who don't have online access or who need additional help.
- Scottish Government proposed Scottish Accessible Homes Standard to improve accessibility across tenures.

Work planned or currently underway

- Housing Emergency Action Plan commitment on working with partners to enable independent living and reduce delayed discharge rates.
- Review of Allocation Policy for Council homes opportunity, along with EdIndex
 partners, to look at how we allocate accessible homes and improve support for people
 who don't have online access or need more help to apply and bid for social rented
 homes
- Request for Accessible Housing Summit in early 2025 from Council's Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee
- Working with health and social care colleagues to improve understanding of needs across different population groups now and in medium to longer term and strengthen joint working.
- Reviewing governance, delivery and funding for adaptations.

Discussion Questions

- Do you agree with the list of current Issues/ Challenges?
- o Which areas of work should be prioritised?
- o Is there anything else we need to think about within this section?

Innovation and Partnership Working: Background Paper

Key Messages

- In a time of unprecedented challenge for the housing and homelessness sector, partnership working is vitally important.
- Edinburgh's housing crisis cannot be resolved by the Council alone there is a need to continue to build on effective partnership working across the board.
- These challenges, particularly financial pressures, call for innovation and different models of delivery. Traditional funding routes will not be sufficient to deliver at the scale required.
- In the face of new challenges, we collectively need to think differently.

Example feedback received so far through LHS engagement

Private sector role: "the strategy should focus on delivering more housing, and that will require investment and development from the private sector, particularly given the current constraints on public finances.... closer working between public and private sectors is required, and is perhaps something that we could do better in Edinburgh."

Funding for affordable housing delivery: "increased delivery of affordable housing must be supported through financially sustainable funding streams and the Council have a role to play in recognising and promoting non-traditional funding routes in the AHSP grant funding environment."

Commissioning: "the strategy needs to meet the needs of the people in a planned, measure and intelligent form of commissioning."

Public sector partnerships: "we need to work together with our public sector partners.... the status quo cannot stay the same and we really need to do things differently, or things will not change."

Partnership and participation: "meaningful participation takes time and resources but can lead to better and more effective policies in the end."

Background Information

- Over the last 10 years, the Council, housing associations and wider partners have delivered 11,134 new affordable homes (incl. homes for social rent, mid-market rent, intermediate rent and low-cost home ownership). Around half were delivered with Scottish Government grant funding.
- The latest City Plan (which will be reported to Council for formal adoption in November 2024) seeks to increase the proportion of affordable homes in new residential planning applications of 12 homes or more, from 25% to 35%.
- There has been a gap between grant funding allocation and what is required to deliver new affordable homes at the scale required. This has been further exacerbated by a 24% cut in grant at the beginning of 2024/25. By working together with partners on the phasing of projects and their ability to bring forward private finance, as well as the strategic use of commuted sums, an affordable housing programme of 587 new approvals has been able to be brought forward in 2024/25.

• Edinburgh has just been awarded £14.8m from the Scottish Government's National Acquisitions fund. This fund was targeted at local authorities experiencing the greatest temporary accommodation pressures. This is for acquisitions to help address temporary accommodation pressures or to bring long term voids back into use. Acquisitions can be either existing properties or new build off the shelf, but they must be a permanent structure and available in perpetuity. These sums cannot be used to support the ongoing delivery of new housing developments.

Examples of innovation and partnership working currently underway

Innovation & Viability Work Programme - housing delivery

- A cross-service working group has been established to explore approaches to support a
 sustainable programme of Council housebuilding into the future. Key areas for
 consideration are financial modelling to reduce the reliance on grants, increasing
 income to mitigate the reduction in the grant availability, managing cost increases and
 delivering the Granton Waterfront project alongside the city-wide development
 programme.
- Different models are being explored, including lease-based and joint venture models.
- Modelling alternative income streams, including the Visitor Levy for Edinburgh and opportunities to increase income from land.
- Build-to-Rent model opportunities to deliver purpose built rental accommodation at a scale and pace which exceeds that of homes for market sale. Furthermore, Intermediate rent (affordable BTR) can be delivered without a requirement for grant funding.

Working with landowners on strategic sites as a development partner

 The Council is working with landowners on the Strategic Sites identified within City Plan 2030. Opportunities for delivery at scale, place making and development of sustainable communities and regeneration.

Increasing supply of affordable homes through purchase of completed and/or second hand homes

- Off-the-shelf purchase is a growing area with opportunities for quick delivery and increasing on-site affordable provision.
- The new £14.8m from the Scottish Government's National Acquisitions fund necessitates building on and accelerating this approach.

Increasing Supply through partnership models

- Increasing the supply of permanent accommodation through innovative partnership working has an important role to play in reducing the number of households in temporary accommodation.
- This includes a model enabled by Social Investment Funding, which is not available to Local Authorities but is open to third sector/ charitable bodies. Effective model for increasing the supply of permanent, settled accommodation for vulnerable groups.

Partnership working on existing properties

• Opportunities to work collaboratively to ensure best use and/ or repurposing of existing properties across the public sector estate and wider ownership.

Using data to support service delivery

• As part of the Housing Emergency Action Plan, a student placement has been facilitated to explore how data can be used more effectively to help support homelessness prevention.

Key Discussion Points

- Aside from financial and supply pressures, are there other key issues and challenges to consider as part of the wider picture around innovation and partnership working?
- Other examples of innovation and/ or partnership working?
- Other areas of opportunity?

Integrated Impact Assessment – Summary Report

4th Dec 2024

Each of the numbered sections below must be completed Please state if the IIA is interim or final: INTERIM

1. Title of proposal

Edinburgh's Local Housing Strategy (LHS) 2025-2030

2. What will change as a result of this proposal

The Housing Scotland Act 2001, requires that all Local Authorities prepare and submit a Local Housing Strategy to the Scottish Government every five years. The Local Housing Strategy is the key strategic document for housing and covers all tenures. Housing is relevant to all Edinburgh's citizens as well as a wide range of organisations working across the sector. An IIA is necessary as individual groups may be potentially adversely or positively affected by aspects of the strategy.

As a result of this proposal an updated Local Housing Strategy for Edinburgh (LHS) will be developed and published. The strategy includes the following chapters:

- 1. Deliver homes to provide choice & affordability for all
- 2. Support private renters, home-owners and landlords
- 3. Ensure homes are modern, warm and sustainable
- 4. Prevent and respond to homelessness
- 5. Provide suitable homes with the right support to meet people's needs
- 6. Develop vibrant, connected, safe and inclusive communities

The strategy will bring together existing strategies and policies with new actions also identified and taken forward through the development of the LHS. Progress will be monitored and reported on annually. Outcomes over the period of the LHS are anticipated to include;

- Increased affordable housing supply in Edinburgh
- A Private rented sector that increasingly provides good quality, affordable housing options to meet people's needs
- · Communities that are vibrant and safe, with access to the services needed
- Homelessness is addressed through early intervention, prevention and housing options
- Specialist housing provision is increased to help meet need
- The impact of Climate change in Edinburgh is mitigated in line with the City of Edinburgh's Climate Change Strategy
- New build council housing will continue to move towards net zero
- The number of households in fuel poverty will be minimised; and
- House condition and quality will be improved in the social rented sector

3. Briefly describe public involvement in this proposal to date and planned

The LHS is developed in consultation with a wide range of stakeholders including departments across the City of Edinburgh Council, Registered Social Landlord (RSL) partners, third sector organisations, community groups, private sector organisations such as housing developers and landlords and members of the public including Council tenants.

Public engagement is taking place in three phases. In Phase 1 a public survey was promoted in May/June 2024 to ascertain peoples housing priorities for Edinburgh. Phase 2 took place from July to October 2024 and involved participation in forums and partnership meetings along with community outreach sessions and targeted engagement for specific groups. Phase 3 will include public consultation of the draft Local Housing Strategy for 8 weeks between February and April 2025. Reviews of the Phase 2 engagement identified some gaps which will be addressed in further engagement with the private sector, ethnic minority groups and people with no recourse to public funds.

4. Is the proposal considered strategic under the Fairer Scotland Duty?

Yes.

The Fairer Scotland Duty came into force in April 2018 (Equality Act 2010, Part 1). This duty places a responsibility on the public sector to reduce inequalities of outcome, caused by socioeconomic disadvantage, when making strategic decisions and to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and advance equality of opportunity for people with protected characteristics (as defined in the Act) i.e. Age, Disability, Sex, Pregnancy and Maternity, Gender reassignment, Sexual orientation, Race, Religion and Belief, and Marriage and Civil Partnership.

5. Date of IIA

4 December 2024

6. Who was present at the IIA? Identify facilitator, lead officer, report writer and any employee representative present and main stakeholder (e.g. Council, NHS)

Name	Job Title	Date of IIA training
Jill Thompson	Housing and Homelessness	Training completed
	Strategy Manager	
Sarah Burns	Head of Housing Operations	
Cath O'Shea (Facilitator)	Senior Housing Development Officer	
Robyn Barrie (Lead officer)	Senior Housing Development Officer	
Chris Glover (Report writer)	Housing Development Officer	

Apologies

_ 1		
Lindsay Robertson	Senior Planning Officer	

7. Evidence available at the time of the IIA

Evidence	Available – detail source			•	u with regard to different groups who impacts of your proposal
Data on populations in need	South East Scotland Housing Need and Demand Assessment 3 (SESplan HNDA3)	the country. The latest HN shows the need for between	DA3 which en 36,000 estimated t	n received to 52,000	ost highly pressured housing markets in d robust and credible status in July 2022, new homes to be built in Edinburgh half, between 24,000 to 35,000 of those
	Number of households currently assessed as homeless; Council Homelessness data and Scottish Government Homelessness Statistics 2023/24. Number of households currently registered with EdIndex and average number of bids per property. EdIndex applicants by priority category, from Appendix 4 of the EdIndex during the Housing Emergency report to Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee, 27 Aug 2024.	Households presenting as lengths, all are rising.	homeless	, numbers	s in temporary accommodation and case
		open homeless cases in N	lovember 2 s in tempo	2024, the rary acco	ss households in Scotland, with over 7,600 highest of any local authority in Scotland. mmodation in Edinburgh has increased by eholds in November 2024.
		24,500 households are cu	rrently reg	istered wi	nomes advertised through Choice and over th EdIndex (Nov 2024).
		Table 2: Applicants by Priority	Category 31	/03/24	
		Choice Priority Category	Number	%	
		Gold	497	1.97%	
		Silver - Homeless	6,545	25.95%	
		Demo & Officer Panel	242	0.96%	
		Overcrowding	1,038	4.11%	
		Underoccupation	155	0.61%	
		Waiting Time	16,749	66.40%	
		Total	25,226	100%	

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected and to the environmental impacts of your proposal
Data on service uptake/access	See above row Council Homelessness data	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
	End Poverty in Edinburgh Annual Progress Report – 2024	declaration of a Housing Emergency in 2023. The Edinburgh Poverty Commissions Final Report (2020) noted that "There is no pathway to ending poverty in Edinburgh without resolving the city's housing crisis.", re-affirming the key role that access to good quality social housing plays in tackling inequality, poverty and social exclusion.
Data on socio- economic disadvantage e.g. low income, low wealth, material deprivation, area deprivation.	Yes Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD)	In many ways, Edinburgh is a flourishing, prosperous city. However, as with most major cities, wealth is not distributed equally. 17% of Edinburgh's residents – and 20% of all children – are living in poverty across the city. The majority of people living in poverty in Edinburgh are of working age, in employment, living in rented accommodation. Around 29,500 people in Edinburgh live in the most deprived 10% of areas in Scotland. This represents around 5% of Edinburgh total population
		The SIMD data shows that many of the Council's homes are situated in the most deprived areas in the City / Scotland. About 70-80% of the Council's tenants get help through Housing Benefits or Universal Credit housing element to pay for their rents.
	Council Homelessness data	Homeless households tend to have low incomes with only around 15% being in full time employment (RRTP IIA)
	Scottish House Condition Survey (SHCS)	The SHCS data shows that social housing sector has the highest level of fuel poverty.
Data on equality outcomes	Edinburgh Council City Plan 2030 IIA.	The social, economic and physical environmental conditions in Edinburgh are variable. In general, the population of Edinburgh enjoys a high standard of health. Average life expectancy is high with females living 81.1 years and males living to 77.1 years. However, there are significant inequalities in general health and mortality rates between different neighbourhoods within the city. (City Plan 2030 IIA). The majority of affordable housing provision in Edinburgh is in areas with low SIMD scores and supports regeneration in those areas.

