

Public Document Pack



Meeting Wednesday, 3 December 2025

Time 2.00 pm to 4.30pm

Venue Robertson Trust Suite, Spartans Community Foundation, 94 Pilton Dr,
Edinburgh EH5 2HF

Edinburgh Partnership Board

Pages

1. Welcome and Meeting Protocols

1.1 Welcome and Meeting Protocols

**Presentation by Debbi McCulloch – Chief Executive Officer,
Spartans Community Foundation (2.00-2.20pm)**

2. Declaration of Interests

2.1 Declarations of Interest

3. Minutes

3.1 Minutes of the Edinburgh Partnership of 9 September 2025

3 - 8

4. Outstanding Actions

4.1	Outstanding Actions	9 - 26
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5. New Business

5.1	ECLD Partnership Implementation Plan Annual Update (2.40-2.55pm)	27 - 34
5.2	Winter Preparedness (2.55-3.10pm)	Verbal Report

6. Workstream 1 - Governance and Administration

6.1	Prevention and the Edinburgh Partnership Workplan (3.10-3.25pm)	35 - 72
6.2	Quarterly Reports & Planned Dashboard (3.25-3.30pm)	73 - 84

7. Workstream 2: LOIP 2022-2028

7.1	Annual End Poverty in Edinburgh Progress report - incorporating LOIP 2018-2028 Progress Report (3.30-4.00pm)	85 - 136
	Note: Covering report to follow, appendix A circulated only	
7.2	For Info: Community Justice Annual Return (Approved by CSJ Partnership) (4.00-4.10pm)	137 - 184

8. Workstream 3: The Road to LOIP 2028

8.1	LOIP 2028-2038 Planning update & Next Steps (4.10-4.25pm)	185 - 208
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9. Dates of Future Meetings

9.1 Dates of Future Meetings

Future Meeting Dates:

Date	Time	Location
15 Jan 2026	1.30-3.00pm	Additional meeting – City Chambers, High Street.
3 March 2026	2.00 - 4.00pm	SPACE@Broomhouse
10 June 2026	2.00 - 4.00pm	McDonald Road Fire Station

Notes:

Workstream 1:	Ensuring that the governance, structure, reporting and administrative systems/tools are in place to support Workstreams 2 and 3.
Workstream 2:	Progressing the current LOIP & Locality planning
Workstream3:	Developing a new LOIP

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THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Wednesday 9 September 2025 – 2.00pm

2nd Floor Board Room, McKinnon House, Royal Edinburgh Hospital, Morningside Place, Edinburgh, EH10 5HF

MINUTE

Board members present

Councillor Jane Meagher (Chair)	City of Edinburgh Council
Bruce Crawford	Edinburgh Voluntary Organisation's Council (EVOC)
Emma Matthews	Skills Development Scotland
Jean Gray	Viewpoint Housing Association
Douglas Tharby	Edinburgh Association of Community Councils
Harriet Mortimer	Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce
Councillor Claire Miller	City of Edinburgh Council
Jamie Bell	Scottish Enterprise
David Dourley	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Susan Webb (Vice-Chair)	NHS Lothian

In attendance

Gillie Severin	City of Edinburgh Council
Daniel Baigrie	City of Edinburgh Council
Flora Ogilvie	NHS Lothian
Lindsay Robertson	City of Edinburgh Council
April Harrison-Clark	City of Edinburgh Council

Andrew Hall	EHSCP
David Porteous	City of Edinburgh Council

1. Welcome and Meeting Protocols

Councillor Meagher welcomed members to the meeting.

2. Declaration of interests

None.

3. Minute of the Edinburgh Partnership of 12 June 2025

The minute of the Edinburgh Partnership Board of 12 June 2025 was presented for approval as a correct record.

Decision

To agree the minute as a correct record.

4. Minute of the Edinburgh Partnership of 11 July 2025

The minute of the Edinburgh Partnership Board of 11 July 2025 was presented for approval as a correct record.

Decision

To agree the minute as a correct record.

5. Outstanding Actions

The Outstanding Actions were presented to the Edinburgh Partnership Board.

Decision

- 1) To agree to close the following actions
 - Action 5 – Director of Public Health Annual Report 2024
 - Action 6 - Prevention Update - Living well locally – addressing poverty across Edinburgh through whole system reform
 - Action 8c, 8d and 8e - Next Steps and Role of Edinburgh Partnership Board
- 2) To otherwise note the remaining outstanding actions.

6. For Information: Scottish Fire & Rescue Service: Service Delivery Review

David Dourley from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service provided an verbal update regarding the Service Delivery Review. Details regarding financial

constraints and reform within the fire service were discussed. A review of needs, including risk, demand and the operational footprint of the service had been underway. Various reasons for change had been identified including the presence of RAAC in some fire stations. A consultation regarding changes to fire service provision was ongoing associated with closures at Marionville and Crewe Toll fire stations as well as a rebuild at Liberton fire station. There had been analysis of impact on response time to communities across Edinburgh, if these proposed changes were agreed. Members were encouraged to submit feedback to the formal consultation that was ongoing until 17 September 2025.

Decision

To note the update provided.

7. Decision: Third Sector Review: Engagement Feedback and recommendations

Over a fourteen-week engagement period there were 239 engagements with this work by third sector organisations, which includes; 84 completed online surveys; 49 attendees at workshops hosted by third sector organisations in their buildings and facilitated by Council colleagues; Around 100 attendees at in-person and online meetings of existing networks of third sector and community organisations, with discussions facilitated by Council colleagues; 6 participants in individual or small group interviews.

Decision

- 1) To note the feedback from third sector organisations, in particular the current pressures faced by the third sector in Edinburgh and to thank third sector organisations for the participation and contribution to this work.
- 2) To agree to continue partnership working already underway and to identify the opportunities and barrier associated with partners adoption of fair funding principles outlined in this research to date.
- 3) To agree that the findings and recommendations arising from this work will be considered by the board at a future meeting.

8. Decision: Edinburgh Partnership Workplan Proposal

As part of the Transformation and Improvement programme (T&I), the Edinburgh Partnership Board (EPB) had recently agreed a new governance model, along with a high-level timeline for the future of strategic community planning.

Decision

Improvement Service Community Planning Self-Assessment

- 1) To note the findings of the recent IS National Community Planning Self Assessment (CPSA)
- 2) To complete the re-opened IS CPSA survey by October 7, 2025.
- 3) To participate in an Improvement Planning workshop facilitated by the IS during October/November 2025. 10.22/10/2025 (9am-12noon), 23/10/2025 (9am-12noon) and 7/11/2025 (11.30am-1.30pm) are currently being held as options. Edinburgh Partnership Workstreams
- 4) To adopt the three proposed workstreams for the Edinburgh Partnership outlined in the body of this report and at Appendix 3. This includes refreshing the current LOIP over the next 6 months and developing a new LOIP for launch in 2028.
- 5) To adopt the proposed Edinburgh Partnership Board Workplan (Appendix 4) Core Support
- 6) To agree to reinstate the Community Planning Support Team (CPST) with an initial commitment of one day per week of dedicated support from each of the partners with a statutory duty to support shared leadership and collective governance (City of Edinburgh Council (CEC), Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, NHS Lothian, Scottish Enterprise and South East Scotland Transport) and from EVOC, to further the workstreams outlined in this report.
- 7) To note other Partners would also be welcome to participate.
- 8) To note this initial commitment would be on an interim basis pending full resource model proposals in March 2026.
- 9) To agree all partners would assess their current resourcing of the Edinburgh Partnership, both in kind and in cash, and share with the CPST by October 31, 2025.
- 10) To note that this paper may be subject to consideration by individual partners at their governance boards.

9. Decision: Prevention Terminology – An EP approach Director of Public Health Annual Report 2024

The purpose of this report was to provide the Edinburgh Partnership Board (EPB) with an update on the development of shared definitions of prevention for the partnership. Given the Edinburgh Partnership's enhanced focus on prevention, the EPB agreed at the Board meeting on June 12, 2025 that it was important to have a single definition of prevention for the city, which all partners could use to guide their work and the collective work of the Partnership.

Decision

- 1) To note the proposed definitions of prevention, early intervention and mitigation included in this report for use across the Edinburgh Partnership.
- 2) To direct the Chairs/Leads of the Strategic Partnerships to add a review of the proposed definitions to the agendas of their next Strategic Partnership meetings and provide feedback to the Community Planning Support Team (CPST).
- 3) To direct Partners to share these proposed definitions with their respective leadership/membership and provide feedback to the CPST.
- 4) To direct officers to bring the proposals back to the EP Board in December 2025 for final agreement.
- 5) To note that a further report will be presented to the board in December 2025.

10. Discussion: Participation in the EPB: Considering options for members located outwith Edinburgh

Decision

To note that some statutory partners have staff located out with Edinburgh and hybrid meetings would be considered by the management group at a future date.

11. Discussion: Living Well Locally/Neighbourhood Prevention Partnerships development: Next Steps

During the last cycle, the focus had been on creating the conditions to move the Living Well Locally work, particularly the establishment of Neighbourhood Prevention Partnerships (NPP) from strategy to delivery. Key achievements had included securing a small amount of funding from the Scottish Government via the Fairer Futures Partnership fund and from Bloomberg to begin the work. Approval for the approach had been agreed at the City of Edinburgh Council's Policy and Sustainability Committee.

Decision

- 1) To note the work underway and next steps.
- 2) To support requests for partnership resource to enable delivery
- 3) To agree to support establishing the initial NPPs in five areas – Pilton, Wester Hailes, Craigmillar, Restalrig/Lochend, Gracemount/Liberton.
- 4) To consider if Neighbourhood Prevention Partnership is the most appropriate terminology for this work.
- 5) To note that the Lead Officer is happy to discuss this work further with partners.

12. Dates of Future Meetings

To note the forthcoming meeting dates below:

Date	Time	Meeting/Event	Location
10 Sep-10 Oct 2025		Proposed IS Self-Assessment completion timeframe	Online
22 Oct, 23 Oct or 7 Nov 2025	9am-12noon or 11.30am-1.30pm	Proposed IS workshop with EPB members	TBC
17 Sep 2025	9-11:30am	EPB Induction Workshop	TBC
3 Dec 2025	2-4pm	EP Board Meeting	Spartans Community Foundation
3 Mar 2026	2-4pm	EP Board Meeting	SPACE at Broomhouse Hub
10 Jun 2026	2-4pm	EP Board Meeting	TBC

Rolling Actions Log

Edinburgh Partnership Board

December 2025

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Comments
1 Page 11	12.12.23	Update – LOIP Priority 1 – ‘Enough Money to Live On’	<p>1) The board will take a strategic look at Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) support for parents, to enable them to work and learn.</p> <p>2) A session will be held in February, to look at provision and pressures on ELC in relation to the Council’s Poverty Prevention Board.</p> <p>3) To consider Energy Poverty at a future</p>	<p>Chief Executive Lead Officer: Gillie Severin gillie.severin@edinburgh.gov.uk</p>	Ongoing	<p>Actions 1 and 2 closed on 12.12.24</p> <p><u>Update Nov 2025</u></p> <p>SLWG first meeting took place on November 6, 2025. Well attended with time spent considering the core issues in the city. Action log being developed. A further meeting to be scheduled pre Christmas to consider opportunities for partnership work.</p> <p><u>Update August 2025</u></p> <p>A meeting is scheduled for Nov 6,</p>

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Comments
			<p>meeting of the board and note the work of Home Energy Scotland.</p> <p>4) To note that some of the 'red' marked actions in the report have not started yet. Some of these are owing to resources and some require broader cultural shifts across partners.</p>			<p>2025 with Partners and community organisations to progress the work outlined above. A further update will be provided in December 2025.</p> <p><u>Actions 3 and 4 Update June 2025:</u></p> <p>This work will be considered as part of the Poverty Commission interim report and will be brought to the EPB board in the autumn for discussion and agreement on collective priorities.</p> <p><u>Update March 2024</u></p> <p>A group of key stakeholders met in February to discuss childcare provision in the city. As a first step it was agreed to carry out a mapping exercise to better understand the landscape of provision. This will inform discussion about gaps and opportunities and how to better achieve a collaborative approach.</p>

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Comments
						The group will reconvene in April and a progress report will be submitted to the Board in June.
2	11.06.24	Community Learning and Development Partnership Plan	The Community Learning and Development (CLD) Plan has been agreed upon as presented. A progress report on the CLD Plan will be provided annually to the EPB.	Executive Director of Children, Education and Justice Services Lead Officer: Linda Lees linda.lees@edinburgh.gov.uk	December 2025	Recommended for Closure Report on December 2025 Agenda December 2024 Update: To bring the CLD 1 year Implementation plan to EPB in due course.
3	03.09.24	Becoming A Trauma Informed Partnership	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To agree members would complete initial awareness training by December 2024. 2) To request links in the report be checked and updated if required to enable members to complete training. 	Executive Director of Children, Education and Justice Services Lead Officer: Rose Howley rose.howley@edinburgh.gov.uk	TBC	
4a	12.12.24	Edinburgh Partnership	1) To request information on the expectations of	Chief Executive Lead Officer: Gillie	December 2025	Recommended for closure

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Comments
		Transformation and Improvement Programme – Progress Update 12 December 2024	Community Councillors were outlined.	Severin gillie.severin@edinburgh.gov.uk		<p><u>Nov 2025 updates:</u></p> <p>Officers attended the CC session on October 11, 2025 and shared details of the 6 core ways community bodies (inc. Community Councils) can be involved in community planning. It is the responsibility of statutory partners to facilitate community body participation in these 6 areas to the extent <i>they</i> wish to be. EP Board will await update from EACC once members have determined this.</p> <p><u>August 2025 Update:</u></p> <p>Officers are preparing to attend the Community Council session on 11th October to discuss the role of CC in poverty prevention which is the key focus of the CPP.</p>
4b	12.06.25	Outstanding Actions	To clarify the expectations of Community Councillors in relation to community	Chief Executive Lead Officer: April Harrison-Clark	December 2025	<p>Recommended for closure</p> <p><u>Nov 2025 updates:</u></p>

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Comments
			<p>planning, with the Head of Governance and Democracy.</p> <p>Note: this relates is action 4a.</p>	April.Harrison-Clark@edinburgh.gov.uk		<p>Officers attended the CC session on October 11, 2025 and shared details of the 6 core ways community bodies (inc. Community Councils) can be involved in community planning. It is the responsibility of statutory partners to facilitate community body participation in these 6 areas to the extent <i>they</i> wish to be. EP Board will await update from EACC once members have determined this.</p> <p><u>August 2025 Update:</u></p> <p>Officers are preparing to attend the Community Council session on 11th October to discuss the role of CC in poverty prevention which is the key focus of the CPP.</p> <p>An internal meeting is also scheduled for 17th September which will include discussions relating to this action.</p>

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Comments
5	12.06.25	Community Safety and Justice Partnership Review	To request two self-assessment exercises, focused on Community Justice and Community Safety are completed by CSaJ partners with a report back to the Edinburgh Partnership in September 2025.	Interim Executive Director of Place – Lead Officer, Derek McGowan derek.mcgowan@edinburgh.gov.uk	December 2025	Update Nov 2025 Report will now come to March 2026 meeting <u>Sept 2025 Update</u> Report on December 2025 Agenda
6	11.07.25	Next Steps and Role of Edinburgh Partnership Board	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To quickly review/ map which agencies and facilities, have or could have access to Naloxone and to arrange appropriate training. This could include staff working for a range of third sector agencies, the HSCP, the council and the police, among others. 2) To note training can be provided by Third Sector partners and 	Chief Officer, Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership: Lead Officer, Christine Lavery/ Anna Duff Christine.Lavery@edinburgh.gov.uk Anna.Duff@edinburgh.gov.uk Simon Scotland: Fiona Williamson fiona.williamson@simonscotland.org	December 2025	Recommended for Closure See updates at appendix 1 of this Outstanding Actions Log.

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Comments
			<p>staff in the Recovery Hubs and to determine where increased training for staff would be advisable across the city.</p> <p>3) To note that training can be offered to professionals as well as the public.</p> <p>4) To note discussion may be required with front-line staff across agencies / Trade Unions regarding staff training to respond to rapid collapse or non-fatal overdose; to alleviate concerns about risk of harming a citizen were naloxone administered.</p>			

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Comments
6b	11.07.25	Next Steps and Role of Edinburgh Partnership Board	<p>1) To explore how Police Scotland and Public Health can work with the Corporate Parenting Board, to consider if it is appropriate to have Naloxone in children and young people's care settings.</p> <p>2) To add fatal / near-fatal overdose to the next meeting of the Edinburgh Children's partnership, for further consideration.</p>	<p>Executive Director of Education, Children and Justice Services: Lead Officer, Amanda Hatton</p> <p>Amanda.Hatton@edinburgh.gov.uk</p>	December 2025	<p>Recommended for Closure</p> <p>Naloxone use and locations has been reviewed and where appropriate enhanced.</p>
6c	11.07.25	Next Steps and Role of Edinburgh Partnership Board	To provide an update on instances of near fatal overdose and drug related deaths within the prison population.	<p>Executive Director of Education, Children and Justice Services: Lead Officer, Amanda Hatton / Carey Fuller</p> <p>Amanda.Hatton@edinburgh.gov.uk</p> <p>Carey.Fuller@edinburgh.gov.uk</p>	December 2025	<p><u>Update September 2025</u></p> <p>NHS Lothian colleagues will provide an update on this and it will be made available at a future meeting.</p>

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Comments
6d	11.07.25	Next Steps and Role of Edinburgh Partnership Board	To explore possibilities for resourcing additional outreach and street work to engage with people at risk of harm from drug use.	Executive Director of Place – Lead Officer, Derek McGowan. Derek.McGowan@edinburgh.gov.uk	December 2025	
6e	11.07.25	Next Steps and Role of Edinburgh Partnership Board	To seek clarity on relationship between the Edinburgh Partnership Board and the Edinburgh Drug and Alcohol Partnership.	Chief Executive – Lead Officer: April Harrison-Clark April.Harrison-Clark@edinburgh.gov.uk	December 2025	<p><u>August Update</u> 11 Aug – AHC met with Christine Lavery (ED HSCP & Chief Officer of IJB) & David Williams (EADP Joint Commissioning Officer)</p> <p>Proposed Next Steps</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The EADP Joint Commissioning Officer (David Williams) or alternate will attend the EP Community Safety & Justice Partnership meetings. 2. EADP Chair (ED for the HSCP & Chief Officer of IJB – Christine Lavery) will be invited to the Edinburgh Partnership Board meetings

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Comments
						<p>in an advisory capacity - Complete</p> <p>3. The EADP will host a workshop in October 2025 to review the current structure and governance arrangements for the EADP and consider how relationships/connections with other Partners, including the EP, can be enhanced. AHC or other officer to attend for EP</p> <p>Overview</p> <p>The EADP is funded via a contract with the Scottish Government. These funds are held and distributed by the EIJB.</p> <p>The EADP develops an Edinburgh Alcohol and Drugs Partnership Strategy for the city. There is a perception that this is primarily for the HSCP, but in fact it is a partnership document for the city, to</p>

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Comments
						<p>be delivered collaboratively.</p> <p>The Partnership Delivery Framework sets out the expectations for ADPs. It makes clear the expectation that ADPs will be linked with Community in fact it is a partnership document for the city, to be delivered collaboratively.</p> <p>The Partnership Delivery Framework sets out the expectations for ADPs. It makes clear the expectation that ADPs will be linked with Community Planning:</p> <p><i>Through the development and delivery of the local strategy the ADP should identify where there are shared outcomes and priorities with other local strategic partnerships. In these cases they should develop shared arrangements to support delivery. As a result minimum agreement to the strategic plan and arrangements for delivering should</i></p>

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Comments
						<p><i>come from:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Community Justice Partnership -Children's Partnership -Integration Authority; <p><i>Community planning requires local public sector bodies to work together with community bodies, to improve outcomes on themes they determine are local priorities for collective action. Where reducing the use of and harms from alcohol and drugs feature in these priorities, local Community Planning partners should consider how co-operation with Alcohol and Drug Partnerships can support delivery.</i></p> <p>In practice the connection between the EPB and the ADP has varied over time. At present it is currently limited and can be improved.</p>
6f	11.07.25	Next Steps and Role of Edinburgh	To work with the University of Edinburgh to understand if further support is needed	University of Edinburgh: Lynn McMath	To be confirmed	<p><u>Update September 2025</u></p> <p>Offer of contact with Wellbeing</p>

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Comments
		Partnership Board	to engage with the student population regarding drug use.	lynn.mcmath@ed.ac.uk		Team and EUSA Students union to be followed up.
7	09.09.25	Decision: Third Sector Review: Engagement Feedback and recommendations	To agree that an additional meeting of the EPB will be held in mid-January 2026, prior to the council budget setting process; to consider third sector funding.	Daniel Baigrie – Committee Services daniel.baigrie@edinburgh.gov.uk	September 2025	Recommended for Closure Meeting to be held on 15 January 2026.
8	09.09.25	Decision: Edinburgh Partnership Workplan Proposal	To note that details regarding the improvement service survey would be circulated to members.	Chief Executive Directorate - Lead Officer, April Harrison-Clark april.harrison-clark@edinburgh.gov.uk	September 2025	Recommended for Closure Issued to members on 10 September with a deadline of Friday 26 September.
9	09.09.25	Decision: Prevention Terminology – An EP approach	To note that a further report will be presented to the board in December 2025.	Chief Executive Directorate - Lead Officer, April Harrison-Clark	December 2025	Recommended for Closure On the agenda for the December 2025 EPB.

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Comments
				april.harrison-clark@edinburgh.gov.uk		
10 Page 24	09.09.25	Discussion: Living Well Locally/Neighbourhood Prevention Partnerships development: Next Steps	To consider if Neighbourhood Prevention Partnership (NPP) is the most appropriate terminology for this work.	Chief Executive Directorate - Lead Officer, Lindsay Robertson lindsay.robertson5@edinburgh.gov.uk	December 2025	Recommended for Closure Local areas will choose their own name for their NPP but officers continue with this term as the overall reference for now.

Outstanding Actions: Appendix 1

Action		
<p>To quickly review/ map which agencies and facilities, have or could have access to Naloxone and to arrange appropriate training. This could include staff working for a range of third sector agencies, the HSCP, the council and the police, among others.</p> <p>1) To note training can be provided by Third Sector partners and staff in the Recovery Hubs and to determine where increased training for staff would be advisable across the city.</p> <p>2) To note that training can be offered to professionals as well as the public.</p> <p>3) To note discussion may be required with front-line staff across agencies / Trade Unions regarding staff training to respond to rapid collapse or non-fatal overdose; to alleviate concerns about risk of harming a citizen were naloxone administered.</p>		
Draft response:		
<p>There are 4 locations in the Old Town which consistently hold naloxone and where people can expect to go in the event of a very nearby overdose and to be urgently provided with naloxone and help:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The Access Place * The Simon Community Scotland hub * The Spittal street centre * All community pharmacies. Those in the city centre are: 		
Pharmacy Name	Address	Opening Hours
Boots Pharmacy	6 St. Patrick Street, EH8 9HB	Mon–Fri: 09:00–18:00 Sat: 09:00–17:30 Sun: Closed
Bristo Square Pharmacy	6 Bristo Square, EH8 9AL	Mon–Fri: 09:00–18:00 Sat: 09:00–17:00 Sun: Closed

Newington Pharmacy	46–48 Clerk Street, EH8 9JB	Mon–Fri: 08:30–18:00 Sat: 09:00–17:00 Sun: Closed
Parsons Green Pharmacy	29–31 Parsons Green Terrace, EH8 7AF	Mon–Fri: 09:00–18:00 Sat: 09:00–13:00 Sun: Closed
Nuchem Pharmacy	173 Piersfield Terrace, EH8 7BR	Mon–Fri: 09:00–18:00 Sat: 09:00–17:00 Sun: Closed
Right Medicine Pharmacy	67 High Street, EH1 1SR	Mon–Fri: 09:00–13:00 & 14:00–18:00 Sat: 09:00–13:00 & 13:30–17:00 Sun: Closed

Of these, only the pharmacies are formally required to provide this (under a national, SG funded scheme).

However, we do not actively promote people coming to these settings in the event of an overdose. Such a scheme is promoted in some areas with stickers in windows etc notifying users of locations with a naloxone supply and the locations advertised. In some places, "naloxoboxes" are also available (publicly accessible containers with naloxone in them, in a similar way to public defibrillator boxes). Local services have previously explored these options but there were a number of concerns about non-specialist/ clinical organisations ensuring that naloxone was provided quickly enough to outweigh the risks of delay in calling an ambulance and of leaving the person who has overdosed.

Instead, services promote a) individuals who use drugs carrying naloxone, using in groups and being able to respond if their companions overdose and b) calling an ambulance as soon as possible, rather than leaving the location of the overdose to seek naloxone.

In practice, the large hostels in the area also carry naloxone (and use it mostly for their own clients though they have also responded to people who have come to the door). The Streetwork outreach teams and all police officers also carry naloxone. A number of individuals also carry naloxone - service users and their

families, but also individual professionals and members of the public- local services (CGL, TPS, SAS, NHSL Harm reduction Team and H&SCP) offer training and medication to interested groups and individuals; and Scottish Families Affected by drugs provide naloxone through online ordering.

There would be a number of challenges to having more organisations provide naloxone to the public in an emergency reliably enough to make them part of the formal response to overdoses - it is a clinical intervention which can be taught to members of the public, but is not included in job descriptions or typical expectations of staff. If people were to rely on the intervention (i.e. drug users were advised to come to them in the event of an overdose) organisations would be exposed to liability and individual members of staff to trauma and accountability. The naloxone would only be available during the opening hours of the services, further risking confusion. The naloxone needs to be in date, immediately to hand and staff need to be able to understand the situation and be trained well enough to respond - this would be challenging in a network of services for whom this would be a rare event and far from their normal focus.

However, it would be viable to take active steps to increase the number of individuals in the old town who personally chose to be trained and to carry naloxone, especially in the areas of greatest need. These might include offering to staff in those settings training sessions (on a voluntary basis) or running stalls or other outreach events to engage with people who are often in the area. As part of offering staff personal naloxone and training, it is proposed to offer to train staff at 249 high street and in the main locality offices (staff from the H&SCP and associated voluntary sector services will organise with the managers of these settings).

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THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

Item 5a - Community Learning and Development (CLD) Plan 2024- 27 Update

Wednesday 3 December 2025

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report updates the Edinburgh Partnership Board on the progress and improvements since the Education Scotland CLD Progress Visit in February 2024. The progress made is reflected in the report of the Further Inspection of CLD in March 2025 which is now published on the Education Scotland Website.
- 1.2 This report provides assurance that the CLD Partnership and the Local Authority are meeting their legislative duties for CLD and have the capacity to continue to improve. It also highlights the relationship between the three-year CLD Partnership Plan and the Wider Achievement and Lifelong Learning Service and Team Plans. The council's CLD Team is part of the Wider Achievement and Lifelong Learning Service, and provides an annual update report to Education Children and Families.
- 1.3 The successes, challenges and next steps for the CLD Partnership are outlined in this report.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Board is recommended to:
 - i. Approve this report, noting that the local authority and its CLD partners are now fully meeting the legislative requirements for CLD
 - ii. Agree to receiving a further report in September 2026, with an update on progress of year 2 of the CLD Plan 2024-27

3. Main Report

Context

- 3.1 Under the powers of the 1980 Education (Scotland) Act, the Council has a duty to fulfil the Requirements for Community Learning and Development (Scotland) Regulations 2013, and to produce a three-year plan which sets out how the

Council co-ordinates with partners to provide CLD. External scrutiny is carried out by Education Scotland.

- 3.2 The Edinburgh CLD Partnership is responsible for the CLD Plan, and the Partnership is accountable to the Edinburgh Partnership.
- 3.3 The previous CLD report to the Edinburgh Partnership in December 2024 outlined the actions taken to develop the new CLD Plan 2024-27.
- 3.4 Education Scotland HMIE (His Majesties Inspectorate of Education) carried out Progress Visits to all 32 local authorities over 2023/24. Edinburgh's Progress Visit was in February 2024. A Further Inspection of CLD in Edinburgh was carried out in March 2025.
- 3.5 This report provides the Edinburgh partnership with an update on the Community Learning and Development (CLD) Plan 2024-27 and the work of the CLD Partnership.

Progress Visit – main points for action and updates

- 3.6 In February 2024, HM Inspectors considered the two following questions:
 - How effective is the leadership of the local authority and their CLD partners in improving outcomes?
 - How well does the performance of the local authority and CLD partners demonstrate positive impact?
- 3.7 In the Report of the Progress Visit published in April 2024, HMI noted areas of strength, which can be read in more detail in Appendix 1.

In April 2024, HMI also set out the following four main points for action:

- 1) As a matter of urgency, the local authority and its partners should strengthen the leadership and governance of CLD in line with legislative requirements.
 - 2) Senior leaders should engage further with communities and stakeholders to help inform priorities for the new CLD plan
 - 3) The approach to community development needs to lead to the identification of clear outcomes, which are embedded within the future CLD plan
 - 4) The local authority and its partners should strengthen approaches to the systematic tracking, monitoring and reporting of progress against CLD priorities
- 3.8 An update on each main area for action is summarised below, demonstrating the strong progress made over the year to April 2025.
 - 3.9 The Report can be found at Appendix 2



As a matter of urgency, the local authority and its partners should strengthen the leadership and governance of CLD in line with legislative requirements. (April 2024)

- 3.10 The vision for CLD is now clear and links to local, city and national priorities. There is a shared ambition and understanding of the role and governance of CLD within the community planning and committee frameworks.
- 3.11 The new CLD Partnership is established and meets every two months. Adult Learning and Youth Work sub-groups have clear implementation plans and meet regularly, reporting back to the CLD Partnership. Across the Community Planning landscape, the CLD Partnership is increasingly recognised as an equal partnership. Partners understand their role to meet national CLD expectations and requirements. Links with the Children's Partnership Youth Work Working Group remove duplication in relation to Youth Work.
- 3.12 The new CLD Plan 2024-27 was developed and published in September 2024 based on a range of data about the city, communities and local needs.
- 3.13 The council and its partners are now gathering evidence and reporting within a cycle of Committee and Community Planning meetings. Leaders evaluate progress, demonstrate impact and identify next steps.
- 3.14 The CLD Plan 2024-27 was reviewed at a workshop with the CLD partners and year 2 updates are developing based on successes and emerging themes.

Senior leaders should engage further with communities and stakeholders to help inform priorities for the new CLD plan (April 2024)

- 3.15 Feedback and data are gathered from a range of sources and used across the CLD Partnership and by council teams. This informed the CLD Plan priorities and is also used to demonstrate impact and plan next steps.
- 3.16 Senior leaders now regularly discuss CLD and have an increased understanding of where and how CLD contributes to strategic city priorities.
- 3.17 Data gathered through the Team Around the Learning Community test sites, informed the shift to Team Around the Community, with feedback from young people and parents/carers helping inform Year 2 of the CLD Plan.
- 3.18 Volunteer Management Committee engagement with the Community Empowerment and Engagement team helped inform CLD priorities. Third Sector organisations in receipt of Connected Communities grant funding contribute information via grant applications and grant monitoring.
- 3.19 Engagement with schools and pupils informed the CLD priorities around skills and qualifications for young people in both the CLD Plan and the Wider Achievement and Lifelong Learning Service and Team Plans. Supported by Development Officers, Edinburgh Youth Action is developing across the city at Learning Community level, developing capacity to inform plans and policy.



- 3.20 The Adult Learners Forum helps involve learners in planning and evaluating programmes. Parents and Carers continue to inform CLD, through surveys, parent councils, the Parent and Carer Collaborative, Discover and Chill n Chat.

The approach to community development needs to lead to the identification of clear outcomes, which are embedded within the future CLD plan (April 2024)

- 3.21 Community Development is clearly articulated in the CLD Plan (2024-27).
- 3.22 Community Empowerment and Engagement's work with Community Centre Management Committees and other community networks is driven by a clear vision, linked to local and city priorities. Understanding of the social, economic and culture context of communities informs the CLD Plan and strategies.
- 3.23 Management Committees and groups using community centres were invited to give feedback on their ambitions and potential training needs. The information that was returned was collated and used to develop an offer of training and support for Community Centre Management Committees.
- 3.24 Management Committees that engaged with the offer of support and training, are developing their volunteer capacity, confidence and sustainability.
- 3.25 Those Neighbourhood Networks that agreed to continue are also supported by the Community Empowerment and Engagement team. Engagement sessions with community councils and the third sector gathered views on the community planning processes.