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected and to the environmental impacts of your proposal
	Evidence and data sources are shown in the LHS	People with Protected Characteristics The Equality Act 2010 brings together legislation covering race, disability, and gender to remove inconsistencies and harmonise the law into a single approach. There are nine protected characteristics defined in the 2010 Act. We have added gender reassignment to the list of nine protected characteristics below.
	The Council's Accessible Housing Study (2022)	The provision of affordable housing should have a positive impact on people with protected characteristics; • Age Older people The LHS should have a positive impact on older people who are noted in the specialist housing section of the LHS and through IJB strategic planning. A third of
		the respondents to the Council's Accessible housing study (2022), with a health condition or disability, noted that they currently need adaptations to make their home more suitable for them. Actions in the LHS are linked to supporting people to stay in their own home as long as possible through adaptations and with the care support that they need.
	The SHIP 2025-30	the SHIP includes grant funding for RSLs to carry out adaptations to homes. This enables people to remain in their own homes and live independently. Adaptations continue to be a strategic housing investment priority. Each year a budget in the region of £900,000 supports over 400 adaptations within RSL homes. Adaptations to Council homes are funded from the Housing Revenue Account Accessible housing provision is key to providing more choices for older people with limited mobility or who are wheelchair users. Accessible housing is also covered in the specialist housing section of the LHS Younger people
	Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP)	are increasingly unable to enter the housing market and their routes to independent living are more difficult than 10 years ago due to increasing house prices and increasing rental and living costs. The percentage of 16-25 year olds in Edinburgh is 17% (Census 2022). Much of the work noted in the PRS section of the LHS will
	The Council's Accessible Housing Study (2022)	improve PRS housing conditions for anyone who is renting privately. The RRTP, which will now be mainstreamed into the LHS, includes ongoing commitments to support younger people at risk of, or experiencing, youth homelessness, including

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected and to the environmental impacts of your proposal
		 commissioned services, ongoing work to support care experienced young people and exploration into youth housing hub models. Disability As part of the Accessible Housing Study (2022), 92% of survey respondents were very or fairly satisfied with their home and how it meets their needs. In the same study, 42% of households who noted they have a health condition or disability stated that their current home does not meet the needs of their household. Furthermore, 53% of households with a health condition or disability are having trouble managing stairs at home.
		Providing accessible affordable housing for people with disabilities is referred to in the specialist housing section of the LHS. In addition the SHIP notes actions being taken by the Council and RSLs to support provision for people who are disabled. Sites have been completed recently through the AHSP with good levels of wheelchair access and for people with learning disabilities to live in core and cluster arrangements where support is available nearby.
	The Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) 2025-30	The SHIP 2025-30 pipeline includes 5% fully wheelchair accessible homes (5% of the grant funded programme) that could be approved over the next five years. These figures are below the long-standing target of 10% provision for affordable housing. It is assumed this is due to current economic challenges in delivering larger accessible affordable homes with no additional grant funding available through the AHSP to cover the additional build costs.
	City of Edinburgh Council Homelessness data	 Marriage or Civil Partnership – There are no specific issues in relation to this that apply to Edinburgh's Local housing strategy. Pregnancy and maternity The provision of a range of house types to meet housing need is a key theme of the LHS and this is relevant to the provision of family housing. The need for larger housing with 3+ bedrooms, is taken into account on all sites when planning new affordable housing. The number of children living in temporary accommodation in the capital is 148% higher than five years ago (March 2024). On 31 March 2024 there were 3,127 children living in temporary accommodation in Edinburgh, compared to 1,260 on 31st March 2019. Households with children also spend longer in the homelessness

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who
		may be affected and to the environmental impacts of your proposal
		system than those without, with single parent households spending on average 600
		days in temporary accommodation.
		The council shares information with education services whenever a child moves into
		temporary accommodation to encourage further support to be provided.
		478 pregnant women made homeless applications in Edinburgh between April 2021 and March 2024.
		• Race
		The Council and its partners, in relation to new house building and house
		acquisitions, continue to take account of issues relating to ethnic minorities. These
		include particular demand issues, such as household size and age distribution as
		well as accessibility and support for these groups where language and
		communication may be an issue. The council and RSL partners are committed to
		providing housing and support for asylum seekers and refugees. The specialist housing Chapter of the LHS covers these issues.
		· ·
		Religion or belief There are no specific religion or belief, equality issues that apply to the Local
		Housing Strategy
		• Sex
		Edinburgh's Local Housing Strategy includes reference to women's safety issues in
		relation to tackling anti-social behaviour in Chapter 4 on Neighbourhoods. The
		development of the Community Safety and Antisocial Behaviour Strategy for 2024-
		202 is captured as an action within the LHS. The LHS Homelessness Chapter 2
		also reviews different strands of support for women experiencing domestic abuse
		and refers to the Council's Domestic Abuse Policy.
		Sexual Orientation (LGBT+)
		Multi-agency support is needed to ensure the inclusion, well-being, and safety of the
		LGBT+ community across the city. The Equality Network's Response to the Human
		Rights Bill for Scotland Consultation, highlighted that housing conditions are one of
		the issues experienced as an LGBT+ person. An estimated 24% of homeless young
		people identify as LGBT+ and 77% of these young people identify coming out to
		their parents as the main factor in becoming homeless. The LGBT+ Health and
		Wellbeing Fit for Purpose report highlights the specific needs of the older members
		of the LGBT+ community too, in regards to housing and social care.
		Gender reassignment – trans/ transgender identity

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected and to the environmental impacts of your proposal
		Discrimination may also be faced by people who are transgender or are going through gender reassignment. This might include difficulties in securing a PRS home due to discrimination. Multi-agency support is also required to support this group. Access to affordable housing is provided through the Council's allocation policy which follows equalities legislation and best practice. • Other vulnerable groups; The following vulnerable groups will benefit from implementation of the LHS in providing more affordable homes and sustained support for people who may become or are homeless; Unemployed • Single parents and vulnerable families • People on benefits • Those involved in the criminal justice system • People in the most deprived communities (lowest 20% SIMD areas) • pensioners • Looked After Children • Carers including young carers • People misusing substances • Others e.g. Veterans • Students • Single adult households • People who have experienced the asylum system • Those leaving the care setting including children and young people • those with illness • Homeless people • People with low literacy/numeracy • People with lower educational qualifications • People in low paid work • People with one or more Protected Characteristics
Research/literature evidence	Edinburgh Council's Housing Emergency Action Plan (HEAP)	 This report highlights the unprecedented economic situation and challenges facing Edinburgh's citizens, particularly the poorest, with regards to finding appropriate and affordable housing. The report proposes actions aimed at addressing the current crisis.
	Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD)	 Shows clearly where people with the highest multiple deprivation factors are living. This is taken into account when new housing developments or improvement of existing affordable homes is planned.
	3. Edinburgh Council City Plan 2030	Extensive data on Edinburgh's population now and into the future and the location of proposed areas of land where housing development is supported.
	4. South East Scotland Housing Need and Demand Assessment 3 (HNDA)	4. The purpose of the HNDA is to estimate the future number of additional housing units to meet existing and future housing need and demand based on a range of scenarios. The latest HNDA (HNDA 3) states that there is demand for between 36,000 and 52,000 new homes in Edinburgh between 2021 to 2040 with between 24,000 to 35,000 of these homes needing to be affordable.
	5. HARSAG recommendations, Scottish Government Ending	

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected and to the environmental impacts of your proposal
	Homelessness Together Action Plan (Nov 2018) and CEC's Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP) 6. The joint Scottish Government	 5. All these reports evidence the need to change the mix of temporary accommodation, reduce the number of households in temporary accommodation and prevent homelessness wherever possible. 6. identified the ways in which prevention of homelessness as a legal duty may be
	and CoSLA Prevention Duty consultation paper	achieved and defines homelessness prevention as a shared responsibility across public bodies.
	7. The Youth homelessness Prevention Pathway published by A Way Home Scotland	lays out a pathway to ending youth homelessness and identifies issues that more commonly arise for young people.
	8. The Scottish Government consultation on "A New Deal for Tenants" draft rental strategy.	 Considers potential establishment of a new housing standard, in support of good outcomes for tenants.
	9. Climate Strategy 2030	9. Reviews the climate situation and calls for reduction in climate damaging emissions along with planning for the impacts of climate change and mitigating against its impacts. Consideration of mitigation of flood risk is considered in the planning process. Further notes on climate considerations are made in the Environmental and Sustainability impacts section further on in this IIA.
		An extensive range of further reports/ literature is referred to and referenced in the LHS.
Public/patient/client experience information	Information from extensive engagement and consultation carried out through LHS work in	The LHS is informed by; Phase 1 - public survey (May 2024) to ascertain peoples housing priorities for Edinburgh, with 345 responses. The top priority out of 10 choices for respondents was Housing Supply.
	2024 for all residents across all tenures with further consultation planned for 2025.	LHS Phase 2 – Targeted engagement (July – Oct 2024) including participation in forums and partnership meetings along with delivering community outreach sessions for residents and specific groups. Through these methods over 550 people participated. Top responses to the housing priorities question here remained as housing supply apart from U16s who were more concerned to live in safe areas.
		LHS Phase 3 consultation and engagement will include presenting the draft LHS for online public consultation/ feedback.