The local authority and its partners should strengthen approaches to the systematic tracking, monitoring and reporting of progress against CLD priorities (April 2024)

- 3.26 A continued focus on systematic and consistent approaches includes using data from a range of sources. Increasingly qualitative and quantitative data and feedback is used to plan and monitor the impact of CLD.
- 3.27 Council CLD is now embedded within the quality improvement process, with a Quality Improvement Education Officer providing support and challenge.
- 3.28 The new tracking system for education, Pupil Tracking, was procured with the ability to capture Wider Achievement (incl. CLD Youth Work). Managers have gained skills, knowledge and confidence in evaluation by participating in school Supported Self Evaluations alongside quality improvement colleagues
- 3.29 CLD colleagues and partners are involved in the development of Team Around the Community. The CLD Partnership Plan is supported by Implementation Plans with clear KPIs. Evaluation and feedback informed year 2 of the CLD Plan
- 3.30 A Thematic Review of Active Schools resulted in a re-allocation of staff resource and free provision to learning communities based on equity scores.



- 3.31 The tool developed to allocate resource based on equity has been further refined and is now being used by other teams/services to prioritise staff and budget to where the need is greatest. A Thematic Review of Youth Work has been scoped, following the same process used by education for Thematic Reviews.
- 3.32 The CLD Partnership monitors the CLD Plan and reports to the Edinburgh Partnership annually. CLD and Wider Achievement and Lifelong Learning are both scheduled to report annually to Education, Children and Families.

Strategic priorities for CLD and link with Wider Achievement and Lifelong

- 3.33 The CLD Plan and the Wider Achievement and Lifelong Learning Plans are aligned with each other and Council Business Plan priorities. Planning reduces duplication and improves reporting. The table below shows the alignment.

CLD Partnership Plan Priorities	Wider Achievement and Lifelong Learning Service Plan Priorities
Employment and Skills	Skills, Qualifications and Employability
Poverty and Inequality	Poverty and Inequality
Mental Health and Wellbeing	Physical and Mental Health and Wellbeing
Workforce Development	Workforce Development

What is Going Well

- 3.34 The CLD Partnership and Working Groups continue to meet regularly. The Partnership benefits from strengthened secretariat support which was not available to the previous CLD Partnership.
- 3.35 Implementation Plans for the 3 domains of CLD (Adult Learning, Youth Work and Community Development) are evolving well, supported by Working Groups. Partnerships are needs led and increasingly data driven. These Implementation Plans continue to develop aligned to the evolving context.
- 3.36 An example is recent work in the lead up to and over the Halloween and Bonfire night period. CLD partners were variously involved in a range of interventions including:
- 3.36.1 Police, Fearless Campaign, council colleagues and other partners worked together to deliver a Youth Summit, raising awareness of the harms caused by anti-social behaviour. Pupils from 18 Secondary Schools attended and contributed to developing the comms and media campaign



- 3.36.2 LAYC (Lothian Association of Youth Clubs) distributed grants to member organisations to engage young people and deliver diversionary activities
- 3.36.3 Wider Achievement and Lifelong Learning Teams (Youth Work, Outdoor Learning, Active Schools and Community Sports Hubs) delivered a range of activities to engage young people and support them make positive choices, leading up to and over the period.
- 3.36.4 Prevention Plans were developed in 5 Learning Communities where anti-social behaviour around the Halloween/Bonfire period has occurred. These Plans included a wide range of partners including Council Officers, Police, the Fire Service and local third sector organisations.
- 3.36.5 Schools and Youth Work colleagues and partners engaged young people in discussions and activities that raised awareness of risks and highlighted the importance of making positive choices.
- 3.36.6 MSYPs and Edinburgh Youth Action are supported to address issues that are important to young people, including community safety.
- 3.37 MSYPs (Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament) and Edinburgh Youth Action (EYA) continue to address issues that are important to young people. These include community safety, online harms and safety, mental health and wellbeing, school devices and mobile phones. Partner organisations also engage with young people, helping determine priorities and deliver relevant and impactful programmes and opportunities
- 3.38 Adult and family learning continues to develop with ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) a key partnership strength. Partners are currently engaged with Education Scotland as part of a National Thematic Review of ESOL.

Challenges

- 3.39 The Digital Inclusion Strategy was a gap for CLD in year 1 of the CLD Plan. Actions to address this are being explored in Year 2. Capital City Partnership has established a short life working group about digital inclusion with input from Council staff, including the benefits team and housing/homelessness. To date there have been two meetings. The CLD Partnership will not seek to duplicate this work but will stay closely connected and respond to any actions relevant to the CLD Partnership.
- 3.40 The ending of Multiply strand of the UKSPF (Shared Prosperity Funding) presents a real challenge for CLD. Due to the timing of the initial release of funds, Edinburgh, like other local authorities experienced delays in setting up programmes and recruiting staff to deliver the work. Excellent partnership work has taken place and is making a real difference developing 16+ and adult learners' maths and numeracy skills. As the funding ends in March 2026, staff and partners are currently developing sustainability and legacy plans. Staff fixed term contracts will end on 31 March 2026.



- 3.41 Members across the CLD Partnership are aware of local issues and concerns about community cohesion. Several actions across the council and with partners are underway. For the CLD Partnership these include ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages), and Resettlement Programmes.

Next Steps

- 3.42 Identify the most effective ways for the CLD Partnership to contribute to partnership digital inclusion.
- 3.43 Work with partners to build on the success of Halloween and Bonfire night and continue engagement with young people around diversionary activities, comms strategies and making positive choices
- 3.44 Contribute to the development of the Neighbourhood Prevention Partnerships
- 3.45 Support learner voice by continuing to develop the Adult Learners Forum and by working with MSYPs and Edinburgh Youth Action

4. Contact

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THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

December 3, 2025

Item 6a – Prevention and The Edinburgh Partnership Work Plan

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 On September 9, 2025 the Edinburgh Partnership Board (EPB) approved a new workplan, with three core workstreams (below).
 - 1.1.1 **Workstream 1:** Governance and Administration
 - 1.1.2 **Workstream 2:** LOIP 2018-2028
 - 1.1.3 **Workstream 3:** The road to LOIP 2028-2038.
- 1.2 Workstream 2 includes a refresh of the current LOIP 2018-2028 and Workstream 1 includes a self-assessment exercise with the Improvement Service (IS).
- 1.3 A proposed Edinburgh Partnership definition of prevention, early intervention and mitigation was also tabled (Appendix A).
- 1.4 This paper provides an update on these items and sets out the resources needed to deliver the IS draft workplan (Appendix D).

2. Recommendations/Decisions/Action?

- 2.1 The Board is recommended to:
 - i. Adopt the Prevention definition(s) as presented (Appendix A).
 - ii. Agree the draft IS Workplan, noting the associated resource implications (Appendix D).
 - iii. Approve the extension of the LOIP 2018-2028 refresh delivery to June 2026, extending resource of the Community Planning Support Team (CPST) to complete this.

3. Main Report

- 3.1 Given the Edinburgh Partnership's enhanced focus on prevention, the EPB agreed on June 12, 2025 the importance of having a single definition of prevention for the city, which all partners could use to guide their work and the collective work of the Partnership.
- 3.2 Establishing a common understanding of 'prevention', 'early intervention' and 'mitigation' ensures that Partners can communicate about their work and better identify where the Partnership's work sits on the prevention spectrum at present. A common definition also supports the refresh of the current LOIP 2018-2028 and the development of a new LOIP 2028-2038, including agreeing preventative actions that can be delivered in partnership.

- 3.3 Proposed definitions were presented on September 9, 2025. Members agreed to share these with the leadership/membership of their organisations and with the Strategic Partnerships. To date the feedback has been limited and positive and as such the definitions are being tabled for final agreement (Appendix A).
- 3.4 On November 7, 2025 EP Board members and advisors attended an Improvement Service (IS) workshop. Twenty (20) people had completed the self-assessment exercise, the results of which were reviewed during the workshop (Appendix B). The remaining time focused on improvement opportunities in each of 5 areas (Appendix C) and prioritising two areas for inclusion in a draft workplan (Appendix D). The other areas will be considered as part of the ongoing workplan as resource allows.
- 3.5 The CPST is still forming, with resource from some partners yet to be determined. That, said progress has been made as follows:
- 3.5.1** Delivered EP Induction workshop for Board members
 - 3.5.2** Scheduled and prepared EP Induction for Elected Members
 - 3.5.3** Launched a new Quarterly Reporting template for Strategic Partnerships (SP) Chairs/Leads
 - 3.5.4** Drafted Terms of Reference (Appendix E)
 - 3.5.5** Scheduled workshop for SP Chairs/Leads for LOIP 2018-2028 refresh
 - 3.5.6** Scheduled workshop for EVOC and EaRN for LOIP 2018-2028 refresh
 - 3.5.7** Drafted and revised timeline for LOIP 2018-2028 refresh
 - 3.5.8** Drafted timeline and budget proposal for LOIP 2028-2038
 - 3.5.9** Prepared papers for Management Group and EP Board
- 3.6 Since drafting the Terms of Reference (Appendix E), additional asks have been made of the CPST which have interdependencies with planned work. Examples include actions within the draft IS workplan, and developing an updated Governance Framework, a dashboard for quarterly reports, and a better understanding of funding that flows through the EP in preparation for the January 2026 special meeting.
- 3.7 The delay in establishing the team to full capacity, delays in receiving requested input/data, and the commitment to deliver on emerging priorities impacts the CPST's ability to deliver the LOIP 2018-2028 refresh by March 3, 2026. This is exacerbated by the Christmas holidays. As such the CSPT has requested that the timeline be extended by 1 cycle, outlined at Appendix F.

4. Next steps

- 4.1 Following approval, the CPST will share the Prevention definitions internally and on the Edinburgh Partnership website. This language will be incorporated in the LOIP refresh and LOIP 2028-2038.
- 4.2 Following approval, the CPST will revise its Terms of Reference and incorporate the IS workplan into the Partnership workplan.
- 4.3 The CPST will provide an update on the LOIP refresh 2018-2028 at the March 3, 2026 EP Board meeting.

5. Background reading/external references

- 5.1 [Current LOIP 2018-28](#)
- 5.2 [EP Board meeting agenda September 9, 2025](#)

6. Appendices

- 6.1 Appendix A – Prevention Definitions
- 6.2 Appendix B – Improvement Service Workshop Slide Deck
- 6.3 Appendix C – Edinburgh CPP - Consus Group
- 6.4 Appendix D – EP Draft Improvement Plan
- 6.5 Appendix E – CPST Draft Terms of Reference
- 6.6 Appendix F – Proposed extended LOIP 2018-2023 refresh timeline

7. Contact

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Adopted Term	Proposed Definitions for the EP	Examples from across the EP
Primary Prevention	<p>Stopping problems happening in the first place.</p> <p>Primary Prevention addresses the root cause of poor outcomes and inequalities.</p> <p>Activities may focus on the general population (universal) or a specific population (e.g. those living in a specific area, vulnerable populations/individuals or those sharing a protected characteristic).</p> <p>Activities may include improving access to, and engagement with, environments & resources that strengthen the capacity of individuals and communities to prevent or reduce risk factors and build resilience.</p>	<p>EP examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Income maximisation Employability support <p>Other examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sexual health education, Employability, Vaccination
Early Intervention	<p>Reducing the negative impact of an emerging issue and/or stopping problems getting worse when they first occur.</p> <p>Activities seek to address emerging issues at an early stage, before they trigger a crisis response.</p> <p>Activities will likely focus on specific populations/individuals but should still aim to be inclusive and accessible to all those with a specific need.</p> <p>Activities should include assessing & preventing/intervening in problems which might be broader than the specific issues the individual is seeking help (presenting) with.</p>	<p>EP examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teams around the Community (TAC) <p>Other examples:</p>
Mitigation	<p>Managing issues/problems well, after they have arisen.</p> <p>Activities include intensive support services and potentially crisis support services as/when required.</p>	<p>EP examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cash First <p>Other examples:</p>

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improvement **service**

*The 'go to' organisation for
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improvement in Scotland*



NATIONAL
COMMUNITY PLANNING
SELF-ASSESSMENT

Edinburgh CPP

November 2025

Improvement Service

- National improvement organisation for local government.
- We support self-assessments across Councils, CPPs, health and social care bodies and other public organisations.
- Purpose of this self-assessment is to focus upon the CPP in terms of its functioning and effectiveness. This is to reflect upon strengths and to identify areas where there may be scope for improvement.



Agenda

10.00am	Welcome, Introductions and Aims of the Session
10.05am	Self-assessment Findings: Checklist Feedback
10.20am	Group Work: Areas for Improvement Groups will review the areas for improvement identified in checklist.
11.10am	Feedback and Prioritisation
11.25am	10 min Comfort Break
11.35am	Refresh on Priorities
11.40am	Group Work: Improvement Planning Groups will populate Improvement Planning Template for top priorities.
12.30pm	Close and Next Steps



- 20 CPPs are participating in this new approach.
- Checklist closed with over 240 responses from Community Planning Board Members.
- The IS published a national overview report highlighting what is working well and where improvements have been identified.
- We used the checklist findings to identify potential areas of good practice and have been working with CPPs to develop case studies which will be shared nationally.
- National organisations, such as the IS, can use the findings from this national self-assessment to further develop offers of support.



Strengths Identified in Shared Leadership

- *“The partnership has set clear priorities to address poverty and climate change and now housing. These are good priorities for us to focus on to address inequalities.”*
- *“The leader of the City Council chairs the CPP Board and adopts an inclusive approach to participation and ownership.”*
- *“I think there are frank and open conversations around the partnership and decisions are taken in a consensual way.”*



Strengths Identified in Community – Needs and Empowerment

- *“There seems to be a good commitment to community empowerment, for instance with the Neighbourhood Prevention Partnerships, there is a strong ambition to be guided by the needs and wants of communities in shaping and naming these.”*

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“The needs assessment underpinning the LOIP was clear and set out the rationale for the priorities selected”

- *“We have representations from different sectors and community organisations and people with lived experience”*



Checklist - Collated Figures

	Agree/Strongly Agree	Disagree/Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
Shared Leadership	54%	27%	19%
Governance and Accountability	39%	35%	26%
Community - Needs and Empowerment	45%	27%	28%
Effective Use of Joint Resources	25%	27%	48%
Reporting of Performance Management and Outcomes	28%	28%	44%
How the CPP is Making an Impact	35%	32%	33%



We help support and develop effective and informed local political leaders

Checklist - Collated Figures

	Edinburgh CPP	National Average (Based on 20 CPPs)	Comparison to The 20 CPPs
Shared Leadership	54%	76%	19 th
Governance and Accountability	39%	64%	20 th
Community – Needs and Empowerment	45%	72%	19 th
Effective Use of Joint Resources	25%	49%	20 th
Reporting of Performance Management and Outcomes	28%	65%	20 th
How CPP is Making an Impact	35%	59%	18 th



Checklist Responses

Highest Statements

1. Statement 19 - The partnership has a good understanding of the profile of its area, including information relating to inequalities (eg. education, income, health) and protected characteristics (eg. age, race, sex). (90% Agree) **Community – Needs And Empowerment.**

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- Statement 8 - The partnership is striving to facilitate the shift to early intervention and prevention for the outcome set out in the LOIP. (75% Agree) **Clear Leadership.**
3. Statement 10 - Partners demonstrate a commitment to the vision and strategic direction of the partnership. (75% Agree) **Governance and Accountability.**



Checklist Responses

Lowest Statements

1. Statement 15 - The partnership has an ongoing Development Programme to improve the skills and knowledge of its members. (55% Disagree) **Governance and Accountability**
2. Statement 21 - The partnership has effective mechanisms for communicating with key stakeholders including communities. (55% Disagree) **Community - Needs and Empowerment**
3. Statement 11 - Members of the partnership offer constructive criticism and regularly challenge each other to achieve improved outcomes. (50% Disagree) **Governance and Accountability**

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Group Work - Instructions

- Group discussions on 5 areas for improvement identified from the checklist findings.
- 50 mins to do this.
- Participants will then vote to prioritise the areas.



Wider Context

Workstream 1:
Systems, tools, processes,
governance, communication

Workstream 2:
The current LOIP

Workstream 3:
The next LOIP



Voting on Top Priorities

- Go on to www.menti.com
- Enter code – **6460 9088**
- You will have 100 points to allocate to your top priorities.



National Community Planning Self-Assessment



Improvement Planning Session

Top Priorities

Top Priorities

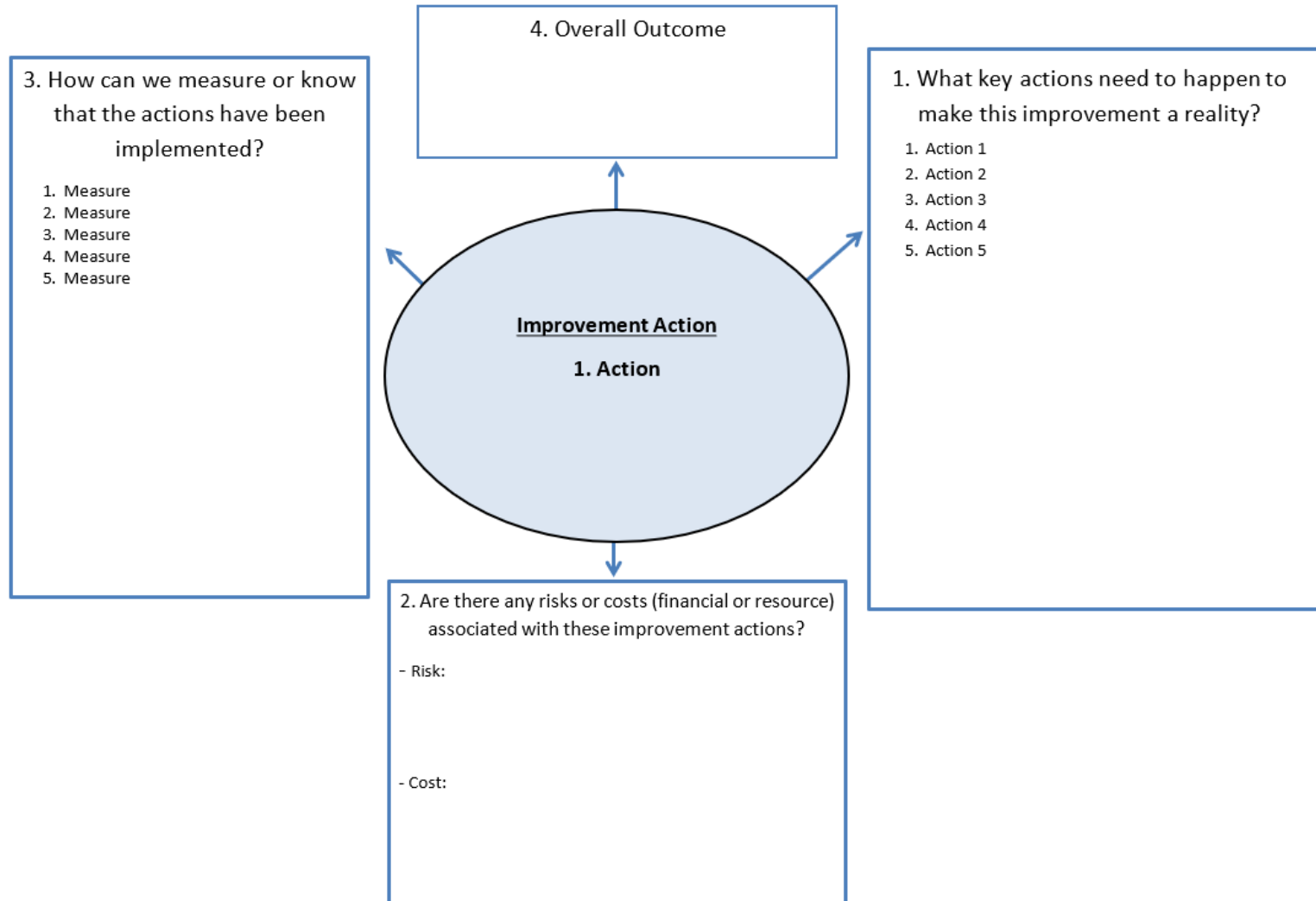
Review how the CPP records progress towards achieving LOIP outcomes and how such performance information is presented to the Board to support scrutiny 33%

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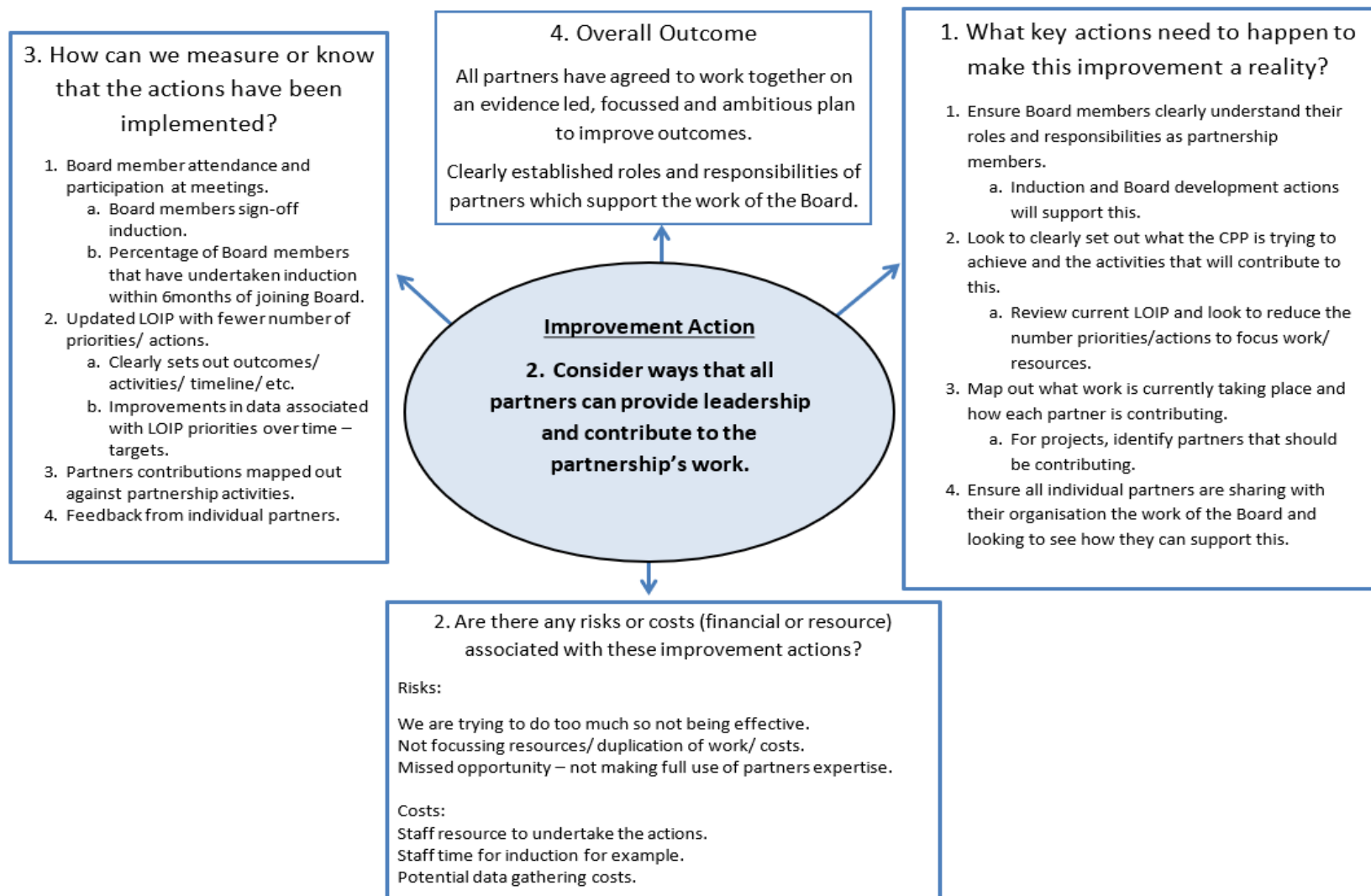
Further develop how the partnership engages with communities to ensure they are aware of the work of the CPP and that their views shape decision making 20%



Improvement Planning Template



Improvement Planning Template - Example



Group Work - Instructions

- Group will complete the Improvement Planning Template.
- 40mins for each improvement.



Group 1

Areas For Improvement	Notes
<p>Further develop how the partnership engages with communities to ensure they are aware of the work of the CPP and that their views shape decision making.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Really important area for the CPP. Have we captured each partner organisations engagement in each area, so we can better utilise this. • Neighbourhood prevention partnerships will support this – examples of true collaboration. First need an overview of current engagement/ anchor orgs. • Need shared understanding of what we mean by engagement. • How we use engagement not only for CPP but take back to our own orgs. • What key things would show success for communities, what are we trying to achieve – we need to be able to show impact. • What do our communities want in terms of communications, methods for communicating are changing so we need to adjust. • Structures – do we have locality groups within key communities we want to focus on. • How we engage with areas outwith the 5 prevention hub areas. • Capacity to deliver CPP work, prevention hubs could pilot this and phase in improvements moving forward. • Communicate on specific individual projects so we can clearly state the intended impact.
<p>Review how the CPP records progress towards achieving LOIP outcomes and how such performance information is presented to the Board to support scrutiny.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendation from previous audit to strengthen this area. We need clarity on what we are trying to achieve which will then support this. • We need to ensure we capture learning both in terms of what works but also learn from what hasn't – wider than just traditional perf reporting. • Implement learning from national guidance – IS webinar, case studies. • If we can record progress, this then can feed into comms with communities. • We need to get better at measuring impact and how we communicate this. • Need to be realistic, focus on a few key areas. • As Community Planning currently works, it is more coordinating of work across partners instead of partnerships delivering work. • Behind the scenes facilitation or work. • Ambition of collaborative delivery/ governance – currently report as individual partners but we want to get to a place.
<p>Consider ways all partners can contribute more fully and offer constructive challenge to each other to support the work of the partnership.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make best use of partners expertise in specific areas – transport for example. • Chair open to engaging with partners on this - unless it is communicated then improvements can't be made. • Chair could possibly meet with individual partners. • Not a culture problem, may relate to previous area. Partners may not have the info to challenge. • Equity across the Board, being clear on this for new Board members. • If you have a plan with assessment of progress, this provides the basis to challenge performance. • Thematic discussions at lower than Board level allows for deeper discussion/ challenge. • Strong partnership working is based on good relationships.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If our goals don't align as partners, it makes it more difficult to achieve.• Recognising that culture is different across partner orgs.• Collaborative leadership – what does this mean for us.• Really helpful new process for future agenda items, allows partners to prepare.
Look to establish an ongoing development programme to improve the skills and knowledge of Board members in areas such as roles and responsibilities, governance processes and structures, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Partners could share their expertise to upskill members on specific topics.• How things are changing in the world – we need to ensure we are adapting to these as a partnership.• Accountability from members to continue their own development as a partner.• Sharing info on what each partner does and how this links to the partnership – could this be included as part of induction.• Identify common themes to focus development.• For new members, could we pair them up with a current member to share info and knowledge.• Take a practical example to see how all partners could contribute to a theme/ topic.
Consider how the partnership can best utilise partner's resources to deliver the outcomes in the City Plan for Edinburgh.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understanding of how we should work and how we currently work in this area.• Clarity on mechanisms for sharing of resources.• There are examples of this, but it is on an ad-hoc basis – how do we formalise this.• Example – CLD sharing resources around employability.• Sharing or resources would reduce duplication and help us to achieve our joint goals.• Work ongoing on this area – output will come to Board in January.• How do we apply for funds from SG for example – need a clear mechanism for this.

Edinburgh Partnership - Draft Improvement Plan

November 2025

Improvement actions	Lead	Implications [Risk, Cost, Resource]	Target Date	Measure	Outcomes
1. Review how the CPP records progress towards achieving LOIP outcomes and how such performance information is presented to the Board to support scrutiny.					
<p>1. Undertake a logic modelling exercise to understand what the CPP wants to achieve in both the short and long term as part of the new LOIP development.</p> <p>For LOIP 2018-2028 refresh Board has expressed a core objective is to improve clarity on actions and outcomes/ impact. This will be achieved by developing a Performance Framework alongside the refreshed LOIP. (Workstream 2).</p> <p>During LOIP 2028-2038 development CPST will lead a logic modelling</p>	<p>Community Planning Support Team (CPST) to deliver LOIP refresh, develop Performance Framework and lead Logic modelling workshop.</p>	<p>Risks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over-simplify reporting – Story telling could support this. Report what we can measure instead of reporting on the right areas. Culture shift required to support this – partners need to be open to scrutiny and challenge. Reporting on too narrow a focus may result in missing other problems/ issues. 	<p>2018-2028 LOIP refresh – approval June 2026</p> <p>Jan 2026 (after What We Heard Report to Dec EP)</p>	<p>Logic modelling exercise completed and identified resources required.</p>	<p>The CPP is able to articulate the improvements the partnership has collectively delivered.</p> <p>Work of the CPP is developed on a strong evidence base and is responsive to need.</p> <p>The CPP is able to evaluate and assess progress towards achieving desired outcomes, thereby fostering a culture of</p>

<p>exercise (workshop) with EP Board members, after the data analysis and initial community engagement has been completed. This session can also be used to establish the vision for LOIP 2028-2038 and core Priorities. (Workstream 3).</p>		<p>Risks if Improvement Action Not Implemented</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CPP collects too much information without the resource to analyse. Wrong decisions made without the appropriate information. <p>Costs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resource to undertake the actions – e.g. CPST Capacity to analyse the data 	<p>Board and before Innovations workshops with Strategic Partnership (SP) Leads/Chairs.</p>		continuous improvement.
<p>2. Learn from good practice currently available across the country in terms of monitoring of LOIP outcomes. (Workstreams 2&3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IS will be sharing good practice from National Self-Assessment through Community Planning Network. 	<p>CP Manager to contact other CPP leads.</p> <p>Improvement Service to provide good practice examples.</p> <p>CPST to review examples, share with CP Board members and SP Leads/Chairs. CPST to incorporate into LOIP 2018-2028 refresh and LOIP 2028-2038 development</p>		<p>Dec 2025</p> <p>TBC</p> <p>TBC</p> <p>LOIP refresh Jan-Jun 2026</p> <p>LOIP 2028-2038: Jan 2027</p>	<p>Improvement Service shared good practice from other CPPs.</p> <p>CP Manager has engaged with other CPPs to learn from what others do.</p>	

<p>3. Develop performance management framework for the partnership building on the learning from actions 1 and 2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure framework links to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. <p>(Workstreams 2&3)</p>	CPST		<p>LOIP Refresh 2018-2028: June 2026</p> <p>LOIP 2028-2038: March 2028</p>	<p>New performance management framework agreed and implemented based upon logic modelling.</p> <p>Able to report and monitor against short-, medium- and long-term outcomes.</p>	
<p>4. Review current performance reporting format.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop reporting template which focusses on a few key areas. Ensure stories are being told as part of performance reporting. Explore new technology to support reporting such as dashboards. <p>(Workstreams 2&3)</p>	CP Manager		<p>Quarterly Reporting - March 2026</p> <p>New quarterly reporting template introduced for SP Leads/Chairs; first cycle will be reported in Dec 2025. The report includes: A small number of actions being taken by each SP that further one or more of the LOIP priorities</p>	<p>Refreshed performance reporting templates in place.</p> <p>Achieve a *CPP agreed* upon number of case studies/ neighbourhood stories over the course of an *agreed* period i.e. annually</p> <p>Evaluation of new approach following a few cycles of implementation.</p>	

			Performance framework LOIP refresh: June 2026		
			Performance Framework LOIP 2028-2038: March 2028		
Improvement actions	Lead	Implications [Risk, Cost, Resource]	Target Date	Measure	Outcomes
2. Further develop how the partnership engages with communities to ensure they are aware of the work of the CPP and that their views shape decision making.					
1. Develop a clear definition of engagement across the partnership. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearly define what we mean by communities. Engage with communities in the development of this. Workstream 1	CPST – part of LOIP 2028-2038 with support from Community Empowerment & Engagement Team (CEET). Place Partnership – doing work to understand the engagement happening across the partnership (as part of NPPs)	Risks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perception of top-down approach – need to ensure community views are taken into account. Logic modelling process – Achieve what by when, need - to manage expectations. Community Planning Support Team only currently approved until March – resource needed to deliver this. 	September 2026	The partnership has a clear definition in place which all partners have agreed to.	The CPP can effectively demonstrate that communities' voices clearly shape the decisions made by the partnership. Greater community understanding of CPP activities and higher trust levels.
2. Undertake logic modelling exercise to develop approach to engagement.	Per above		September 2026	Logic model developed with indicators identified for reporting., including human	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure a phased approach to implementation. <p>Workstream 1</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The partnership agrees on a new approach; however, not all individual partners are able to adapt their methods accordingly. 		learning approach indicators.	
<p>3. Undertake a mapping exercise to understand current levels of engagement across partners in each area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with partners to understand engagement methods. <p>Workstream 1</p>	<p>Place Partnership – developing understanding of engagement in each NPP area.</p> <p>LOIP 2028-2038 conducting integrated community engagement report for engagement across the partnership.</p>	<p>Costs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity to deliver these actions. 	<p>TBC</p> <p>December 2026</p>	<p>Mapping exercise completed with understanding of how all partners are currently engaging across the area.</p>	
<p>4. Engage with communities to understand how they would like to engage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review methods of engagement for specific community groups. Review Community Planning website to ensure it supports engagement. Explore the use of an Edinburgh CPP email 	<p>Ongoing work with ECLD partnership (youth), CPST as part of LOIP 2028-2038</p> <p>CPST – LOIP 2028-2038</p> <p>As above</p>		<p>June 2028</p> <p>As above</p>	<p>Feedback from communities on engagement that has taken place.</p> <p>Feedback on the outputs from engagement.</p>	

address to increase engagement. Workstream 1					
5. Utilise Neighbourhood Prevention Hubs to pilot projects.	NPP leads		TBC	Pilots have taken place and been assessed for learning.	
6. Engage in project-specific communication to ensure that intended outcomes and impacts are clearly conveyed.	Project leads		TBC	Examples of communication on projects, feedback from stakeholders, etc. Evidence of a 'you said, we did' process is recognised and in place.	