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected and to the environmental impacts of your proposal
	Engagement with Council tenants includes annual survey, focus groups, tenant panels, tenant led service inspection and scrutiny, resident and community meetings.	Tenant surveys since 2015 have shown more affordable housing to be tenants' top priority with 90% believing it should be a core investment priority.
Evidence of inclusive engagement of people who use the service and involvement findings		In promoting and carrying out LHS engagement opportunities a mix of digital and non-digital platforms were used. This included the Council's website, social media platforms and e-footers, as well as advertising via partner organisations to reach their networks through their webpages, social media platforms, newsletters and word-of-mouth. Posters were displayed in community buildings across the city, a dedicated telephone line was set up and paper copies were available for all materials. Printed information included a "Happy to Translate" reference number for people wishing to access information in other languages and/or formats. Online information is also accessible for those who are sight impaired through the "Read Aloud" function A range of engagement opportunities were carried out to offer choice and flexibility, in a bid to make the engagement as accessible and inclusive as possible. These included workshops held online and in-person, attendance at a range of different partnerships/ forums as well as a selection of community outreach events. The community outreach events proved particularly effective in reaching out to people who may otherwise not have participated such as; a Learning disabilities group, older adult groups; (Newhaven knitters, Leith Men's shed and a day-care centre for older people in Gracemount), refugees and asylum seekers, a primary school and youth music group in Muirhouse. Engagement findings The full findings from the above are noted in the LHS Consultation and Engagement Report. The report lists key findings and challenges.
		The key themes that arose across phases 1 and 2 of the LHS engagement were: • Housing Supply – this was by far the most frequently recurring theme

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected and to the environmental impacts of your proposal
		 Questions around what is meant by affordable housing/ is affordable housing truly affordable? Lack of funding and competing priorities such building homes vs the costs of energy efficiency standards High housing costs across all tenures Comments on specific types of housing: short-term lets, Purpose-Built Student Accommodation and the private rented sector more broadly Potential impacts of the Housing (Scotland) Bill New build housing developments and required infrastructure The need for more accessible housing Neighbourhood safety/ anti-social behaviour
Evidence of unmet need	Yes Homelessness in Scotland update to 30 September 2022	Over the last ten years, Edinburgh's population has grown by more than 57,000 – an increase of 13%. Growth is projected to continue at an annual average of almost 3,500 per year in the period to 2032 taking the total population to 563,600. The growth is not projected to be uniform across all age groups. The greatest increase in population is projected for older people with the number of people aged over 65 increasing by 28,000. By 2032, the average household size in Edinburgh is projected to fall to 2.0. The decreasing household size in the City means that household growth will be even higher than the population growth. By 2032, the number of households is projected to increase by 18% - a growth of 41,000 3,303 households were assessed as homeless, or threatened with homelessness in 2022/23, an increase of 30% on the previous year (2,540). This represents a return to pre-covid levels (3,365 in 2019/20) following a significant reduction during 2020/21 (1,958) (RRTP) The Energy Advice Service had a waiting list of 91 households as of 1 February 2024. The service has received an additional £158,000 funding at start of 2023 from the HRA to increase capacity as demand has increased.

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected and to the environmental impacts of your proposal
	RRTP	RRTP provides evidence of pressures in Edinburgh due to lack of settled accommodation for people to move to. Supporting evidence comes from Housing Need and Demand Assessment 2. The RRTP and annual updates sets out position relating to number of homeless households to whom the Council had a duty to find a settled home in 2017/18 vs. number of social rented homes available each year. This highlights lack of social rented homes to meet all needs The RRTP and updates also provides information on the number of people in temporary accommodation and the increase in length of stay in temporary accommodation.
	Number of households currently registered with EdIndex and average number of bids per property (based on Qtr1 and 2 of 24/25)	290 households (on average) bid for each home advertised through Key to Choice and 25,633 households are currently registered with EdIndex (Nov 2024 Council data)
	Housing Emergency Action Plan (HEAP)	As part of the Council's Housing Emergency Action Plan the target percentage of lets to homeless households has increased from 71% to 76% (Council social rented homes) and 55% to 65% (RSL social rented homes).
Good practice guidelines	Scottish Government LHS Guidance 2019	Scottish Government LHS Guidance (2019) was followed in preparation of the Edinburgh's LHS.
Carbon emissions generated/reduced data	2019 Carbon Modelling study	In 2019 Edinburgh Council commissioned Napier university to carry out carbon modelling in relation to existing and new homes. It was estimated that the addition of 10,000 new affordable homes (to silver standard), would increase overall CEC housing green house gas emissions by +9%, whilst increasing the number of affordable homes by 50%. However, in reality this increase would be lessened because . since November 2020 all new build Council homes have been designed to achieve net zero carbon.
		The Council's Fourth Quarter Granton Demonstrator Housing development project completed in October 2024. It used offsite construction principles which has the potential to reduce construction site emissions further.
		A significant level of intervention in existing homes is required to deliver advanced whole house retrofit to meet statutory requirements for energy efficiency and net zero

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected and to the environmental impacts of your proposal
		carbon. The whole house retrofit pilot will focus on ten of the most common building types across the Council estate.
		A new Social Housing Net Zero Standard (SHNZS) in Scotland will replace the EESSH2. It includes a proposal for a "fabric efficiency rating" equivalent to current EPC rating between B and C.
		The above measures for new build and existing Social rent homes will have a positive impact on the lives of tenants reducing heating demand and energy costs and improving indoor air quality and comfort.
		An Energy Advice Service is in place for Council tenants. Between February 2023 and January 2024, the service supported 1,529 tenants, and helped to deliver c.£296k financial savings to tenants and c.300,000 kg of carbon savings.
Environmental data	Internal Edinburgh Council data sources	All new build homes must meet current Scottish Building Standards. In addition RSL social house build and Council social house building requirements are higher than general build standards.
		All local authorities are required to create a Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES) and Delivery Plan. Edinburgh LHEES, approved in Dec 2023, covers a 20-year journey to decarbonisation. The LHEES focuses on improving energy efficiency and reducing carbon emissions in different building types, in both residential sector (housing of all tenures) and services sector (all non-domestic buildings in the public and commercial sector), and heat networks across the city.
		Over the last 12 years, over 800 mostly small scale locally nominated projects have been delivered throughout the city on housing account land through the Estates Improvement Programme (EIP) formerly known as Neighbourhood Environment Projects (NEPs). Engagement with Council tenants in 2022 led to a new approach to delivering small to medium scale local estate improvement projects which are now quicker, more responsive and more comprehensive. The programme focuses on landscaping investment, improvements to communal gardens and preparation for community growing areas, delivering greener, more climate friendly and biodiverse projects.

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected and to the environmental impacts of your proposal
		The Community Gardens project is into its fourth year, with support provided to 40+ existing community gardens and three new community gardens more recently established.
		The LHS references and supports wider corporate activities to improve and maintain greenspaces, recognising the twin challenge of the Biodiversity Crisis and Climate Change. The strategy reaffirms the Council's declaration of a Nature Emergency and sets out a commitment for increasing collaboration across Housing and Parks and Greenspaces.
Risk from cumulative impacts	Yes	Private sector rents and private houses for sale are at the highest levels ever recorded in the City. (City lets data).
		The Scottish Government's 'Rent affordability in the affordable housing sector' report (June 2019) states that 'Based on research, a rent can be considered affordable when housing costs do not consume more than 30-40% of households' incomes'.
		The average renter in the PRS in Edinburgh is paying 40.3% of their income on rent. The average tenant spends £743/ month on their share of the rent and earns an average of £25,456 net income (Canopy rent affordability data, Nov 2024).
		In addition, the 'cost-of-living crisis' means that residents across Edinburgh are all facing increasing costs, in all aspects of their daily lives.
		Most Council tenants (70% to 80%) are supported by receiving assistance with their rent through Housing Benefit or the housing element of Universal Credit. For Council tenants heating charges will be frozen in 2024/25 while a detailed review is being carried out.
		In February 2024, councillors agreed to increase rent by 7% every year, for five years, starting in April 2024. This longer-term strategy aims to give tenants more certainty about the rent they'll pay and help the Council to better plan spending to improve homes and services. If Council tenant's rents were not increased, then planned capital investment to improve properties would need to be significantly reduced. Tenants experiencing financial hardship can apply for support from the Council's Tenant Hardship Fund.
Other (please specify) Additional evidence		At the conclusion of the first two phases of LUC angergment, some apportunities to
required		At the conclusion of the first two phases of LHS engagement, some opportunities to further strengthen engagement have been identified. This includes dedicated

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected and to the environmental impacts of your proposal	
		engagement with the private sector, with individuals with no recourse to public funds and with minority ethnic people. This will be built into the third phase of engagement.	

8. In summary, what impacts were identified and which groups will they affect?

Equality, Health and Wellbeing and Human Rights and Children's Rights	Affected populations
Positive The Local Housing Strategy should have a positive impact on tackling inequality through investment in new affordable tenure homes for people on low to medium incomes.	City-wide All Edinburgh's residents living in all tenures of housing
Increased access to affordable housing and well-designed, safer and cleaner communities will contribute to improved health, reduce fuel poverty and provide homes which are physically accessible.	across the City, including people who are homeless.
The majority of new build properties delivered by the Council and its housing association partners are accessible for people of limited mobility, meaning limited mobility needs housing requirements can often be met through allocation of a standard property.	Homeseekers and people who are
Each year the AHSP allocates around £1,000,000 for adaptations made by RSLs for tenants to enable people to remain in their own homes and to live independently. In addition to this, the Council funds adaptations to Council homes through the HRA.	homeless with general, varying and complex needs and different economic status.
The Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP) had many goals including; preventing homelessness, seeking to reduce the amount of time that homeless people spend in temporary accommodation, ensure homeless households have access to settled, mainstream housing as quickly as possible and increasing access to the PRS by developing a dedicated team of housing officers to assist with this.	
In addition the RRTP details how the care leavers housing protocol's aim is to avoid care leavers having to go through the homeless route to secure accommodation, instead they will be supported and awarded Exceptional Housing Need priority, which will give them a reasonable preference when bidding for social rented accommodation. This remains an ongoing area of work to strengthen support for these individuals.	Young people leaving care settings
Pathways for people leaving prison or hospital will improve access to homelessness services and other supports.	Those leaving prison
The RRTP aims to eliminate the use of unsuitable accommodation such as bed and breakfast accommodation for vulnerable children and adults. Work is underway at present to accelerate this process and to develop a long-term strategy to change the mix of temporary accommodation in the city.	Homeless Households and children and vulnerable adults
The Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) improve access to services for hard to reach people who would not normally engage with services. Vulnerable children and adults are impacted positively through new and additional resource to support them. The team support vulnerable adults and children to prevent homelessness and offer joined up support to do so. In addition innovative models of temporary	Vulnerable families Vulnerable due to age People impacted due to Poverty

Equality, Health and Wellbeing and Human Rights and Children's Rights	Affected populations
accommodation will be developed including increasing the number of temporary furnished flats, supporting those with no funds to furnish a flat.	
Improved support and increases housing levels for women and families fleeing from domestic violence through work detailed in the LHS Homelessnes Chapter.	Women and families affected by domestic violence
The RRTP is being mainstreamed into the LHS and ongoing actions will continue to be delivered.	
Negative Building activities may cause disruption to existing residents through noise or congestion from construction vehicles. The Council enforces 'commercial and construction noise' guidance to enforce time restrictions over evenings and weekends to minimise disruption to local residents.	City-wide
By prioritising support for homeless households, other vulnerable groups may be adversely impacted as more lets may go to homeless households	This includes but is not limited to people who are vulnerable due to Age, Sex, Race and Disability
The RRTP may foster negative relations between people with protected characteristics due to the volume of social housing lets being allocated to this group.	People who are recently homeless

Environment and Sustainability including climate change emissions and impacts	Affected populations
Positive New homes are built to high standards in terms of resource efficiency (energy/materials etc.) and sustainability.	City-wide
These energy efficiency standards are crucial in moving Edinburgh towards a net zero city by 2030, along with reducing heating and energy costs for tenants. This plays a key role in meeting statutory EESH2 targets by 2032 and implementation of the new Edinburgh Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES) by reducing poor energy efficiency as a driver for fuel poverty. The Scottish Government has made a commitment that all new homes which are granted consent from 2024 must use heating systems that produce zero direct emissions at the point of use. Priority is given to developing homes on brownfield sites and therefore avoiding development on greenfield land. The physical environment of brownfield sites will be improved e.g. quality of housing & public space. The Council's declaration of Climate and Nature Emergencies has placed sustainability, climate change and nature recovery at the centre of strategic and policy discussions.	