Edinburgh Partnership – Community Planning Support Team

Terms of Reference October 2025-March 2026

1. Remit of the Group

- 1.1 The role of the Community Planning Support Team (CPST) is to provide multiagency support to facilitate the work of the Edinburgh Partnership (EP).

The group has been established, in the first instance, for a fixed period of six months between October 2025 and March 2026. It may be valuable to continue the group in the longer term, particularly to facilitate implementation and monitoring of the refreshed Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) 2018-2028, and to undertake the LOIP 2028-2038 development work. This extension would be pending recommendations and agreement post March 2026.

1.2 Group functions

Overarching functions

- a) Project planning and management for the group's workstreams including risk management, options appraisal and cost benefit analysis. Track actions and deliverables to ensure progress on goals.
- b) Develop links across the city to ensure synergies/opportunities for joint working are maximised. This engagement will be limited to initial workstreams in the first instance but could be broader should the group continue for the longer-term.
- c) Engage with research and data analysis as required for each workstream, primarily in relation to the LOIP 2018-2028 refresh.
 - i) It is recognised that this will be limited in scope due to the capacity of the team.
 - ii) Research and analysis will be directed by the community planning manager and will include horizon scanning, researching best practice, and benchmarking with other CPPs and nationally.

Workstream 1: Systems, tools, processes, governance, communication

- a) Update the governance framework for the Edinburgh Partnership in collaboration with the Board.
- b) Monitor existing reporting received from Strategic Partnerships and escalate pertinent issues to the Management Group.
- c) Develop and support implementation of a performance framework including appropriate measures.
- d) Facilitate collation and analysis of reporting for the Board and sharing progress as appropriate with the wider Partnership.
- e) Develop a communications approach for the Edinburgh Partnership, increasing connectivity amongst Partnership organisations and increasing recognition of the Partnership more broadly in the city.
 - i) Capacity to develop this will be limited in the first instance but could be progressed if the group is continued for the longer term.

- f) Develop proposals for how the Edinburgh Partnership may be resourced going forward and bring to the EP Board in March 2026.
 - i) The proposal would be taken to the relevant committees and boards at the EP Board's direction.

Workstream 2: The LOIP refresh (2026 – 2028)

- a) Plan the design, development and delivery of the LOIP 2018-2028 refresh for 2026, ensuring a prevention focus.
- b) Engage with EP member organisations in the development of the LOIP refresh.
- c) Seek the appropriate approvals including the Policy and Sustainability Committee (9 December 2025 or 10 March 2026), EP Management Group (12 February 2025) and prepare the final presentation of the refresh for the EP Board on 3 March 2026.

Workstream 3: The next LOIP (2028 – 2038 TBC)

- a) Plan the design, development and delivery of the new 2028-2038 LOIP to launch April 2028.
- b) In the first instance this will involve creating a proposed timeline and budget for consideration and approval by the EP Board on 3 December 2025.
- c) If there are budget proposals, these must be presented to the appropriate committees and boards relevant to the funds being requested to be approved by the end of the 2025/6 financial year.

2. Membership

- 2.1 The Community Planning Support Team (CPST) consists of:

April Harrison-Clark – City of Edinburgh Council
 Julie Dickson – City of Edinburgh Council
 Sabina McDonald – NHS Lothian
 Georgina Bowyer – Capital City Partnership
 Valerie McIntosh – Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations' Council (EVOC)
 Kieran Dougal/Paul Gillespie – Police Scotland
 Murray Dalgleish – Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
 Rebecca Smith – Southeast Scotland Transport Partnership
 Rona Edington – Scottish Enterprise

- 2.2 The Group will be chaired by the Community Planning Manager from City of Edinburgh Council. If the designated Chair is not available then the meeting shall be chaired by one of the group.
- 2.3 The group will work collectively on the above functions.
- 2.4 A minimum of 4 group members will be required for the meeting to convene.

3. Frequency of Meetings

- 3.1 The Group will meet approximately every 3 weeks in person up until the end of March 2026. Communications will take place electronically between meetings to update on actions. Meetings will take place on:

Wednesday 5 November 2025 (Focus on Elected Member induction and Management Group preparation)
Wednesday 26 November 2025
Wednesday 17 December 2025
Wednesday 7 January 2026
Wednesday 21 January 2026
Wednesday 4 February 2026

- 3.2 Extra ordinary meetings of the group may be convened by the Chair at any time, as required.

4. Conduct of Business

- 4.1 The agenda and supporting papers will be sent to members in advance of each meeting.
- 4.2 Administrative support will be provided by City of Edinburgh Council (Julie Dickson, Julie.Dickson@edinburgh.gov.uk).

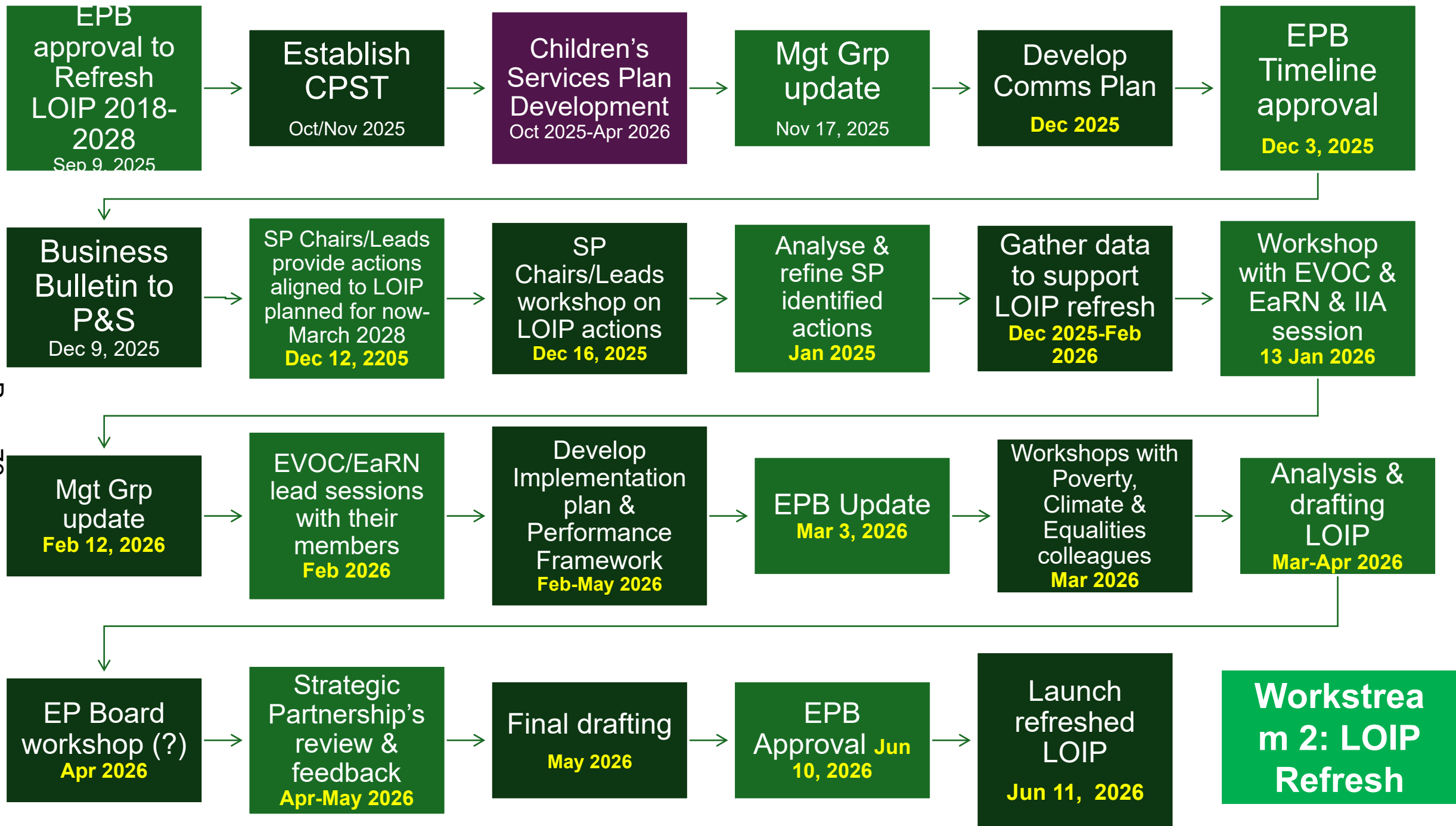
5. Reporting Arrangements

- 5.1 The group will be guided by the workplan as well as an action tracker which will be updated and circulated to all members.
- 5.2 The group will measure success against the following short-term goals deliverable by March 2026:
- 5.2.1 Develop 3 workplans assigning tasks and agreeing timelines.
 - 5.2.2 Confirm a timeline and budget proposal for LOIP 2028-2038 to be completed by week beginning 24 November 2025 (ahead of the EP Board on 3 December 2025).
 - 5.2.3 Refresh the current LOIP 2018-2028, including the completion of the Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) by 12 February 2026 (EP Management Board).
 - 5.2.4 Submit a proposed resource requirement to EP Board for the future of the CPST and wider EP for 24 February ahead of the meeting 3 March 2026.

6. Review

- 6.1 Group membership, role, function and terms of reference will be reviewed approximately 6 months after re-establishment at the March 2026 EP Board.

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Edinburgh Partnership

Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) quarterly progress report

Date of Edinburgh Community Planning Management Group Meeting:	
Reporting Period (select): <input type="checkbox"/> Q1: Apr-Jun <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Q2: Jul-Sep <input type="checkbox"/> Q3: Oct-Dec <input type="checkbox"/> Q4: Jan-Mar	
Title of Strategic Partnership:	Community Safety and Justice Partnership
Strategic Partnership Chair:	Cllr Tim Pogson
Strategic Partnership Lead Officer:	Derek McGowan

Actions completed in the last quarter:

Alignment to Strategic Partnership Work/Action Plan	LOIP Priority (1, 2 3). If outwith current LOIP please clarify	Action(s) Taken	KPI (inc. change since last report)
	3	Self assessment of the partnership work on Community Safety	
	3	Self assessment of the partnership work on Community Justice	

Milestones expected to be achieved in the next quarter:

Refresh the Antisocial Behaviour strategy for approval by the CSaJ Partnership and then Edinburgh Partnership
Review whether the CSaJ Partnership structure is appropriate and make recommendations accordingly

Barriers/challenges (physical, partnership, financial etc)

Resources to complete the work and an appropriate partnership effort to completing this work
--

Wider factors/influencers (i.e. legislative changes):

The report of the specialist group into Antisocial behaviour and potential for a Scottish Government response to their recommendations.



Case study examples – please share any examples of success/good practice that have been achieved during the reporting period and link these with the LOIP priority(ies) to which it relates. If it does not relate to a LOIP priority, please clarify.

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None

Edinburgh Partnership Management Group to complete:

Date considered:

Is the Strategic Partnership on track? Y/N

Any decisions to be taken? (i.e. change of actions, escalation to the board etc)

Feedback to Chair/Lead officer (if any):

LOIP exception report

Date considered at Edinburgh Partnership Management Group	
Date of Edinburgh Partnership Board:	
Strategic Partnership:	
Chair:	
Lead Officer:	

Summary of actions completed to date:

Reason for escalation to Edinburgh Partnership Board:

Action required from the Edinburgh Partnership Board



Edinburgh Partnership

Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) quarterly progress report

Date of Edinburgh Community Planning Management Group Meeting:	
Reporting Period (select): <input type="checkbox"/> Q1: Apr-Jun <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Q2: Jul-Sep <input type="checkbox"/> Q3: Oct-Dec <input type="checkbox"/> Q4: Jan-Mar	
Title of Strategic Partnership:	Local Employability Partnership
Strategic Partnership Chair:	Rona Hunter
Strategic Partnership Lead Officer:	Kate Kelman

Actions completed in the last quarter:

Alignment to Strategic Partnership Work/Action Plan	LOIP Priority (1, 2 3). If outwith current LOIP please clarify	Action(s) Taken	KPI (inc. change since last report)
?	2	Draft report from LEP summit on health and work developed and recommendations reflected in LEP and Youth Employment Partnership delivery plans	
	2	Issue of capacity within contracted provision discussed and paper taken to HHFW committee to increase All in Edinburgh provision	
	2	ESOL for employability programme co-produced and grants process put in place. Scoring panel made up of partnership and lived experience members. 6 projects recommended for funding	
	2	Risks of loss of UK Shared Prosperity fund analysed by CCP and contained in a briefing document for HHFW members – suggest escalation to Partnership	
	2	SLA between CCP and FUSE (St James Quarter) signed to continue skills centre in the quarter and City Centre bid district – move to private funding	
	2	Edinburgh LEP contributed to proposals for the IRES 2027+ programme, due to go to ESESCRD Joint Committee in December	
	2	New post-school operating model implemented by Skills Development Scotland	
	2	SHERU work on Health and Employability started – first action learning sets in September	
	2	Updated risk register circulated and agreed	

Milestones expected to be achieved in the next quarter:



Implementation of ESOL for Employability Projects
Community Jobs Fair in Leith delivered by CCP and DWP
Planned Joined up for Jobs and Edinburgh Advice Network joint event
LEP represented on national LEP leads group and involved in planning for a national conference in Glasgow in December

Barriers/challenges (physical, partnership, financial etc)

The first phase of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) was introduced by the UK Government in 2022 for a committed period of three years. The City of Edinburgh was allocated £12.3 million for this period. UKSPF was then extended for an additional financial year, between April 2025 and March 2026. Edinburgh's allocation for the current year is £4,065,562 and this was complemented by council employability funds of £897,422 in order to keep the revenue grants consistent with the previous year. Although 'Local Growth Funds' were confirmed in the June Spending Review, there has been no news about funding allocation or priorities for this fund, therefore we are expecting all projects to complete and exit by March 2026.

Ongoing challenge that the main funds for employability in the City (No One Left Behind and Parental Employment Support fund) from Scottish Government are annual which results in short planning cycles and uncertainty in the voluntary sector. CEC attempts to mitigate this by offering 1+1+1 grant agreements where possible.

Wider factors/influencers (i.e. legislative changes):

There continues to be policy uncertainty around the skills agenda. The Withers Review has been endorsed by Scottish Government but not implemented – at present skills spend sits between SDS and SFC. This is problematic for skills development at a local and regional level and ensuring that there is provision to support employers and deliver skills training to low-income employees which would lift them out of poverty and into better sustainable employment.

Case study examples – please share any examples of success/good practice that have been achieved during the reporting period and link these with the LOIP priority(ies) to which it relates. If it does not relate to a LOIP priority, please clarify.