Environment and Sustainability including climate change emissions and impacts	Affected populations
The recent adoption of the City Plan 2030 with the National Planning Framework 4 provides a policy framework that ensures buildings, and the surrounding landscapes are designed to support these emergencies. The future designs will help mitigate the impact of carbon through sequestration and the landscape design will checked through the planning process to ensure consideration of climate adaptation challenges e.g surface water flooding, increasing intensity and volume of water, drought tolerant species etc. The buildings will also be designed to take account of heat and drainage challenges that the changing climate is creating. Protecting, restoring and encouraging nature will also be considered in the design of the buildings	
Negative Building new homes inevitably creates embodied carbon dioxide emissions through the creation and transport of building materials to the site, transporting of waste away from building sites and demolition can also cause pollution to the land and the air. Carbon emissions are also created by tenants and residents when they heat and light their homes. All builders have sustainability policies and environmental impact assessments are carried out to protect the environment as much as possible in the construction phase. In addition all new developments are required to meet minimum Building Regulations, which contain stringent targets for meeting certain energy efficiency standards. Since November 2020, all new build Council homes have been designed to achieve net zero operational emissions	City-wide

Economic	Affected populations	
Positive		
Driving poverty downwards can only be achieved by providing sufficient levels of affordable housing.	City-wide including; Homeless households,	
There is a council-wide commitment to ending poverty in Edinburgh with targets set by the Edinburgh Poverty Commission. There is a focus on	People affected by poverty and inequality,	
delivering new prevention service models and intervening before the point of crisis to prevent homelessness where possible.	Young and older people and all people with	
Delivering more affordable homes will generate additional investment in the local and national economy and should improve affordability, reduce income inequality, boost jobs, reduce benefit expenditure and impact	protected characteristics affected by homelessness	
positively on the growth of GDP.	Vulnerable families	
Income maximisation is being provided through tenant and homelessness support activities.	including women affected by domestic abuse	
Affordable housing delivery is essential to attracting and retaining a skills base that would encourage inward investment and inclusive neighbourhoods.	Homeless households People affected by Poverty and Inequality	

Economic	Affected populations
Maximise income and /or reduce income inequality through the RRTP, including promotion of employability services.	
Negative None identified	City-wide

9. Is any part of this policy/ service to be carried out wholly or partly by contractors and if so how will equality, human rights including children's rights, environmental and sustainability issues be addressed?

Through house-building work the procurement processes consider sustainability and environmental impacts. Contractors are also required to comply with The Equalities Act 2010, which legally protects people from discrimination and concerns human rights.

Affordable Housing Supply Programme terms of grant offers also require grant applicants to adhere to the Fair Work First guidelines as set out by the Scottish Government. These include appropriate channels for effective voice, such as trade union recognition, investment in workforce development and offer flexible and family friendly working practices for all workers from day one of their employment. There should be no inappropriate use of zero hours contracts, action should be taken to tackle the gender pay gap and create a more diverse and inclusive workplace, payment of the real Living Wage and opposing the use of fire and rehire practice.

Some services commissioned via the Council's Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP) are provided by the third sector. The third sector are required to have up to date equality policies and will be monitored to ensure that they are open to all protected characteristics or when not have the correct exemptions in law (e.g. single sex services)

10. Consider how you will communicate information about this policy/ service change to children and young people and those affected by sensory impairment, speech impairment, low level literacy or numeracy, learning difficulties or English as a second language? Please provide a summary of the communications plan.

Edinburgh's draft and finalised Local Housing Strategy will be made available online. A summary of the final report will also be produced using simplified accessible language.

The communication routes to promote the strategy will be varied using a mix of digital and non-digital platforms. This will include use of the Council's website, social media platforms and e-footers, as well as advertising via partner organisations to reach their networks through their webpages, social media platforms, newsletters and word-of-mouth. Posters will be displayed in community buildings across the city, a dedicated telephone line is available if anyone would like to request paper copies which will be available.

The Council is a member of 'Happy to Translate' supporting engagement with customers who have little or no written English.

11. Is the plan, programme, strategy or policy likely to result in significant environmental effects, either positive or negative? If yes, it is likely that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) will be required and the impacts identified in the IIA should be included in this. See section 2.10 in the Guidance for further information.

A Strategic Environmental Assessment (<u>SEA</u>) has been completed as part of City Plan 2030 which presents the housing development sites in the city.

12. Additional Information and Evidence Required

If further evidence is required, please note how it will be gathered. If appropriate, mark this report as interim and submit updated final report once further evidence has been gathered.

Input is required from the private sector/ businesses and minority ethnic people. These were highlighted as a gaps in the initial engagement and consultation results. We will reach out to these groups over the next few months so that their feedback can be incorporated into development of the LHS.

13. Specific to this IIA only, what recommended actions have been, or will be, undertaken and by when? (these should be drawn from 7 – 11 above) Please complete:

There will be ongoing monitoring of the Local Housing Strategy to ensure that all actions are progressed.

Specific actions (as a result of the IIA which may include financial implications, mitigating actions and risks of cumulative impacts)	Who will take them forward - name and job title	Deadline date to progress	Review date
Performance and progress monitoring The LHS is a live document. An annual review of the action plan milestones and measures will be carried out. Actions will be altered or added to as required, to meet emerging issues over the duration of the strategy. The LHS annual review will include an annual review of the LHS IIA.	Enabling & Partnerships Team	Annual	May 2026 for first annual review and ongoing annually
Carry out an annual review of the LHS Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)	Enabling & Partnerships Team	Annual	May 2026
Consultation with Private sector Developers, landlords and letting agents. The Council needs to engage more closely with these groups as part of phase 3 to ensure their views are considered and to find ways to work collaboratively.	As part of the AHP review engagement work	Nov – Feb 2025	Ongoing – at least annually
Consultation with minority ethnic people – engagement with individuals/groups will be carried out as part of phase 3 – to ensure feedback is captured on housing needs and priorities	Enabling and Partnerships Team	Nov – Feb 2025	Ongoing – at least annually

Specific actions (as a result of the IIA which may include financial implications, mitigating actions and risks of cumulative impacts)	Who will take them forward - name and job title	Deadline date to progress	Review date
Consultation with individuals with no recourse to	Enabling and	Nov –	Ongoing
public funds will be undertaken as part of phase 3 to	Partnerships	Feb 2025	at least
ensure an understanding of these specific sets of	Team		annually
circumstances and challenges			
Non English speakers and people with a low level	Enabling and	Nov –	Review –
English language ability. Extra support is needed for	Partnerships	Feb 2025	at least
people in these categories to help them to engage with	Team		annually
housing services, ask for help and feed into			
consultations. This group will be included in the LHS			
and the LHS consultation will be advertised in the top			
x3 non-English languages spoken in Edinburgh in the			
Tenants Courier and on the LHS Council web pages.			

14. Are there any negative impacts in section 8 for which there are no identified mitigating actions? No

15. How will you monitor how this proposal affects different groups, including people with protected characteristics?

There will be ongoing monitoring of the LHS and the action plan, with a comprehensive annual update process including an annual review of the LHS IIA.

16. Sign off by Head of Service

Name:	Lisa Mallon, Head of Strategy, Commissioning & Service Improvement		
	Lisa Mallon		
Name:	Derek McGowan, Service Director for Housing and Homelessness		
	Derek McGowan		
Date:	13/02/2025		

17. Publication

Completed and signed IIAs should be sent to:

- <u>integratedimpactassessments@edinburgh.gov.uk</u> to be published on the Council website <u>www.edinburgh.gov.uk/impactassessments</u>
- Edinburgh Integration Joint Board/Health and Social Care <u>sarah.bryson@edinburgh.gov.uk</u> to be published at <u>www.edinburghhsc.scot/the-ijb/integrated-impact-assessments/</u>

Please note this is the decision taken by the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee on 25 February 2025.

Edinburgh's Local Housing Strategy – Draft Strategy

Details were provided of the draft Local Housing Strategy (LHS) for Edinburgh, which covered housing across all tenures and related services and was accompanied by a Consultation and Engagement Report which summarised the engagement carried out so far along with a draft Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA). The draft LHS was subject to a period of formal consultation, before seeking final approval from Committee in May 2025.

Motion

- To note the draft Local Housing Strategy (LHS) and accompanying draft Consultation and Engagement Report and interim Integrated Impact Assessment.
- To agree that the draft LHS would be published for formal consultation for an eight week period and be submitted to the Scottish Government as part of their Peer Review Scheme.
- 3) To agree the further planned engagement activities, listed in the Next Steps in the report by the Interim Executive Director of Place.
- 4) To note that the final LHS and accompanying Action Plan would be reported to Committee in May 2025 for approval along with the final version of the Consultation and Engagement report and final Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA).
- moved by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron, seconded by Councillor Faccenda

Amendment

- To note the draft Local Housing Strategy (LHS) and accompanying draft Consultation and Engagement Report and interim Integrated Impact Assessment.
- 2) To agree that the draft LHS would be published for formal consultation for an eight week period and be submitted to the Scottish Government as part of their Peer Review Scheme.
- 3) To agree the further planned engagement activities, listed in the Next Steps in the report by the Interim Executive Director of Place.
- 4) To note that the final LHS and accompanying Action Plan would be reported to Committee in May 2025 for approval along with the final version of the Consultation and Engagement report and final Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA).
- 5) Notes that the Climate Ready Edinburgh plan is not currently referenced within the Local Housing Strategy, requests that it is included in further

- versions of the strategy and that further consideration is given to ensuring that actions included within the strategy work to support climate adaptation (as well as climate mitigation and nature recovery).
- 6) Requests engagement with the Feminist City Working Group as part of the next period of consultation.
- moved by Councillor Parker, seconded by Councillor Miller

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), the amendment was accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron:

- To note the draft Local Housing Strategy (LHS) and accompanying draft Consultation and Engagement Report and interim Integrated Impact Assessment.
- To agree that the draft LHS would be published for formal consultation for an eight week period and be submitted to the Scottish Government as part of their Peer Review Scheme.
- 3) To agree the further planned engagement activities, listed in the Next Steps in the report by the Interim Executive Director of Place.
- 4) To note that the final LHS and accompanying Action Plan would be reported to Committee in May 2025 for approval along with the final version of the Consultation and Engagement report and final Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA).
- To note that the Climate Ready Edinburgh plan was not currently referenced within the Local Housing Strategy, to request that it be included in further versions of the strategy and that further consideration be given to ensuring that actions included within the strategy worked to support climate adaptation (as well as climate mitigation and nature recovery).
- 6) To request engagement with the Feminist City Working Group as part of the next period of consultation.

(Reference – report by the Interim Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

Edinburgh Children's Partnership Annual Report 2023 – 2024



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Introduction

This is the first annual report against the progress made by the Edinburgh Children's Partnership Children's Services Plan 2023-2024. The Edinburgh Children's Partnership (also referred to as the Partnership) directs the strategic planning, development and delivery of children and young people's services on behalf of the Edinburgh Partnership. The Children's Partnership has representatives from the City of Edinburgh Council, NHS Lothian (NHS), the voluntary sector (through EVOC), Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA), Edinburgh College, Skills Development Scotland, Edinburgh Leisure and Police Scotland.

The Partnership is currently chaired by the Director of Strategic Planning, NHS Lothian and is vice-chaired by the Chief Social Work Officer, Service Director for Performance, Quality and Improvement Children's and Criminal Justice Services.

Since the Children's Services Plan was signed off by relevant agencies and published numerous working groups were set up to take forward the actions on the plan.

Multi-agency Working groups that sit under the plan now all have leads. Groups include:

- a Youth Work
- b Single Point of Access
- c Child Poverty
- d GIRFEC
- e UNCRC
- f Whole Family Wellbeing
- g Trauma Informed partnership planning

- h Joint Commissioning
- i Complex Maternity and Early Years Social Factors /Neurodevelopment pathways
- j Corporate parenting board which is also taking forward Promise priorities with reports to wider Children's Partnership.