Employment is one of the most powerful levers we have, to build a more inclusive and equitable society. However, in Scotland, the employment gap between white and minority ethnic groups was 13.8% in 2023. (Scottish Government, 2024a, p. 8). Citywide data shows that ethnically diverse groups' meaningful employment outcomes in Edinburgh remain disproportionately low (CCP, 2023). Poverty rates in Scotland are also disproportionately high, at 50% for 'Asian or Asian British' and 51% for 'Mixed, Black or Black British, and Other' groups between 2019-24 (Scottish Government, 2025). Migrants face major adaptation challenges, including navigating UK systems, securing housing, and adjusting to workplace norms. Culture shock, mental health pressures, and prolonged unemployment can reduce confidence and skills. Contributing factors include underemployment, debt, poor housing, and limited childcare, particularly affecting single-income and single-parent households. These conditions often trap individuals in low-paid roles, limiting career mobility. Edinburgh now has a number of projects which support people from ethnically diverse communities to access and sustain employment and in 2024/25 began a project of engaging with employers to ensure that their workplaces were accessible and inclusive to the graduates from these services. The team as Capital City Partnership has now delivered a number of events and workshops with employers on topics such as immigration and sponsorship, how



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to evaluate and improve their equality and diversity policies, retaining an ethically diverse workforce and recognition of qualifications gained abroad. Overall the project has engaged with 50 employers and have reported that being brought together with people with lived experience has been 'illuminating' for them.

Edinburgh Partnership Management Group to complete:

Date considered:

Is the Strategic Partnership on track? Y/N

Any decisions to be taken? (i.e. change of actions, escalation to the board etc)

Feedback to Chair/Lead officer (if any):

LOIP exception report

Date considered at Edinburgh Partnership Management Group	
Date of Edinburgh Partnership Board:	
Strategic Partnership:	
Chair:	
Lead Officer:	

Summary of actions completed to date:

Reason for escalation to Edinburgh Partnership Board:

Action required from the Edinburgh Partnership Board

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**Edinburgh Partnership****Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) quarterly progress report**

Date of Edinburgh Community Planning Management Group Meeting:	
Reporting Period (select): <input type="checkbox"/> Q1: Apr-Jun <input type="checkbox"/> Q2: Jul-Sep <input type="checkbox"/> Q3: Oct-Dec <input type="checkbox"/> Q4: Jan-Mar	
Title of Strategic Partnership:	Strategic Place Partnership
Strategic Partnership Chair:	Crawford McGhie
Strategic Partnership Lead Officer:	Yvonne Kerr (?)

Actions completed in the last quarter:

Alignment to Strategic Partnership Work/Action Plan	LOIP Priority (1, 2 3). If outwith current LOIP please clarify	Action(s) Taken	KPI (inc. change since last report)
	3	Conclusion of previous place group (LOIP 3) which ceased functioning due to Transformation and Improvement Programme and subsequent review of structure	
	3	Establishment of new 'Strategic Place Partnership' with refreshed ToR (still draft) and new Chair/Lead	
	3	Working with partners to align transformation, poverty and place agendas with a focus on development of 'Neighbourhood Prevention Partnerships' - including planning session with stakeholders on remit and role of SPP	

Milestones expected to be achieved in the next quarter:

<p>Finalised ToR and membership of overarching SPP in place and regular meetings in the diary.</p> <p>Establishment of 5 NPP sub groups of the SPP which will act as the working group who will coordinate the development of the local improvement plans. ToR established, including membership.</p> <p>Work underway on development of NPP action plans using data and intelligence, including local voice.</p> <p>Clarity on available resource, including financial, in place, recruitment to any agreed posts underway.</p>
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Barriers/challenges (physical, partnership, financial etc)

Delays with identifying capacity to develop the NPPs, particularly ahead of any recruitment for additional support

Wider factors/influencers (i.e. legislative changes):

Case study examples – please share any examples of success/good practice that have been achieved during the reporting period and link these with the LOIP priority(ies) to which it relates. If it does not relate to a LOIP priority, please clarify.

Work still in development, no case studies to report on yet.

Edinburgh Partnership Management Group to complete:

Date considered:

Is the Strategic Partnership on track? Y/N

Any decisions to be taken? (i.e. change of actions, escalation to the board etc)

Feedback to Chair/Lead officer (if any):

LOIP exception report

Date considered at Edinburgh Partnership Management Group	
Date of Edinburgh Partnership Board:	
Strategic Partnership:	
Chair:	
Lead Officer:	

Summary of actions completed to date:

Reason for escalation to Edinburgh Partnership Board:

Action required from the Edinburgh Partnership Board



Edinburgh Partnership

Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) quarterly progress report

Date of Edinburgh Community Planning Management Group Meeting:	17th November 2025
Reporting Period (select): <input type="checkbox"/> Q1: Apr-Jun <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Q2: Jul-Sep <input type="checkbox"/> Q3: Oct-Dec <input type="checkbox"/> Q4: Jan-Mar	
Title of Strategic Partnership:	Edinburgh Community Learning & Development Partnership
Strategic Partnership Chair:	Laurene Edgar
Strategic Partnership Lead Officer:	Linda Lees

Actions completed in the last quarter:

Alignment to Strategic Partnership Work/Action Plan	LOIP Priority (1, 2 3). If outwith current LOIP please clarify	Action(s) Taken	KPI (inc. change since last report)
	3	Multi-agency Community Development working group established.	1 working group developed with 4 partners
	2	Community Development working group has devised a menu of support and resources for Community Centre Management Committee to draw upon.	Menu of training options available
	3	Inclusion of Team Around Community work within ECLDP has supported this emerging model.	
	2	Delivery of Countylines sand Criminal Exploitation training between Police and LAYC aimed at youth workers.	Delivery of 1 training session with 15 participant places
	3	Collaborative enquiries completed in Craigoyston, Liberton and Gracemount Learning Communities, supporting children, young people and family voice to contribute to Team Around Community developments.	2 collaborative enquiries completed engaging 51 children and young people



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	2	Delivery of Youth Awards through City of Edinburgh Council and LAYC.	257 Youth Awards delivered
	2	Training and capacity building offer provided for youth and children's work sector.	45 training sessions delivered providing 657 participant places. 95% of participants report an increase
	3	Family Learning Collaboration has been established and is developing a citywide mapping of family learning provision, to identify gaps and opportunities.	1 collaboration established.
	2	Strengthening of the ESOL sector through development of ESOL Providers Forum and the ESOL Strategic Group.	2 groups established to support ESOL delivery.
	2	£200,000 to enable third sector providers to deliver ESOL employability provision secured by Capital City Partnership.	£200,000 investment for ESOL employability provision.

Milestones expected to be achieved in the next quarter:

Measures of success for Year 2 Implementation Plan will be finalised within the next quarter, the Partnership have almost finalised Year 2 action areas within the last reporting quarter.

Barriers/challenges (physical, partnership, financial etc)

The majority of ECLDP activity takes place within current partner resource, this can be restrictive and can blur boundaries between business as usual and additionality required for ECLDP.

Partners sharing information to support completion and engagement with reporting both at ECLDP level and EP level is a challenge.

Wider factors/influencers (i.e. legislative changes):

CLD Independent Review – this has slowed pace and the initial report was ambiguous in places offering little direction for localised structures.

Absence of National Youth Work Strategy – although positively Edinburgh has a Youth and Children's Work Strategy.



Awaiting further update on the Right to Youth Work Bill.

Case study examples – please share any examples of success/good practice that have been achieved during the reporting period and link these with the LOIP priority(ies) to which it relates. If it does not relate to a LOIP priority, please clarify.

Attached is a case study relating to accredited learning youth work pathway for youth workers. This links to LOIP 2 in terms of training and employment, but also LOIP 3 in terms of a place based approach and good place to live.

Edinburgh Partnership Management Group to complete:

Date considered:

Is the Strategic Partnership on track? Y/N

Any decisions to be taken? (i.e. change of actions, escalation to the board etc)

Feedback to Chair/Lead officer (if any):

LOIP exception report

Date considered at Edinburgh Partnership Management Group	
Date of Edinburgh Partnership Board:	
Strategic Partnership:	
Chair:	
Lead Officer:	

Summary of actions completed to date:

Reason for escalation to Edinburgh Partnership Board:

Action required from the Edinburgh Partnership Board

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End Poverty in Edinburgh & Edinburgh Plan (LOIP) Annual Progress Report

2025

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Case studies:

- End Poverty Edinburgh Citizen’s Group - Reflections
- Youth and Children’s Work
- Employer Engagement for Ethnic Minorities
- Childcare
- Pension Credit Take Up
- Cash First Approaches
- ESOL for Employability
- Cyrenians Food Project

Foreword

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

And it is the first report since the Edinburgh Poverty Commission published its 2025 update on its inquiry into the causes of and solutions to poverty in Edinburgh.

The findings of that update were both sobering and encouraging.

The Commission found that Edinburgh, like Scotland as a whole, is not yet on track to meet its 2030 targets. They found that, for people who live in poverty, not enough has changed in the past five years. And they found that the experience of poverty in this city has, for too many, become more complex, more severe, and more difficult to escape from. We face higher rates of destitution than we did five years ago, more people in temporary accommodation, and higher demands on all the public and third sector services which work to help people in poverty.

Those findings are a reminder of the challenges we face, and how important it is that we take every local action we can to improve the lives of people who are struggling to get by in Scotland’s most wealthy city. And we are encouraged by the examples the Commission found of good practice already happening in the city to do just that.

In this report we show evidence of actions that have been delivered in the past twelve months, and the work we plan to do over the next year to continue our response to the Commission’s calls to action.

This annual report shows that the city’s money and welfare advice teams have helped put another £26m into the pockets of low income households in Edinburgh in the past year and have done so while testing new approaches to

using data and online tools to make it easier for people to access their entitlements.

The city’s employability and skills teams have helped 5,100 people into work and learning, while providing intensive support to families affected by disabilities, and to people from black and minority ethnic communities.

And in the midst of a housing crisis, the city’s homelessness prevention teams have delivered early intervention support to prevent 1,700 households from homelessness and helped almost 600 households to move on from temporary accommodation.

These are the kinds of interventions that transform lives and make for a better city, and they demonstrate the impact that local services can have when they are provided by effective partnerships between national governments, local public sector bodies, and local third sector organisations.

Over the next five years the Edinburgh Poverty Commission have left us a new challenge – to make the most of the levers we have as anchor institutions in Edinburgh, to increase the pace and scale of delivery of actions against poverty, to improve the sustainability and resilience of those actions, and to reform the way they are delivered in small communities across the city.

We accept these challenges and are committed to embedding the Commission’s calls to action within our local outcome improvement plans, and across all the actions we take as partners over the coming years.

Councillor Jane Meagher Council Leader, City of Edinburgh Council & Chair, Edinburgh Partnership	Susan Webb Director of Public Health, NHS Lothian & Vice Chair, Edinburgh Partnership
--	---

Executive Summary

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

In doing so, this report fulfils statutory requirements for the Council and NHS Lothian to co-produce an annual Local Child Poverty Report on actions to meet Scottish Government child poverty targets. It also provides the annual progress report for the Edinburgh Partnership's Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP), reflecting the overlap between the goal of reducing child poverty and the LOIP priorities of ensuring those in the city have 'enough money to live on', 'access to education, training and employment', and 'a good place to live'.

Poverty in Edinburgh

The latest available data shows that an estimated 17% of people in Edinburgh were living in poverty in 2024, including 20% of all childrenⁱ. That represents 89,000 people in total, including more than 18,000 children.

The [Edinburgh Poverty Commission's 2025 update report](#) found that:

- Like Scotland as a whole, Edinburgh is not yet on track to meet its headline target to reduce poverty rates to 10% by 2030, and that
- Meeting those poverty targets means lifting 36,000 people, including 8,000 children, out of poverty in the city by 2030.

Edinburgh is one of few local authorities in Scotland not to have seen a drop in child poverty rates after housing costs since the full rollout of the Scottish Child Paymentⁱⁱ. This is most likely due to the high cost of housing in Edinburgh, with some evidence showing that poverty levels before housing costs have fallen slightly in the most recent period covered by data.

The experience of poverty has become more severe and more complex for many people. The proportion of people in Edinburgh who are destitute – i.e.

had to go without basic essentials such as food, shelter, heat, light, clothing and toiletries – rose by 15% between 2019 and 2023ⁱⁱⁱ. At the same time, levels of persistent poverty – measuring the length of time people remain on low incomes – have risen in the most recent period for which data is available.

In its 2025 report, the Commission concluded that

- This increasing complexity is due in large part factors outwith the direct influence of partners in the city – including continuing effects of the covid pandemic, the cost of living crisis, and increasing pressures on the local services on which people in poverty depend.
- There is no solution to poverty in Edinburgh without significant investment and policy changes from the national Governments – particularly on matters relating to housing and social security policy.
- But that national policies will not meet their own targets without matching change from *“the local public sector bodies, employers, and third sector organisations which hold the relationships needed to make an impact on the lives of individual people in poverty”*.

For too many people in poverty, the Commission found that not enough has changed in the past five years since its initial report. At the same time, they concluded that:

- *Edinburgh “can lay claim to some of the best and most innovative examples of action to end poverty taking place anywhere in Scotland. We are convinced that because of those actions... poverty in Edinburgh today is lower than it otherwise would be, and that many thousands of lives in this city are better off because of them.”*

This report provides a summary of the actions that have been delivered by partners in the past 12 months as part of this work, the outcomes achieved, and the priority actions for the next 12 months that are being developed in response to the findings of the Commission's 2025 update report.

Actions to end poverty in Edinburgh

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

1. Increase income from work and opportunity to progress:

This includes actions this year to:

- Promote the **real Living Wage**, with the number of accredited employers in the city rising to 790. **Living Wage accredited employers now account for around 50% of all jobs in Edinburgh**, while the proportion of workers who earn below a real Living Wage in Edinburgh has halved in the past 5 years.
- Support **5,100 people into work and learning, including over 1,600 young people** through Council funded employability programmes as well as continuing to offer targeted employability programmes to support people to access employment within the NHS
- Provide targeted employability support for people from child poverty priority groups, including over **700 people from ethnically diverse backgrounds**, and **nearly 500 people from families with a disabled child or adult**, with a shift this year to providing more intensive support to a smaller number of families
- Support social enterprises to be able to operate on NHS premises
- Improve **literacy, numeracy, and attainment** levels for pupils in the most deprived areas of Edinburgh
- Deliver and develop **Discover! And Chill n Chat** for families with children at risk of poverty, including term time programmes in addition to school holiday support

2. Maximise support from social safety nets: This includes actions this year that have:

- Helped around **26,500 low income people** in Edinburgh achieve total financial gains of almost **£26m** through money and welfare

advice services, including continued funding for welfare advice provision within primary care, hospital settings and Family Nurse Partnership services

- Invested £1m from Council reserves to provide continued support for organisation providing income maximisation services
 - Using a data sharing agreement with DWP, delivered a Pension Credit uptake campaign, which provided an average of **£5k per year to 132 people**
 - Delivered **£203m** for Edinburgh citizens through locally administered benefits such as housing benefit, DHP, and Council Tax Reduction
 - Delivered **£1.6m in Crisis Grants** and **£1.2m in Community Care Grants** to people in need of support across Edinburgh
 - Delivered early intervention support **to prevent 1,735 households from homelessness** and **supported 579 households to move on from temporary accommodation**
- ### 3. Reduce the cost of living: This includes local actions this year that have:
- Refreshed the **Housing Emergency Action Plan** focused on reducing homelessness, improving access to housing and housing advice, improving the supply and quality of housing across the city, preventing harm and improving the experience of tenants in Council housing
 - Completed **1,135 new affordable homes** in Edinburgh, including **281 new Council homes**, and **299 other social rented homes**
 - Commissioned [Energy Advice Service](#) for Council tenants supported 1,621 tenants to make around £305,000 of financial savings
 - Provide **subsidised childcare places** for working families in four areas of the city through Edinburgh's Affordable Childcare for Working Parents service

4. Make it easier to find help: This includes local actions taken this year to:

- Begin a long term programme to develop a new structure of **Neighbourhood Prevention Partnerships** to help make it easier for people to find the support they need in their local area.
- Secure almost £300k of Scottish Government Fairer Futures Partnership funding to support this work.
- Begin engagement and long-term planning with Edinburgh Partnership to ensure the **sustainability and resilience of the third sector** in Edinburgh
- Complete initial stages and recruit a first cohort of organisations to benefit from the new **Regenerative Futures Fund**, a third sector led programme bringing £15m of new investment to help end poverty in Edinburgh over the next decade
- Deliver six projects through the **Whole Family Wellbeing Fund** including those to improve access to childcare and youth work opportunities as well as providing access to more holistic early support to reduce the need for crisis interventions
- Work with **Smart Data Foundry** and **DataLoch** to use data driven approaches to help identify people who may benefit from targeted financial inclusion support

Priority Actions for 2026

In its 2025 update report, published in October 2025, the Edinburgh Poverty Commission made a call for the City of Edinburgh Council and Edinburgh Partnership to review the Commission's findings and embed them within strategic and budget decision making processes.