At the core of our children's plan is the belief that every child in Edinburgh deserves the best possible start in life, and that early intervention is essential to addressing issues before they become more significant. We aim to promote an integrated approach to children's services, breaking down barriers between different agencies and working collaboratively to deliver effective support. An effective whole family support model is one of collaboration and brings together families, communities, professionals and systems to work together in a joined up co-ordinated approach, to develop a shared understanding and prevent further problems arising in the future.

We know that every child is unique, and their needs will differ depending on their circumstances. Therefore, our plan aims to provide a range of services in a child's local community that are flexible and responsive to individual needs, whether that be in education, health, social care, or other areas.

We remain confident that our plan is able to make a significant difference to the lives of children and families in Edinburgh. We remain flexible to looking at priorities whilst tackling and progressing the high-level themes.

By working together, we can create a city where all of Edinburgh's children and young people enjoy their childhood and achieve their potential.

The Children's Services Partnership strives to recognise that all children and young people in Edinburgh require the right support at the right time. Our Children's Services partners are committed to working together to get it right for every child, young person and family in Edinburgh.

Our work is informed by the following:

- The Promise to keep children with their families where it is safe to do so and value the importance of relationships with families.
 Keep the Promise is at the heart of all we do
- Transformational change aspirations to support Whole Family Wellbeing
- UNCRC incorporation and a child friendly approach to respecting rights
- Community access to mental health services and support and that prevention and early help and lower-level services have an impact on children and young people's emotional wellbeing and can go some way to prevent crisis mental health needs. We are using a single point of access to build on GIRFEC support for children and young people's emotional wellbeing.
- Ensuring a best start: bright future approach to challenging child poverty
- Making the Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) ethos central to everything we do as a partnership; and
- The key guidance provided by the National Performance Framework and related outcomes.

We continue to work together to strengthen our planning and investment in services where possible and make sure we have in place effective support for our most vulnerable children and families.

Through effective partnership working and implementing the agreed actions in the Children's Services Plan we will work to achieve our vision and ambition to ensure:

Edinburgh's children and young people enjoy their childhood and achieve their potential.

The vision is underpinned by a commitment to:

- Tackling inequality, discrimination and poverty.
- Promoting early support and prevention.
- Focussing on areas were working together will make the biggest impact on children, young people and families.
- Ensuring a multi-agency approach to continuous improvement.

• Ensuring meaningful participation and engagement of children, young people and families.

The high-level themes and their linked outcomes act as the main drivers for our working together and provide a strong link to key national policy areas and funding streams:

Whole Family Wellbeing: Every family gets the right family support at the right time for as long as needed

Mental Health and Wellbeing: Every child and young person will be able to access local community services which support and improve their mental health and wellbeing

Keeping the Promise: Children and young people grow up loved safe and respected.

National Performance Framework and related outcomes



Progress of the Plan

The Edinburgh Children's Partnership is committed to contributing, along with its connected planning partnerships covering the City of Edinburgh's population, to the national performance framework's purpose, values and intent.

The Partnership continue to monitor and evaluate the plan, to establish how effective the plan is, through various methods such as developing an improved partnership data set and feedback from children, young people and families. The partnership will also provide feedback on outcomes and the difference it makes to children, young people, and families, to ensure that all partners continue to deliver effective services for children young people and families.

This annual report will cover where and how the above actions have been taken forward against the Partnership's measurements of effectiveness:

 An increase in the number of families supported through a whole family GIRFEC early help plan.

- An increase in the number of children, young people and families making progress against the goals in their GIRFEC plan.
- An increase in the number of children, young people and families who are satisfied with the support they receive.
- A reduction in children living in poverty.
- A reduction in contacts requesting a statutory social work service – meaning that families are supported within local communities by those who already know them and can provide early intervention at a very early level.
- A reduction in the number of children and young people with a child protection plan.
- A reduction in the number of children and young people looked after outside of their family.
- A reduction in crisis mental health intervention being required.
- An increased number of professionals within the partnership receiving multi agency trauma informed practice awareness training.

Single Point of Access

Actions taken/completed from the step diagram

The year focussed on the implementation of the Northwest Single Point of Access (SPA) pathfinder and continues to roll out across Edinburgh. An infrastructure was successfully established including the appointment of the SPA project manager within the NHS and a strategic lead within the City of Edinburgh Council Children, Education and Justice Services (Depute Principal Psychologist) who also acts as the SPA chair. The SPA has successfully established a wide membership including strong representation from third sector, the City of Edinburgh Council and NHS.

The SPA has been integrated alongside our Getting it Right for Every Child framework (GIRFEC) this was supported through the Request for Assistance form and a number of written briefings and engagement activities to colleagues in education, social work and health visiting.

The Request for Assistance form has been designed to enable joint requests to the SPA and CAMHS and to build on the strengths of our established GIRFEC processes. The main source of requests are the named person (93% between September and March), almost all requests have evidenced prior GIRFEC planning.

The Northwest SPA pathfinder successfully commenced in September 2023 and within the first seven months a total of 58 requests were submitted for SPA support. Out of the 58 requests; 33 were for SPA consideration only, 15 were for SPA and Neurodevelopmental (ND) Assessment, seven were for SPA and CAMHS Moderate to Severe Mental Health Concern and four were

for SPA, ND Assessment and CAMHS Moderate to Severe Mental Health Concern. This evidences the successful integration of the CAMHS and SPA request pathways.

During the pathfinder the SPA has met weekly for approximately an hour. In addition to this an Immediate Response Meeting (IRM) has taken place prior to every SPA meeting to ensure paperwork is complete. This additional pre-meeting has improved SPA efficiency and has enabled some actions to be taken forward immediately by the locality co-ordinator without the need for full SPA discussion. The weekly IRM has included the locality co-ordinator, the City of Edinburgh Council strategic lead and project manager.

A system for tracking requests and SPA actions has been established which will enable strong locality and citywide data on demographics (for example sixty-three percent of requests have been for girls and 37% for boys) gaps in service provision and demand. Further initial evaluation data has been completed and presented to the Children's Partnership including feedback from a small number of parents.

Throughout the implementation of the pathfinder there has been strong collaboration and planning with the Whole Family Wellbeing team. This has included the North West locality co-ordinator as a core member and the integration of business support in preparation for the citywide roll out.

Community Mental Health

In March 2024 the working group was extended to include a review of the Children's Partnership Community Mental Health strategy

including the use of future funds from Scottish Government. The group membership was extended for this purpose.

The group agreed that the current services, whose contracts came to an end in October 2024, should be enabled to continue until March 2025. Work has been completed to action this. The Joint Commissioning Board also agreed to support the group's proposal that a carryover of funds from 2023-2024 should be used to support the same organisations to run a number of short-term additional projects supporting children, young people and families.

The group have begun a review of the community mental health strategy, primarily focussing on the use of any future Scottish Government funds. The group have started the review by looking at national and local evaluation data. The review is considering both in person and digital supports for mental health. High quality reporting and evaluation data has been identified as an area that could be strengthened, fostering collaboration has been identified as a strength of the model to date.

Key actions for Year 2 (2024-25)

Single Point of Access

- The SPA will roll out across the three remaining localities.
- An infrastructure including chairs, business support and project oversight will be established and integrated with Whole Family Support.

- Evaluation data will be used to revise the Request for Assistance form (RfA).
- Ongoing tracking, monitoring and evaluation across all SPAs will inform Children's Partnership decision-making regarding the long-term approach to the SPA.

Community Mental Health

- The City of Edinburgh Council Wellbeing webpages will be launched
- Stakeholder engagement
- Recommendations made to Children's Partnership
- Agree use of future funds from March 25 onwards
- Work with contracts team

Develop Lothian Model for Enhanced Midwifery Care for women with complex social factors

We continue to support the development of specialist midwifery team for children and families with complex social needs

Parent Infant Partnership

A collaboration between:

- PrePare (City of Edinburgh Council)
- Dean and Cauvin Young People's Trust (third sector)
- Lothian PAIRS (NHS)
- Family Group Decision Making (The City of Edinburgh Council).

Neurodevelopmental Pathway

Our collaborative has a focus on the early years and will work with families from conception, until the child's second birthday (the first 1,000 days) where risk and need are high.

Understand current Early Years programs available in the community

We have conducted a mapping of maternal and EY current services who deliver support to children and their families from prebirth to five years.

We have submitted and IIA for the working group.

We have produced a logic model to help us look at outcomes the group can track

We continue to look at improving the transition experience for children moving into 1140 hours of free childcare- with pilot in North Edinburgh.

We have two successful transformational collaborations for pre-birth to five years.

The Family Hub Collaborative

Our project is a collaborative between Circle, Home-Start Edinburgh, Stepping Stones North Edinburgh, Home Link Family

Support, Citizens Advice Edinburgh (CAE), The City of Edinburgh Council Early Learning & Childcare (ELC) and NHS Parent & Infant Mental Health Service (PAIRS).

The project aims to develop a transformational partnership approach that will test bespoke holistic whole-family support throughout the early years. The project will ensure that appropriate, universal, and enhanced support is available at the earliest stage possible for families with a child under five.

Next steps for the working group

Produce a report on the findings of the mapping of services and identify area where provision is low.

Bring key partners together to review resources and how they can be used to meet unmet needs along with using the WFWF projects

Agree a set of measurable outcomes for the working group

Offer locality-based networking events for providers and referrers to come together to help improve relationships and increase multiagency collaborations so children and their families have a holistic response to their needs being met.

Youth Work

We continue to work to increase community-based opportunities for Edinburgh's Children and Young People in safe spaces with trusted adults by working with our third sector partners to sustainably embed youth work into service models.

Actions in year 1 (2023/2024)

Year 1 efforts were concentrated on establishing a working group led by community-based youth work organisations alongside Partnership representatives. This group adopted the 8 priorities in the <u>Edinburgh's Youth and Children's Work Strategy</u> as its workplan.

These eight priorities serve as the foundation for thematic learning events, aimed at engaging the broader youth and children's work sector along with other interested stakeholders.

The working group initially conducted a prioritisation exercise to determine the order of event delivery. However, plans were adjusted to align with Partnership priorities, including contributions to the Edinburgh Local Child Poverty Action Plan and actions within the Corporate Parenting Plan related to community-based youth work, which are due to be reported by the end of 2024.

Actions in year 2 (2024/2025)

In Year 2, the programme of learning events will commence, starting with a thematic event focused on youth work and poverty. This event will emphasise the crucial role that youth work services

play in alleviating poverty and supporting children and young people.

Shortly thereafter, a second thematic learning event will focus on the role of community-based youth work in Corporate Parenting and the universal youth and children's work services offered to the careexperienced community.

These learning events will not only provide opportunities to gather impact data on the effectiveness of the eight priorities within the Edinburgh Youth and Children's Work Strategy but also identify challenges and gaps in practice. Additionally, the events will collect evidence to showcase the contribution of community-based youth and children's work to broader Partnership goals and measurements.

Links to measurements

Community-based universal youth and children's services, by their very nature and purpose, contribute significantly across the various measurements outlined in the Plan.

In 2023/2024, two Trauma Informed Practice training sessions were delivered within the youth and children's sector, involving 21 community-based organisations. Participants from these sessions reported increased skills, knowledge, and confidence in supporting children and young people who have experienced trauma.

Whole family Support

The year concentrated on establishing a model for distributing the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund. With representatives across the sectors within the children's partnership considering an approach that would stimulate transformational change to ensure families receive holistic whole family support (in line with the national principles), to reduce equalities and that has a lasting legacy on planning, design and delivery of services.