Towards this, a first priority for partners in 2026 will be to:

- Embed the Commission's updated calls to action within a refreshed Edinburgh Partnership Local Outcome Improvement Plan by spring 2026, and

- Refresh and update the Council actions within this End Poverty Delivery Plan.
- These refreshed approaches will incorporate responses to the Commission's specific calls to action on Housing, Employability, Health and Wellbeing, and Education.

They will also incorporate responses to the cross-cutting priority actions identified by the Commission, including:

- Delivering the city's plans for five **Neighbourhood Prevention Partnerships**, as part of a city-wide poverty prevention programme.
- Completing the **Review of Support for the Third Sector**, to provide sustainable funding for voluntary and third sector partners
- Further embedding the **voices of people with lived experience of poverty** within decision making and design of the services they depend on, including continued work with the **End Poverty Edinburgh Citizen's Group**.
- Developing partnership wide **Community Wealth Building** approaches to maximise the impact that local anchor institutions can have on their communities.
- Improving the **availability and accessibility of affordable childcare in Edinburgh**.
- Improving digital inclusion, and access to skills and devices needed to maintain a **minimum digital standard of living**.
- Improving access to **ESOL training, translation and interpretation** support across a range of services.
- Improving the quality and **use of data to shape and evaluate** the impact of poverty prevention and mitigation actions.
- Developing partnership wide approaches to ensure people, particularly children, in poverty in Edinburgh have **access to affordable, healthy food, and lower exposure to advertising and sales of health harming products** including tobacco, vaping, alcohol, gambling, and foods high in fat, sugar and salt.

END POVERTY EDINBURGH CITIZEN GROUP - REFLECTIONS

After the publication of the original Edinburgh Poverty Commission report in 2020, End Poverty Edinburgh (EPE) were tasked with carrying the baton within a movement to end poverty in the city; to spread awareness of poverty, influence decision making, and “hold the city to account”. Now five years later, having reached the crucial midway point in the journey to those 2030 targets, they have just co-produced the follow up, [2025 Update: Actions to End Poverty in Edinburgh](#).

To contribute to this report, EPE took part in hundreds of conversations, learning a lot more about the poverty landscape in Edinburgh. This involved meeting many inspirational people and groups, which strengthened hope that it is still possible to eradicate poverty from Scotland’s capital city. EPE members may not be “professionals” in the same sense that the original Edinburgh Poverty Commissioners, but they are most definitely qualified to sit at the same table due to their in-depth knowledge of the impact that poverty can have on the lives of people and families in their communities.

EPE say that at every meeting they attended – be that with community groups or with the Council Leader and Directors, they have been treated as equal partners and shown respect. Their lived experience has been included in decision making, and their views and opinions have been taken on board. This itself shows some of the positive progress EPE have witnessed, not just in this review, but over the past five years. It is a practice they believe is important to continue implementing in anti-poverty measures, be that with them or other lived experience panels. EPE believe that involving lived experience in the decision-making process is crucial, as they have personal experience of the reality of poverty and its impact, making them well positioned to suggest alternative solutions or approaches. As they say, they’re all trying to reach the same aim, to eradicate poverty, and seeing this involvement more regularly taking place is overwhelmingly positive.

During this review process, the group have seen some fantastic examples of collaborative working which are starting to make an impact, albeit it on a small scale. For example, they visited organisations successfully implementing “one-stop-shop” approaches – a concept they’ve advocated for a long time, and this appears to be working well. Efforts of the third sector are highly commendable, and truly inspirational at times. However, EPE have also heard some quite distressing stories of the impacts and effects of poverty on families, as well as the frustrations of the agencies and people who are trying to help them. This can be due to multiple obstacles like staff shortages, funding, silo working between departments and agencies; it must sometimes feel like one step forward and then one step back.

Certainly, poverty still has a grip on our city, and urgent action is still needed. No one should have to go without basic essentials, such as a safe and healthy home. No one should be forced into choosing between food and warmth. No one should be working long and stressful days, yet still unable to pay their bills or live a dignifying and fulfilling life. The injustice of poverty is still as prevalent as when the group formed five years ago, and as the 2025 update report finds, meeting Edinburgh’s poverty targets means lifting 36,000 people, including 8,000 children, out of poverty in this city by 2030.

Clearly then, it can be so easy to look at poverty, housing, health, employment statistics, and so on, and feel deflated and disheartened. Despite these harsh realities, the city has made a commitment to eradicating poverty and *are* moving forward. End Poverty Edinburgh welcome this update, and commends the progress made. However, with the current state of poverty and trajectory we’re on, EPE demand further and consistent action that can build on small areas of progress and gain momentum. Ultimately, EPE believe poverty will be eradicated from our city, but only with immediate, continuous and significant action from all involved.

Strategic Context

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

This commitment was made in response to the findings of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission which has now conducted two independent inquiries into the causes of and solutions to poverty in Edinburgh – publishing its first report in 2020, with a further 2025 update published earlier this year.



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

In making its calls to action, the Edinburgh Poverty Commission^{iv} noted that:

“Ending poverty does not mean Edinburgh becoming a city in which no one ever loses a job or experiences a period of their life on low income.

But it does mean Edinburgh being a city where living on a low income is temporary, not a persistent trap, and does mean not having to go without food, or warmth, or safety.

And it means Edinburgh becoming a city where the number of people experiencing low income at any given time falls to a level comparable with the highest performing societies in Europe.”

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

- **Fewer than 10% of children and fewer than 10% of adults are living in relative poverty at any given time**

- **No-one lives in persistent poverty**
- **No one has to go without the basic essentials they need to eat, keep clean and safe, and stay warm and dry, and**
- **No one feels stigmatised, abandoned, or treated with less respect by the city as a result of their income.**

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

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

This fifth annual progress report reflects the Commission’s findings and calls to action for the next five years. It sets out:

- An overview of the latest data and evidence on changing trends in poverty in Edinburgh
- A review of actions delivered in 2025 by the Council, NHS Lothian, and the Edinburgh Partnership across each of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission calls to action, as well as
- Planned priority actions for partners during the next 12 months, building on and reflecting the findings of the Commission

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

The report also provides the annual overview of progress against the Edinburgh Partnership’s Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP). Actions to deliver its three priority areas align directly with the those reported here as part of the End Poverty in Edinburgh (EPE) Delivery Plan:

LOIP Priority 1 Enough money to live on	LOIP Priority 2 Access to work, learning and training	LOIP Priority 3 A good place to live
EPE Delivery Plan actions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maximise uptake of entitlements• Support in a crisis• Support for energy costs• Homelessness prevention	EPE Delivery Plan actions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fair work• Support to get and progress in work• Attainment, achievement, and positive destinations• Affordable childcare	EPE Delivery Plan actions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Decent, affordable homes• Digital inclusion• Accessible transport
EPE Delivery Plan – cross-cutting actions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No wrong door to support• Prevention and early intervention		

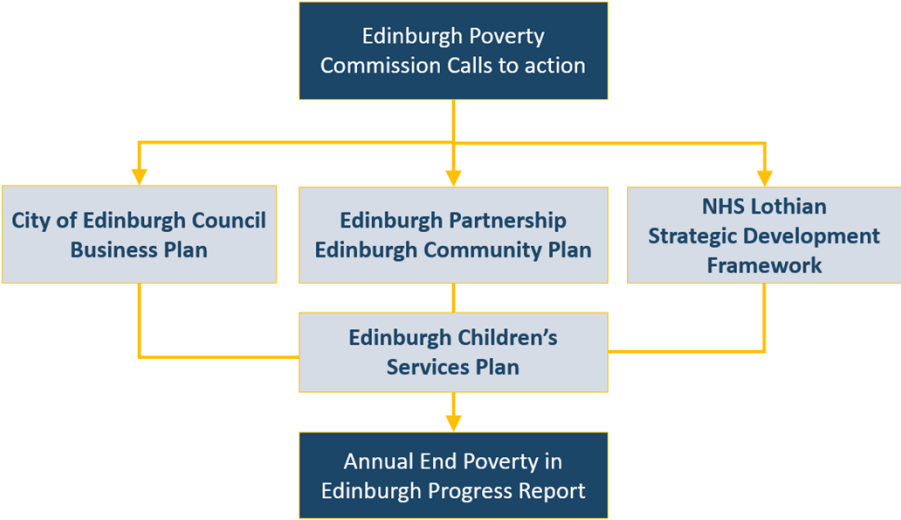
Strategic context

These local targets to end poverty and the actions needed to deliver them are embedded throughout the strategic plans and governance frameworks of the Edinburgh Partnership, the City of Edinburgh Council, and NHS Lothian. This report draws these end poverty actions together into a single plan, updated

every year. The report aims to provide a single, comprehensive view of the steps being taken across the city in response to the challenge and calls to action set by the Edinburgh Poverty Commission.

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

Before submission to Scottish Government, in line with the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act, the report is scrutinized by relevant committees of Edinburgh Partnership, City of Edinburgh Council, and NHS Lothian.



The Edinburgh Partnership Community Plan for 2022-28 drives partnership-wide actions needed to end poverty, including actions to ensure people have enough money to live on, can access work, learning and training opportunities, and have a good place to live. This plan is currently being refreshed and will take account of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission’s 2025 findings.

The **Edinburgh Children's Services Plan for 2023-26**, provides a focus on tackling child poverty and ensuring that all of Edinburgh's children and young people enjoy their childhood and achieve their potential. The next iteration of the plan is under development. Priority areas will continue to include actions to end child poverty in the city.

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

The **NHS Lothian Strategic Development Framework** (LSDF) sets out the role the NHS plays as an Anchor Institution in the region as being "*central to our contribution towards improving population health and wellbeing and tackling poverty and inequalities*". The LSDF also includes a focus on children and young people with workstreams focusing on improving maternal health and tackling poverty; infant and child health and wellbeing; adolescent health and wellbeing; and The Promise for children, young people, and their families.

CASE STUDY: YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S WORK

Universal youth work settings provide a dignified, non-stigmatising approach to mitigating the impact of poverty. [A study of the impact of youth work on Edinburgh](#) found that it can be substantial, providing places "where they felt safe, valued and supported, made positive choices and were better able to deal with the stresses and challenges of life".

The [Edinburgh Youth and Children's Work Strategy](#), 2023-2028 sets out eight priorities to 2028, including reducing inequality, tackling the impact of poverty, and closing the attainment gap. Examples included in the strategy show the range of approaches and the scope of provision:

- [Wester Hailes Youth Agency | Challenging Poverty | Resources | Education Scotland](#) is a case study about universal youth work organisation using a dignified approach to supporting young people impacted by poverty.
- [Reducing barriers to learning to improve attendance and learning outcomes](#) is a good practice case study involving the Council, Lothian Association of Youth Clubs (LAYC) and YouthLink Scotland, which takes a rights based approach using Pupil Equity Fund spend and working with partners to best support young people and reduce barriers to learning. Feedback from young people and parents has highlighted the difference that youth work can make to young people's wellbeing and engagement in learning.

Next steps will include continuing to seek meaningful and effective ways of engaging with young people so that they can help to shape and inform provision.

Poverty in Edinburgh: What the data tells us

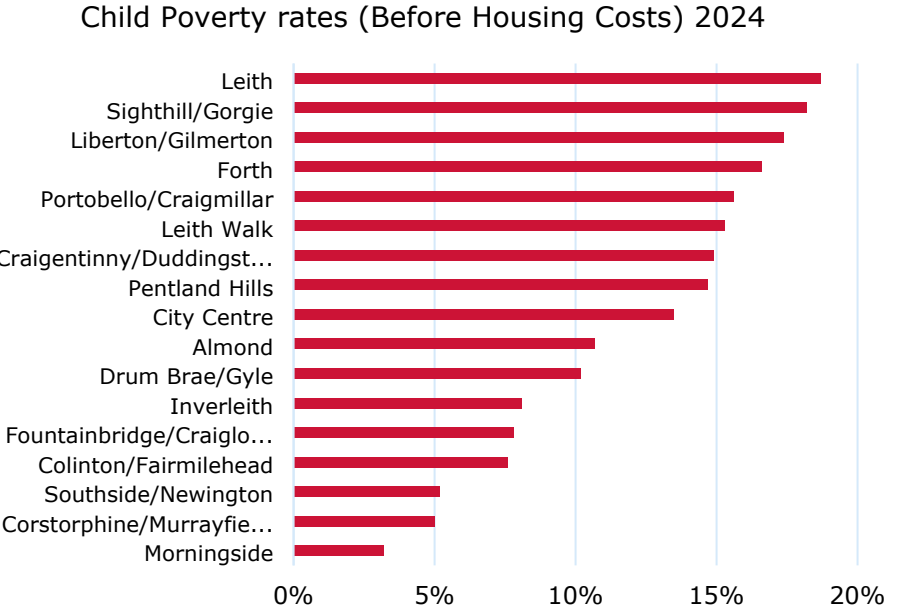
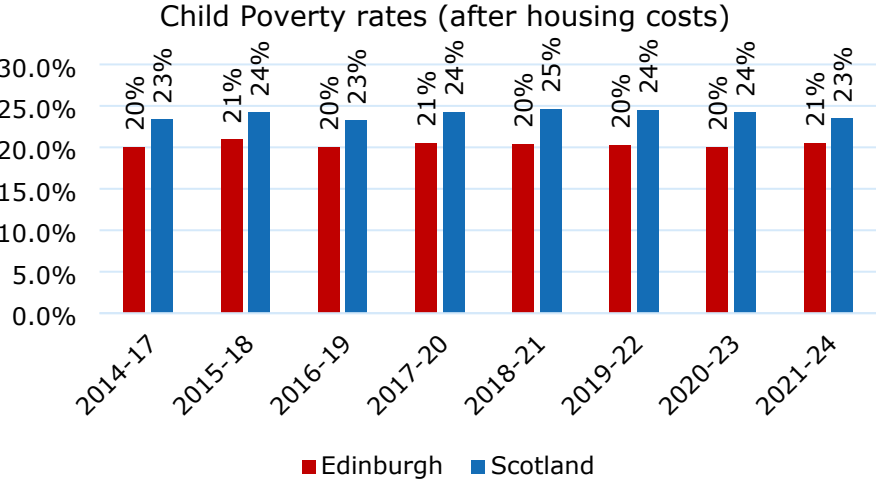
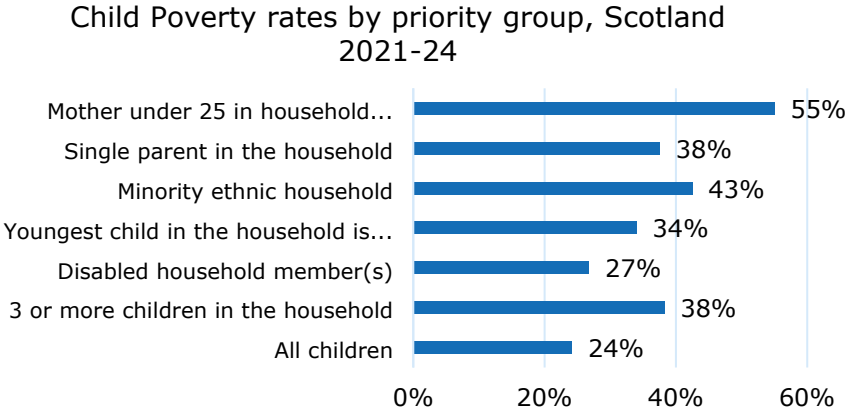
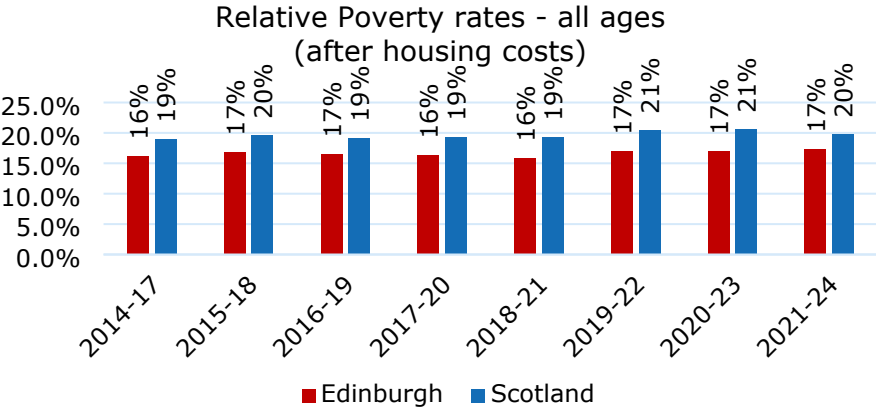
The Edinburgh Poverty Commission 2025 update provided a comprehensive data and literature review on current trends and evidence on poverty, its causes and drivers. Alongside this, The [Edinburgh Children's Services Plan 2023-26](#) includes an action to 'develop and enhance a data driven approach to child poverty action planning' with focus on the [six priority family types](#) at highest risk of child poverty.