The Self-Assessment Tool for Family support was undertaken by the working group to explore aspects relating to commissioning and family voice. A review of the existing data and information regarding Family Mapping was analysed. This underpinned the critical options. The Joint Commissioning Group supported this process with specialist knowledge and scrutiny to ensure the model was fit for purpose. A grants model which included the Scottish Government criterion (that the six priority family groups were highlighted, the embodiment of the 10 WFS principles and that the fund met local children's partnership priorities) alongside an ambitious, transformational requirement to have Collaborations which included third sector and statutory services. With the aim to change relational and system based 'ways of working'. A process of engagement with potential fundees was delivered. An engagement and co-production event, followed by a information and engagement event. To support a move away from competitive funding a scaffolding of 'call out' and 'connection' support was devised.

Post – grant decisions the group updated the IIA, and the process of transferring funds to Collaborations was started, with contracts agreed and signed.

An early logic model has been created from which the initial measure for the programme of work / grants was based.

Recruitment for the City of Edinburgh Council based WFW roles was completed at the end of 2023.

Focus/next steps for the coming year

- Monitoring and evaluate progress of the collaborations and the City of Edinburgh Council based roles receiving WFW funding.
- Roll-out evidence-based Trauma Informed models in line with the Trauma Informed Working Group and delivery of a suite of trauma based, holistic family support training and upskilling (through reflective spaces and use of the National Trauma Roadmap and Family Support Self-Assessment)
- Develop and deliver a model to distribute the second round of WFW funds— with a focus on family voice.
- Early Data Analyse to inform future planning of services.
- Increase visibility and adoption of WFS principles across a wider audience, including Adult services (to identify which groups to be focused on).

Local Poverty Action Plan

We continue to strive to reduce the number of families and children living in relative poverty by implementing and delivering on the actions set out in the Local Poverty Action Plan.

1. Review opportunities for a greater focus on child poverty to be included within the Edinburgh Children's Services Plan

The establishment of the child poverty subgroup includes partners across statutory and third sector services and organisations in the city supporting a child poverty lens across the partnership.

In 23-24 we supported IIAs across the children's partnership and will continue the development of a sustainable IIA training offer for third sector partners with LAYC as a training provider. We have also been supporting the dissemination and evaluation of Edinburgh's money counts training and national child poverty training resources to support staff in effectively signposting or referring service users to income maximisation services (no of participants and evaluations to follow).

In 24-25 we will place particular focus on the uptake of the training offers by NHS staff and will scope a wider holistic cash first financial inclusion offer, via midwifery, as part of the Scottish Government funded Cash First project.

2. Develop and enhance a data-driven approach to child poverty action planning

Focused support for child poverty family types has been included in award decisions for Connected Communities grants and Whole Family Wellbeing Funding.

During 24-25 we plan to establish local child poverty indicators for Edinburgh, working with local and national partners. We will continue to seek opportunities to include focus on child poverty priority family types in service specifications and scope the identification and use of data on priority family types across the partnership.

3. Implement Edinburgh component of NHS Lothian Child Poverty Action Plan

The child poverty sub-group includes representation and engagement from colleagues from midwifery, health visiting and family nurse partnership services. Work is ongoing to develop welfare rights advice pathways which during 23-24 focused on community midwifery services and the NHS Lothian IT system developments to support city wide automated welfare rights referrals from this service based on learning from previous work in this area. The systems aspect of this work has now been completed, and next steps include the co-design of a referral pathway with welfare rights providers and community midwifery teams in order for the pathway to go live. We will also develop and implement a local infant food insecurity pathway in line with national principles and according to local need.

Joint Commissioning

A Joint Commissioning Group was established for the joint commissioning of services in relation to any new external funding being made available to any of the partner agencies, ensuring it is adhered to and aligned to the Edinburgh Children's Partnership (ECP) plan.

The Terms of Reference and the Process Model for the joint commissioning is based on the 5 key principles of the Children's Plan: multi-agency, early intervention and prevention, promoting equalities and reducing inequalities, equality, diversity, and anti-racism, voice of children and young people

It is within the scope of the Joint Commissioning Framework to ensure how commissioning flows from strategic planning and population need; how it responds to new policy and legislative changes and continues to support a model of co-production, ongoing innovation and improvement; how it prioritises the voice of children, young people and people with lived experiences.

The Joint Commissioning Group has supported the commissioning of the Community Mental

Health contracts and the Whole Family Wellbeing grant programme.

Next steps will be to prioritise the transformative work being delivered via Whole Family Wellbeing funds, including the commissioning of further services to support whole families' wellbeing and a closer integration between partners to successfully deliver for our children and young people.

Trauma Informed Practice

Trauma informed subgroup of the ECP, established with varied multi-agency, cross sector representation. Integrated Impact Assessment, and TORS completed. Mapping exercise of current trauma informed working developments undertaken to identify current workstreams and potential workstreams to help identify priority areas and identify gaps and action plan developed.

- 1. Priority to raise awareness and educate about a trauma informed and responsive approach, to upskill staff across all sectors to have a common understanding of trauma and a trauma informed way of working across Edinburgh. Trauma training to embed the principles, at frontline staff and leadership levels to enable a trauma informed and responsive approach to be embedded consistently across all services. Increased recognition of the complexity of need in our services, provide support for universal services and provide resources for signposting. Awareness at society level and access to local services-collaborating with a number of community organisations around a community trauma resource.
- 2. Staff Wellbeing-Support for colleagues across all sectors to prioritise staff and volunteers' well-being. Staff care, support and supervision being more focused around the potential for trauma/vicarious trauma. Educate and raise awareness on ways to reduce this. Collate and further develop resources on wellbeing models/ assessment tools to allow for prevention, early recognition, intervention and post-vention support
- 3. Strength-based, trauma informed ways of recording -language, risk assessments, reports/supervision/policies

4. To consider trauma in the context of other intersectional priorities to support greater overview of cross cutting priorities and ways of taking a joined-up approach

Actions

Wellbeing resource and support organisations resource developed and made available for wide circulation. Trauma Toolkit, one for general awareness and one for children and families population, in collaboration with frontline staff and lived experience organisation Adoption Scotland under development. Collating resources library for all partners to access.

Collaborating on a trauma informed risk assessment, incident form and trauma informed supervision. Particular reference to taking a trauma lens and upskilling staff services and managers around secondary and vicarious trauma. We recognise that trauma Informed and responsive approach to working is highly relevant to the current climate as it can reduce staff absences, burnout, and current recruitment and attrition rates by prioritising a well workforce.

Training Update-Level 1 Trauma Informed has been made essential learning in the City of Edinburgh Council, exploring opportunities for Level 1 online training to be made available across partnership sectors to work to a whole Edinburgh baseline level of I knowledge in our workforce and meet Scottish Governments and COSLAs ambition to be a trauma informed workforce.

In person level 2 Trauma Skilled Transforming Connections training and reflective sessions are being offered as a part of a rolling

workforce training plan. This in person 1 day session takes a multidisciplinary approach. Bespoke whole team sessions are available in addition to this. A total of 557 frontline staff have attended the trauma level 2 in person Transforming Connections from January to November from a variety of settings including Adult and Child Support and protection, Social Work, Education, HSCP, Residential, Housing Homeless, Family and Household Support, Commissioning, Investigations Team and Customer Services and some 3rd sector colleagues. Some 3rd sector organisations include Multi-Cultural Family Base, Polish Family Support Centre, Salvesen Mindroom Centre, Volunteering Matters, The Junction, SAMH, Kindred Advocacy, Dr Bells. Post training evaluation demonstrates the sessions are being well received and are shaping practice. Feedback includes: "Really useful to reflect on the work we do and how trauma can affect both service users and ourselves and the services we work in." "I now feel better adjusted to assist colleagues in dealing with situations when assisting customers facing trauma".

STILT Scottish Trauma Informed Leadership Training. 134 Staff from team leader level and above, across various sectors, registered to attend the STILT Scottish Trauma Informed Leadership. This session emphasises the importance of adopting a whole organisational trauma informed and responsive approach and the valuable role leaders play in transforming the workplace culture.

Trauma-Informed Workforce Survey 2024 Edinburgh specific data, 250 respondents completed feedback. 24% of those responding indicated they were from children and families' services. Respondents were from a wide variety of services, sectors and roles. See data below. Feedback from the survey validates the importance of this work "Considering the widespread presence of trauma in society and recent social crises, such as Covid and global catastrophes - trauma training/insight ought now to be seen as elementary as infection control and fire-safety."

Public	82.40%	206
Third/voluntary	14.00%	35
Private/independent	1.20%	3
Don't know	0.40%	1
Other (please specify):	2.00%	5

Elected official	3.60%	9
Senior management, such as a chief executive or director	4.00%	10
Middle management, such as a service head	13.20%	33
Frontline manager/supervisor/team leader	22.40%	56
Practitioner/frontline service delivery/officer with no management responsibilities, for example teacher, support worker, social worker, analyst	50.00%	125
Volunteer with no management responsibilities	0.40%	1
Other (please specify):	10.00%	25

Focus/next steps for the coming year

Vision is to create a multi-agency train the trainer collaborative. Almost 30 education, children and family and third sector colleagues will have completed the train the trainer training by end August 2024. Exploring how to work collaboratively to take this forward using a co-facilitated model of learning facilitation.

To partner with one to three third sector community organisations around using the recently developed community trauma resource and explore how this can be utilised to raise awareness of trauma to destigmatise, remove the invisible barriers this creates and explore how this resource can be used to address this in a test of change.

Working to identify services to undertake a test of change using an adapted trauma lens tool to using the trauma lens, to establish a baseline and then follow up at 3/6- and 9-month intervals to use as an evaluation tool/quality improvement evidencing tool, re how a trauma informed approach is being embedded within services

UNCRC

UNCRC Act came into effect in July 2024, giving children and young people legal redress if their rights are breached.

The purpose of the UNCRC – Edinburgh Children's Partnership (ECP) working group is to provide strategic oversight and drive forward action to deliver on the ECP plan 2023-2026 priority, 'We will ensure the rights of all children and young people in Edinburgh are upheld by embedding UNCRC into daily practice and processes. The role of the group is to develop and progress actions to meet this priority. The group will lead on the timely production of the three-yearly Children's Right Report in respect of partnership activity.

The multi-agency working group has been pulling together what is currently in place and action planning for what is required to ensure we comply with the legislation and guidance available.

- Embedding: Putting children's human rights at the core of planning and the delivery of services that affect children and young people.
- Equality and non-discrimination: Ensuring that every child or young person has an equal opportunity to make the most of their lives and talents.
- Empowerment: Giving children the knowledge and confidence to use their rights and hold organisations and individuals that affect their lives to account.

- Participation: Listening to children and taking their views seriously.
- Accountability: Organisations and individuals should be accountable to children for the decisions and actions which affect their lives.

Work that has been completed

- Establishing the working group.
- Terms of reference for the group.
- · Devised initial action plan.
- Supported the preparation and publication of the 2020-2023 Edinburgh UNCRC three-yearly report.

Next steps and work in progress

- Consultation with young people.
- Development of user-friendly version of the Children Services
 Plan in consultation with young people.
- Development of a Partnership participation strategy.
- Develop 7-minute briefing to support awareness raising of the UNCRC Act.
- Roll out of an e-learning module and the updating of impact assessment guidance to ensure UNCRC compatibility.
- Implement a subgroup to increase engagement and participation of young people.
- houses, setting up of lived experience groups and promoting joining of the network).

- Working closely with the corporate parenting board and promise lead to promote and raise awareness of the rights of care experienced young people.
- Ensuring that UNCRC runs through all the working groups and wider partnership.

Promise/Corporate Parenting

The City of Edinburgh Corporate Parenting Board meets six-weekly and oversees the implementation of the Corporate Parenting Plan. In late 2023 the board signed off the 23-26 Corporate Parenting Plan and continue to report on and monitor its implementation across the council and in partnership with statutory and voluntary partners.

The following developments have occurred throughout reporting year 23/24:

NHS Lothian have reviewed and updated their policies and procedures to increase the uptake of health assessments amongst children who are Looked After at Home and Away from Home. They have also recently developed a dental pathway to support Care Experienced Young People to access better oral care.

Reduction in the Criminalisation of Care Experienced young people through joined up working between City of Edinburgh Council and Police Scotland, Edinburgh division. This has included a change in policy in how young people not returning home is reported; a CORRA funded project considering the types of charges received by Care Experienced Young People; increased training regarding Care Experience and the impact of trauma.

The City of Edinburgh Council developed and published their online Corporate Parenting e-learning module and are in discussions about how this can be shared with agencies across the Partnership. The intention is for this module to become mandatory for all employees within the City of Edinburgh Council.

Within the City of Edinburgh Council there has also been the opening of the Corporate Parenting Hub on Leith Street. The Corporate Parenting Hub is a multipurpose space for use by Care Experienced young people and the adults who support them. The initial spaces have been developed alongside members of Edinburgh's Champions Boards to make sure they feel welcoming, comfortable and homely.

The initial spaces that have been developed include two brother and sister spaces – one lounge space set up for gaming, board games and relaxing and the other, a playroom and arts and crafts space. There is also another smaller lounge space, a small kitchen/dining area and a sensory room.

Focus/next steps for the coming year

Promise Plan 2024-30 was published in June 24 and work is underway to amalgamate this with our Corporate Parenting plan so that we are working towards one unified plan for both areas of work. This will be available in early 2025. The review of the first year of the full Corporate Parenting Plan is also underway and will also be available in early 2025. Work will continue to scope areas for improvement across the partnership to ensure that the Care Experienced Community have access to appropriate resources and support as and when they need them. Further development of the Corporate Parenting Hub will be essential to this and the delivery of the Update Corporate Parenting and Promise Plan. Work is due to commence on the final stage of the building improvements in Spring 2025, with completion estimated for Autumn 2025.

Maternity and Early Years bespoke Support for Complex Social Factors

The working group has continued to develop the Lothian Model for Enhanced Midwifery Care for women with complex social factors. Which has included identifying resources within the current community midwife teams to deliver Enhanced Midwifery Care model.

There is continued work to understand current Early Years programs available in the community.

- Undertaking Mapping of existing partnerships/projects that are working to address the needs of families with Complex and Social needs from pre-birth to five years.
- Showcasing existing models of good practice
- Exploring multi-agency funding opportunities that meet the needs of families with Complex and Social needs from pre-birth to five years
- Establishing outcome measures

Next steps

- Implement Lothian Model for Enhanced Midwifery Care against process and outcome measures
- Implement and maintain Early Years programs

With planned evaluation of the model and early years programme.

GIRFEC

The GIREFEC working group are progressing action to refresh the partnership approach to GIRFEC. The National GIRFEC principles and National Practice Model are not new to us in the City of Edinburgh. There have been changes and updates over time, but the general principles and values have remained consistent. In recent years practice in the City of Edinburgh has become less consistent and this has been identified through a recent self-evaluation which has identified key areas of improvement required. To refresh and reset practice, updated multiagency GIRFEC guidance and procedures will be develop. These materials will be launched in late summer 2025 and will be supported by a learning and development strategy and signposting to new resources and materials including in-person workshops.

Next Steps

- Refresh multiagency guidance and procedures to reflect the national GIRFEC refresh with specific materials designed for children, young people and families.
- Refresh multiagency guidance to promote the consistency of the roles of the Lead Professional and Named Person.
- Produce a suite of professional learning resources across the partnership to support practitioners to fully embed GIRFEC principles in practice including specific resources to further develop the use of the national practice model.

Place and Planning

Actions in Year 1 (2023-24)

Year 1 actions have been focused around supporting the development and delivery of a pilot project demonstrating a whole system approach to healthy schools. This has involved engaging with Castlebrae High School as well as Niddrie Mill, Castle View, and Newcraighall Primary Schools, linking to wider 20-minute neighbourhood initiatives and other relevant work in the Craigmillar area, including listening to and representing voices of children and young people in local spatial and service planning.

Specialist children and young people's project 'A Place in Childhood' was commissioned, with funding being provided by Paths for All and matched by City of Edinburgh Council and NHS Lothian, to carry out an engagement project with local children and young people from the High School and three primary schools (P5 classes). This phase of engagement with children and young people in Craigmillar is now complete. Community maps produced by the children and young people were presented to key stakeholders at a community workshop in January where stakeholders were given the opportunity to engage with the young people involved in the project and invited to respond to the needs they had identified through the mapping exercise. From this, a plan has been developed. Focused around seven priority areas, the plan identifies key actions to be taken across the neighbourhood as well as the principal stakeholders required to deliver the actions.

In support of the learning from the Craigmillar work and to identify how to replicate this model in other parts of Edinburgh, NHS Lothian Public Health carried out an evaluation of the work, on both the engagement with children and young people and the process of bringing together the different strands of work locally (20 Minute Neighbourhood; Positive Culture and Environments and the 'good place to live' work).

A 'How to' guide to engaging children and young people around place-based work has been developed by A Place in Childhood. This will be shared with relevant stakeholders, alongside the results of the process evaluation, to highlight best practice as well as to inform the Edinburgh Children's Partnership Place Group's work to promote the approach in other areas.

Key actions for Year 2 (2024-25)

The group will look to consolidate the work from Year 1. As well as being mindful of the progress in delivering the aspirations of the action plan, funding has been identified to support A Place in Childhood to conduct a second phase of activity in Craigmillar in conjunction with young people from the local schools. This will include co-producing a themed mural as well as engagement around the potential for developing facilities for children and young people in the area.

The group will identify how to share the learning from Year 1 and to identify other potential sites for the work across Edinburgh. Work will be carried out on wider actions around place-based issues, such as linking to safe routes to school & exposure to unhealthy commodities.

Systems mapping work will be developed, with support from specialists from Glasgow University/Medical Research Council, in relation to children and young people's relationship to spatial planning and place-based approaches to promoting wellbeing. This will inform future work around developing healthy environments where opportunities are identified to reduce costs and other barriers for children, young people, and families to fully participate in a healthy city.

Additional Update

The Edinburgh Children's Partnership remains committed to working together to improve outcomes for children. By building on our achievements and addressing the challenges we face to ensure that every child in Edinburgh can thrive.

Early intervention and prevention have been identified as a strategic theme that run through all our priorities in the Children's Services Plan and is supported through multi-agency partnership working. The benefits of preventing crisis and creating conditions to allow children and young people to thrive is

recognised as the best outcome for the individual, the wider family and the community.

Within the partnership we are keen to ensure that children receive the right service at the right level of need and that children and young people and families are given the opportunity to engage in early support.

We are actively ensuring our joint needs assessment provides direction and involves evidence-based analysis of need.

Our learning and development from learning reviews and practice learning is now starting to provide some learning regarding key strategic needs such as Housing and ensuring our children are not at risk of exploitation and contextually safe within communities.

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Agenda Item 6.3



Senior Phase Curriculum Pathways, 27 March 2025

1. Executive Summary

1.1 This report summarises the successes in developing BGE & Senior Phase vocational pathways through partnership working and asks the Edinburgh Partnership Board to support the continuation and expansion of this work.

2. Recommendations

2.1 The Board is recommended to:

- Support the development of partnerships between the businesses and city institutions and the education curriculum team, leading to the co-creation of pathways delivering qualifications and employment opportunities for all of Edinburgh's young people.
- ii. Support the Alignment of the curriculum pathways strategy to the City of Edinburgh Council's wider economic development strategy and workforce planning.

3. Main Report

- 3.1 Our goal is to provide inclusive, equitable, valuable learning opportunities for everyone, using a place-based approach to build collaborative and sustainable learning communities and networks. We aim to co-create the environments where learners can lead and shape their own learning. In order to maximise the opportunities to work between schools, senior leaders in secondary schools have agreed to align their Senior Phase timetable structure that creates opportunities for flexible timetables with more opportunities for curriculum collaboration and delivery through third sector and industry partnerships, bespoke place-based vocational pathways and opportunities at Advanced Higher through digital delivery.
- 3.2 Construction Pathways: There are 165 spaces available for S4 students to complete a college construction course. The construction courses are now organised using a place based approach with Edinburgh College staff delivering courses in schools across the city. Kier Construction (Currie) and Balfour Beattie (Liberton) have partnered with schools to support this delivery. Learners from the independent sector attend construction courses based in City of Edinburgh schools. Additionally, we have introduced a Foundation Apprenticeship in Construction with industry partners involving 30 young people. In total we have 195 young people engaged in construction pathways in 2024-25.

- 3.3 Heritage Skills: Following a meeting with the community benefits team we have developed a partnership with Historic Environment Scotland (HES) and Scottish Traditional Building Forum (John McKinney) to create a platform to develop traditional skills for young people in Edinburgh matched to local skills shortages. HES sourced a stonemason to work in partnership with a CDT teacher in Portobello to deliver a National 5 course in stonemasonry. A partnership with Compass Roofing and Scottish Traditional Building Forum has developed and delivered a National 5 course in heritage construction skills in roofing. This is currently running at Portobello, Castlebrae and Wester Hailes. 40 young people now have access to National 5 courses and speak with real passion and enthusiasm about their experiences. Through development of these partnerships, the curriculum team have increased the opportunity for young people to develop their skills in a construction related field from 105 young people in 2023/24 to 235 young people in 2024/25, an 124% increase.
- 3.4 **Community Benefits:** Working collaboratively with the Community Benefits team to create a 'construction menu' on how organisations can use their community benefits to support school curriculum innovation and positive destinations. The Community Benefits team have taken a creative approach and created community fund to allow organisations to convert their points to a monetary value or donations (e.g. PPE equipment) to help support curriculum pathway development. These 'points' have been used by partners working with almost all of our schools delivering the 'Powering Futures' project, this is a SCQF Level 6 course that is supported by industry partners and involves senior students developing sustainability projects. We are currently working with the programme manager from the Edinburgh Waterfront Development developing a strategic approach to the use of community benefits from this project.
- 3.5 **Foundation Apprenticeships (FAs):** Foundation Apprenticeships are offered at SCQF levels 4, 5 and 6 and are qualifications and experiences that facilitates vocational pathways that have parity of esteem with other more traditional qualifications. The FA comprises of a National Progression Award qualification and a Scottish Vocational Qualification through a work experience. We have been working with our secondary schools to extend the delivery of place-based FA frameworks. In curriculum planning we work 18 months in advance to populate our course choice offers across our 23 schools, the table below demonstrates current performance and predicted growth for 2025/26.

2024/2025 Delivery			
Framework	Number		
Business Skills	11 +10		
Social Services, Children and Young	5		
People			
L4 Construction	29		
IT Software	1		
Total 24/25	46		
2025/25 Estimated Growth			
Business Skills	100		



Social Services, Children and Young	30
People	
Creative and Digital Media	30 (delivered by screen education
_	Edinburgh).
Scientific Technologies (S6 only)	10
Food and Drink	20
IT Software	5
L4/5 Construction	30
Total 25/26	225

SDS award contracts to deliver FAs, this involves a payment of around £4000 per young person completing a level 6 FA (the level 4 this is figure is around £3000). We currently hold contracts to deliver 41 FAs and have asked SDS for contracts to support this expansion). A full award of contracts and FA completion would deliver £870,000 recurring funding for our FA and wider pathways programme.

3.6 **Sustainability and Creative Skills Pathways:** In developing Senior Phase qualifications, the curriculum team are working with primary and secondary colleagues to ensure that we have experiences in the BGE provide coherent pathways into Senior Phase qualifications. The table below illustrates pathways grouped in the themes of sustainability and creativity.

Bright Green Energy Collaborative Project	P6-S2	A collaborative project between Edinburgh College and Bright Green Energy, a renewable energy and hydrogen technologies non-profit organisation. The offer is for P6-S2 young people to develop understanding of green skills and career pathways. Includes site visit to engage with employers and see renewable energy wind turbines in action. 24-25 38 primary schools, 12 high schools signed up to workshops.
Future Stewards: Net Zero World SCQF Level 4	P6-S6	This is a 40-hour course at SCQF Level 4, ideal for a BGE Interdisciplinary Learning project or Wider Achievement course in the Senior Phase. 24-25 - up to 50 HS learners to pilot award. Up to 30 P6/7 primary learners to pilot. 25-26 - 7 high schools offering award 26-27 - progression to Level 5 course Waste in Circular Economy
Green Energy SCQF Level 5 Energy with Construction SCQF Level 5	S4-6	This course is being piloted by Edinburgh College at Gracemount High School for girls only for 2025-26 to encourage more girls into the construction industry. Edinburgh College are also delivering a level 5 Energy with construction course to S4 pupils for 2025-26. This will be based at 2 schools (one in the east of the city and one in the west) Students from all 23 secondaries will have access to this course.

	1	
Learning for Sustainability Careers Workshops		Led by the Global Citizenship Officer within WA&LL CLD 24-25 Balerno HS took part in a Learning for Sustainability Careers Week (Nov 24) in partnership with DYW. 45 senior phase young people involved. Employers acted as mentors to explore how the careers landscape and employability pathways are changing because of 'sustainability shift'. Employers included UNICEF, Drummond Miller (immigration lawyer), Smarter Grid Solutions, HES, Scotland Malawi Partnership. By end of school year, Firhill HS will have participated in the event (feeder primaries TBC) 25-26 - deliver to schools across other 3 localities. Involve primary
		schools as a part of a pilot, for a Learning Community.
Historic Redesign Project	P6/7	5-hour Inter-Disciplinary Learning project based learning workshop at City Chambers. Young people reimagine the courtyard space of the city chambers working alongside industry partners in the construction sector (with a creative, art & design/technologies lens). The course develops industry and creative learning skills to increase knowledge of the array of careers in the construction and built environment sector. This project is aligned to CfE Benchmarks, Career Education Standard, BtC4 and Meta-Skills 4.0. Includes visit to Edinburgh Castle (funded by HES). 24-25 - Craigour Park PS piloting this in May/June 25. Potential for all primary schools in Liberton LC to participate before end of academic year.
Community	S1/2/3	6-hour Inter-Disciplinary Learning project based learning activity where
Repurposing Challenge		young people reimagine a local building within the learning community (identified by CEC community planning). The young people will have access to survey plans and the site, working alongside industry partners in the construction sector (with a creative, art & design/technologies lens). The course develops industry and creative learning skills to increase knowledge of the array of careers in the construction and built environment sector. 24-25 - Craigroyston CHS piloting in March 25 at Lauriston Castle.
Reimagining Spaces Skills for Work SCQF Level 5	S4-6	Young people reimagine a local building within the learning community identified by CEC Community Planning. The young people will have access to survey plans and the site, working alongside industry partners in the construction sector (with a creative, art & design/technologies lens) to reimagine the purpose of the space. The course develops industry and creative learning skills to increase knowledge of the array of careers in the construction and built environment sector. Scotland's Home of the Year designer Anna Campbell Jones is an ambassador for the course. 25-26 - 5 high schools offering award 26-27 progression to Level 6 Creative Industries Reimagining Spaces course.

Creative and	P5-S6	24-25 - 11 teachers across 8 primary/high schools in all 4 localities are
Critical		participating in a Level 10 Creative and Critical Teacher award in
Thinking		partnership with Edinburgh College. Each teacher is delivering a Level
Qualification		1-7 Creative and Critical Thinking award with a cohort of learners in
SCQF Level		their settings (around 230 young people will gain accreditation by end
1-7		of school year). The course allows learners to progress through
		thinking strategies to be a more effective learner across all subjects,
		further education and employment. These awards are not subject
		specific and are designed as a holistic, skills-based pathway. The Level
		achieved is flexible based on the outcomes achieved by the young
		person. There is no formal exam at the end as the course is more
		about process.

3.7 Transition Programmes with Edinburgh College: We have 80 young people from 13 schools in S4 and S5 engaging with an Edinburgh College transition course. This offer priorities young people who are care-experienced, those at risk of not being in a positive destination and those learners who are engaging in flexible timetables in their current school. Learners gain an insight into the college experience by participating in taster sessions in a range of curricular areas, developing relationships and ensuring successful school-college transition. Successful completion of the course will guarantee a place on a full time course starting in August 2025.

4. Contact

Stephen Kelly – Head of Education Senior Phase Curriculum and Attainment stephen.kelly@edinburgh.gov.uk







EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP COMMUNITY PLANNING MANAGEMENT GROUP

DRAFT Terms of Reference

Purpose:

The Edinburgh Partnership Board Community Planning Management Group (CPMG) serves to provide support to the Edinburgh Partnership Board, acting as a collaborative planning group comprised of key leads from across all the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Strategic Partnerships.

The Edinburgh Partnership Board oversees the Edinburgh Partnership Community Plan 2022 – 2028 (Local Outcome Improvement Plan - LOIP) – this document provides a framework and sets out the shared priorities for the city. The LOIP identifies those issues that require sustained joint working to make a difference and describes the areas where the Edinburgh Partnership will work together to make improvements and meet these priorities to improve outcomes and reduce inequalities. The LOIP shows the commitment of the Edinburgh Partnership to work together to focus on tackling and reducing poverty and inequality within the city and improve the quality of life for all.

The LOIP covers 3 central themes, namely:

- enough money to live on,
- access to work, learning or training opportunities and
- making sure people have a good place to live.

The CPMG aims to drive progress against the priorities set out in the LOIP by ensuring a joined-up agenda and joined up delivery model across all the CPP Strategic Partnerships. It will ensure each of the Strategic Partnerships is contributing to the overall delivery plan and will monitor activity and performance against agreed outcomes.

The CPMG will be responsible for the creating of new LOIPs as and when required, including corresponding performance frameworks. This will ensure that local planning and delivery of services is integrated, evidence-based (including quantitative and qualitative data) and focused on securing quality and value through preventative approaches designed to improve outcomes for all citizens of Edinburgh.

The LOIP and related programmes of work will be informed by data collated though a process of Joint Strategic Needs Assessments (JSNAs) as well as key intelligence from those with lived experience. The CPMG will work to ensure effective mechanisms are in place in order for this to be delivered in a sustainable and inclusive way.

Function:

To drive, support and inform the work of the Edinburgh Partnership Board as required and specifically:



- In conjunction with the respective partnership groups, support the development and delivery of a refreshed Edinburgh Partnership LOIP
- Oversee the development of a LOIP Performance Framework, which brings together key milestones and KPIs from each of the CPP Strategic Groups
- Agree and prioritise topics on which further intelligence is required and request that relevant partners collaborate to provide that intelligence, including through a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment process where required.
- Drive, monitor and evaluate the implementation of a refreshed Edinburgh Partnership LOIP, against an agreed Performance Framework.
- Continue to review the Edinburgh Partnership governance and partnership
 working arrangements, to ensure that potential new groups proposed in recent
 T&I proposals (Quality of Life; Living Well Locally; Climate) are either
 established or are explored with a rationale for a decision not to establish
 these provided to the EPB.
- Continue to review opportunities to develop a framework to ensure local community planning structures can fulfil their statutory function in representing local communities.
- Continue to review and propose a revised process for CPP engagement with the community and voluntary sector.
- Review the annual EPB forward plan and forthcoming EPB agendas.
- Influence and shape the work of the Edinburgh Partnership Board, making suggestions for/ advising on areas of improvement as required.
- Share, develop and promote good practice across the Edinburgh Partnership.
- Explore potential new areas of development to progress the work of the Edinburgh Partnership Board.
- Oversee the Edinburgh Partnership Board risk register.

Governance and Accountability:

- The CPMG will report to the Edinburgh Partnership Board.
- Individual members of the CMPG will remain accountable to the governance of the individual organisations in which they sit.
- Governance structures to support the CPMG's operations, including subcommittees or working groups, will be established if necessary.

Meetings:

- To be held quarterly, in advance of the Edinburgh Partnership Board.
- Additional meetings of the Group may be held as required.
- Meeting papers will be circulated in advance of each meeting.

Chair:

Paul Lawrence, City of Edinburgh Council



Vice Chair:

- Gillie Severin, City of Edinburgh Council
- Flora Ogilvie, NHS Lothian

Membership:

The CPMG is a collaborative group which includes representatives from all the Edinburgh Partnership Board Strategic Partnerships; namely the Net Zero Leadership Board, Children's Partnership, Community Safety and Justice Partnership, Local Employability Partnership, Housing Partnership, Strategic Place Partnership and Community Learning and Development Partnership.

The CPMG membership comprises Strategic Partnership Lead Officers for the Edinburgh Partnership Board family, namely:

Chair	Paul Lawrence, City of Edinburgh Council
Vice Chair / CPP Lead Officer(s)	Gillie Severin, City of Edinburgh Council
Vice Chair/ Consultant in Public Health	Flora Ogilvie, NHS Lothian
Integration Joint Board	Andy Hall, Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership
Children's Partnership	Colin Briggs, NHS Lothian and Rose Howley, City of Edinburgh Council
Community Learning and Development Partnership	Laurene Edgar, Lothian Association of Youth Clubs (LAYC)
Community Safety and Justice Partnership	Derek McGowan, City of Edinburgh Council
Housing Partnership	Derek McGowan, City of Edinburgh Council
Local Employability Partnership	Rona Hunter, Capital City Partnership
Net Zero Leadership Board	Gareth Barwell, TBC
Strategic Place Partnership	Crawford McGhie, City of Edinburgh Council

The role of the CPMG members is to provide a two-way conduit between the CPMG and their relevant Strategic Partnership. CPMG members are expected to report into the CPMG on behalf of their respective Strategic Partnership.

CPMG members are expected to prioritise attendance at the CPMG. If unable to attend, efforts should be made to send an appropriate representative wherever possible.

Administration:

Secretariat support will be provided by City of Edinburgh Council and NHS Lothian on a 6 monthly rotational basis.

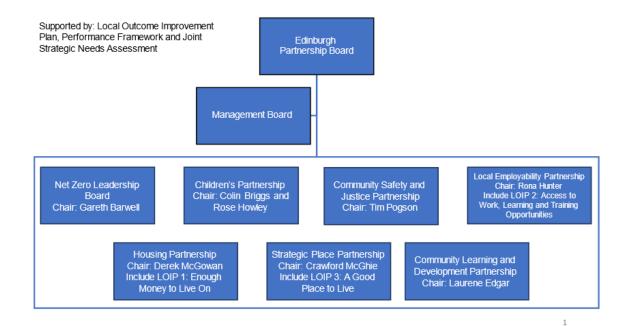


Review:

Group terms of reference including purpose, function and membership will be reviewed annually.



Appendix 1 – The Edinburgh Partnership (CPP) Family Structure:



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