This year, NHS Lothian have developed a base line data set with focus on children and young people most at risk of living with the effects of poverty, and have led work to complete a [Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for children and young people in Edinburgh](#) (JSNA). These will inform actions within the Children's Services Plan. Appendix 2b provides a detailed overview of child poverty in Edinburgh.

In summary, the data shows that:

- An estimated **17% of people** in Edinburgh were living in poverty in the period to spring 2024, accounting for over 89,000 individuals^v.
- These included over 18,000 children, **or 20% of all children in the city**.
- **At least 12%** of all residents had been living in poverty for **three of the past four years**.
- To meet the headline targets set by Scottish Government and the Edinburgh Poverty Commission, requires **36,000 people, including 8,600 children to be lifted out of poverty over the 7 years from 2023-30 in Edinburgh alone**.
- This comes within a challenging macro-economic and policy environment in which child poverty rates across the UK are projected to **rise by 3 percentage points in the period to 2030^{vi}**.

- Long term trends show an increase in the severity of poverty across the UK. Rates of **very deep poverty and destitution rose by 15%** in Edinburgh between 2019 and 2022^{vii}.
- The city is still feeling the long-term effects of the covid pandemic and the cost of living crisis. As at October **2025 food prices in the UK are 57% higher, and electricity prices 48% higher than they were in September 2020^{viii}**, while median wages in Edinburgh have grown by only 21%^{ix}.
- Households in key priority groups show a heightened risk of poverty and destitution. Two thirds of all people in destitution have a long term **chronic health condition or disability**, while around 40% of all **lone parent or minority ethnic households** are in poverty.
- Child poverty rates vary significantly across areas Edinburgh. Data on the Before Housing Costs measure (significantly lower than the headline After Housing Costs measure used throughout this report) shows **rates varying by 16 percentage points between the lowest rated area in Morningside, and the highest in Leith**.
- The number of **open homeless cases** in Edinburgh is now almost double the level it was in 2020, with a **40% increase** in the time taken for a case to be closed. At the same time, a **40% increase in construction costs** has led to a slow down in the rate of new house building, alongside a reduction in Scottish Government grant funding for new affordable homes in 2024/25.
- The proportion of people earning less than a real Living Wage having halved in the past five years. Despite this **61% of people living in poverty are in a household where at least one adult is working^x**.



Actions to End Poverty in Edinburgh

“Against the odds, we have found enough determination in the city to believe that the original calls to action can still be achieved by 2030. Longer-term and flexible funding, true collaboration between sectors and new forms of accountability are required for these examples to achieve their real impact. This is a time for renewed commitment from those we elect at local, Scottish and UK levels, via investment in social housing, education, fair work, social security, equity in education, health and social care and a just transition. There is no sustainable route to ending poverty otherwise.”

Edinburgh Poverty Commission 2025 update

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

- **Calls to action for UK and Scottish Governments, and**
- **A framework for local action**

Calls to action for national governments

The Edinburgh Poverty Commission 2025 update demonstrated the powerful impact that national governments can have on poverty levels in the city.

The Commission found that:

- 38% of people exiting poverty do so while experiencing a rise in the benefits payments they were able to access
- Poverty rates in Scotland dropped by 1 percentage point in the most recent year, compared to no change across the UK – with this diversion corresponding with the introduction of the Scottish Child Payment (SCP)

- Policies implemented by Social Security Scotland through the roll out of SCP and the Adult Disability Payment, have been welcomed for treating people with dignity and respect, and for their commitment to embedding support for applicants in local communities, and
- Government investment in employability programmes provide a vital route of poverty for thousands of people in Edinburgh. 16-27% of people who lift out of poverty do so due to an increase in the number of workers in their household, or an increase in the number of people moving from part time to full time work

It is for these reasons that the Commission noted that:

- *“The response to poverty in Edinburgh needs to come from a strong and refreshed collaboration between governments - which hold the levers needed to tackle ... macro issues – and the local public sector bodies, employers, and third sector organisations – which hold the relationships needed to make an impact on the lives of individual people in poverty.”*

In particular, the Commission called for UK and Scottish Governments to:

- Provide the **funding stability and flexibility** local partners need to plan and deliver actions to end poverty in Edinburgh
- Provide the additional **investment needed to deliver at least Edinburgh’s planned pipeline of new homes** over the next five years, without which there is no pathway to meeting the Scottish Government’s child poverty targets
- Provide a social security system designed around a **minimum income guarantee** that allows everyone to live a dignified quality of life
- Deliver on commitments to strengthen **employment rights** and end exploitative zero hours contracts

- Provide sustained **investment in the employability and skills** support needed to help people stay in and return to work
- Deliver a **Scottish Childcare Guarantee** which make childcare affordable and accessible for everyone who needs it, and
- Expand **concessionary travel** to under 25s, unpaid carers and people on low-income and disability benefits

A framework for local delivery

“To end poverty in the city, the pre-condition and the single biggest transformation Edinburgh could achieve would be to make the experience of seeking help less painful and confusing more humane, and more compassionate.” **Edinburgh Poverty Commission 2025 update**

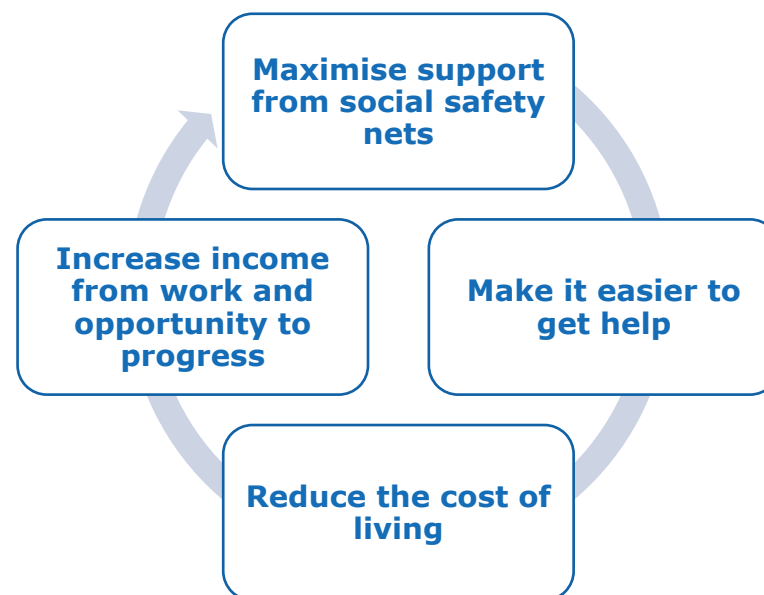
Partners in Edinburgh are committed to a framework of actions designed to respond to all the calls to action from the Edinburgh Poverty Commission. Across all the plans and strategies noted earlier in this report, the actions of city partners are focused on four core themes:

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

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

4. **Make it easier to find help** - this includes local actions to:

- Deliver integrated, ‘no wrong door’ approaches to service delivery and prevention of poverty
- Provide the support people need, in the places they live and work, and
- Deliver poverty awareness training programmes that addresses stigma and supports public sector workers to put prevention of poverty at the heart of everything they do.



The next chapter in this report provides an overview of progress against delivery of actions in this framework during the 12 months to the end of September 2025.

End Poverty in Edinburgh Delivery Plan: Progress during 2025

End Poverty in Edinburgh Delivery Plan

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

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

**Maximise
support from
social safety
nets**

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

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

**Reduce the cost
of living**

**Make it easier to
find help**

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

A: Increasing incomes from work and opportunities to progress

Action	Progress in 2025 and priorities for 2026
<p>A1. Promoting fair work that provides dignity and security</p> <p>Supports LOIP 2</p>	<p>Fair work that provides dignity and security was one of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission's calls to action following its 2025 interim review. While in-work poverty levels remain too high in Edinburgh, secure, well-paid work remains the best and most sustainable route out of poverty for most people.</p> <p>Progress during the last year</p> <p>1. Fair Work</p> <p>The Edinburgh Fair Work Action Group continued their work to raise the profile of Fair Work and increase take up of the Living Wage accreditation among Edinburgh employers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As of September 2025, there were 787 Living Wage employers in Edinburgh, collectively employing 219,373 workers and uplifting 13,405 workers onto the real Living Wage. So far, in the financial year 25-26 there have been 46 new Living Wage employers collectively employing 1,172 workers and uplifting 279 of those to the real Living Wage. There are now 18 Living Hours employers in Edinburgh, the second largest proportion for a local authority in Scotland. <p>2. Living Wage Employers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The City of Edinburgh Council is itself accredited with 93% of its regulated suppliers paying a real Living Wage and 34% being accredited Living Wage employers; we continue to highlight the benefits of being accredited to new and existing suppliers (procurement-annual-report-2025); and have undertaken further stakeholder engagement to support a new Edinburgh Fair Work Charter to provide guidance and support for employers and policy makers in the city. NHS Lothian is an accredited Living Wage Employer and all of the contracts it awarded during 2024-25 were with suppliers that are Real Living Wage Accredited or working towards this. <p>3. Supporting the community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council is working on its Community Wealth Building Plan for Edinburgh, which includes actions to further promote fair work and just labour markets. Scran Academy and Space@Broomhouse operate cafés in hospital sites as part of our NHS Lothian Anchor Institution hospital café programme, recognising the value a social enterprise can offer for patients, visitors and staff while supporting people to gain a foothold in the labour market. The Edinburgh and South East Scotland Community Benefits Portal has made 114 matches between suppliers and community-based projects, ensuring that locally-delivered projects and receiving benefit of large scale investment.

Action	Progress in 2025 and priorities for 2026
	<p>Priorities for 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish the Council's Community Wealth Building Plan and begin implementation • Continue work to investigate options for provision of catering in NHS Lothian sites in partnership with social enterprises.
<p>A2. Helping people to access and progress in work</p> <p>Supports LOIP 2</p>	<p>Edinburgh has a strong labour market, but many people struggle to find suitable employment or their work does not lift them out of poverty. Therefore, our focus has been not only supporting people into employment but supporting them into well-paid employment and to progress in employment. We also work alongside employers to ensure roles are inclusive, well-paid and fair.</p> <p>Progress during the last year</p> <p>1. General support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Edinburgh Guarantee continued to support people to access and progress in fair work, training or further education. • Council-funded programmes provided employability and skills support for 5,099 people, including 1,638 young people • A further 1,486 people were supported by UK government funded, Shared Prosperity Fund • We continued our support for people who are preparing to leave prison, along with the voluntary sector and Scottish Prison Service • We continued to support people who experience barriers to employment by delivering: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Employer Recruitment Incentive: supporting employers to recruit 42 people (13 were parents in a priority family group) by giving up to 52 weeks of support for each person and employer to embed and sustain their employment b. The Job Creation Scheme which gave 42 people 6 months paid work experience within the council, 70% securing employment afterwards. c. The NHS Gateway Programme – 6 month supported and paid work placements for 15 people across NHS Lothian <p>2. Holistic support for parents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We increased the Council's Parental Employment Support (PES) team from 3 to 8 officers and continue to build partnerships with providers so that we can help people to overcome all of their barriers to employment e.g. family support and ESOL • We re-commissioned our support for families who need employability support, making sure that these new projects can support all their needs (e.g. money advice, immigration, trauma-informed practice, domestic abuse, flexible working and childcare) • We continue to offer a discretionary transition fund to support parents from the six priority family groups with costs of training, short-term childcare, PVGs, digital equipment, driving lessons and creche facilities; granting £55k for 66 applications • We promoted the support available to parents by hosting an event in North-East Edinburgh, attended by around 150 parents and children. We plan to replicate this in another part of the city in February 2026. <p>3. Support for families from ethnically diverse backgrounds</p>

Action	Progress in 2025 and priorities for 2026																																																						
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Whole Family Equality Project supported 320 parents from ethnically diverse backgrounds and many received support around their immigration and work status as well as a total of over £104k in financial gains. We set up a new 'Skilled Voices' panel to better understand the barriers that qualified workers from ethnic minorities face in securing work in their chosen field. The panel will report back to employers about adjustments that would help meet their needs Recognising the language barriers faced by recent migrants to the City, specifically the issues this creates in gaining work, Capital City Partnership led work to commission a new 'ESOL for Employability' programme which will begin in October 2025. <p>A summary of the volume and outcomes for parents in Council-funded employability projects is shown in the table below</p> <table> <tr> <th>Priority family group</th><th>2023/24 Engagements</th><th>2024/25 Engagements</th><th>2023/24 Job Outcomes</th><th>24/25 Job Outcomes</th><th>2023/24 Education Outcomes</th><th>24/25 Education outcomes</th></tr> <tr> <td>Lone Parents</td><td>1,206</td><td>1,377</td><td>112</td><td>131</td><td>63</td><td>52</td></tr> <tr> <td>Parents under 25</td><td>138</td><td>117</td><td>14</td><td>17</td><td>8</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr> <td>Families with a child under one</td><td>69</td><td>91</td><td>7</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr> <td>Large families (3+children)</td><td>269</td><td>362</td><td>22</td><td>34</td><td>20</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr> <td><i>Families where there is a disabled adult or child*</i></td><td>1,520</td><td>479*</td><td>177</td><td>56</td><td>95</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr> <td><i>Minority ethnic families**</i></td><td>1,931</td><td>722**</td><td>264</td><td>99</td><td>128</td><td>45</td></tr> </table> <p>*Disability figures are now captured differently from 2024/25 with the figure now representing only those for whom their health condition is a barrier to work</p> <p>**lower figure this year reflects the more intensive engagement programme in 23/24</p> <p>4. Support for People with Long-Term Health Conditions or Disabilities</p>						Priority family group	2023/24 Engagements	2024/25 Engagements	2023/24 Job Outcomes	24/25 Job Outcomes	2023/24 Education Outcomes	24/25 Education outcomes	Lone Parents	1,206	1,377	112	131	63	52	Parents under 25	138	117	14	17	8	2	Families with a child under one	69	91	7	7	8	6	Large families (3+children)	269	362	22	34	20	15	<i>Families where there is a disabled adult or child*</i>	1,520	479*	177	56	95	5	<i>Minority ethnic families**</i>	1,931	722**	264	99	128	45
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Action	Progress in 2025 and priorities for 2026
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All in Edinburgh continues to support 900 people with long-term health conditions and disability each year with 140 moving into work last year and 36 retaining their employment, alongside £629,952 in financial gains • The Health and Social Care Partnership's refreshed strategic plan acknowledges the place that employment has in preventing ill health. In June 2025 the Local Employability Partnership bringing together academics and partners to support strategic ambitions in the area of work and health. <p>Support for young people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,604 people started a modern apprenticeship in 2024/25. As Anchor Institutions the Council (80) and NHS (66) support frameworks relating to Clinical Support Workers, Procurement, Call Handlers, and Apprenticeships for Pre-Registration Pharmacy Technicians • Youth providers through No One Left Behind and UK Shared Prosperity Fund supported young people to gain 146 jobs, 155 progressions to education and 590 other progressions including volunteering, training and work placements. • The Moving Forward and Moving Forward for Parents Programme support young people from households facing intergenerational poverty, with a combined offer to young people and their carers, recognising the interdependence of their employment journeys; last year we supported 255 people aged under 25; we have extended and increased this approach for Young People who have additional support needs, with our BEmpowered project reaching 20 young people per year. • The Local Employability partnership contributed to a Transition Toolkit for care-experienced young people leaving school supporting and inspiring them to get in, stay in and return to college and university <p>Poverty Prevention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills Development Scotland now provide community-based career advice, offering information and guidance in a range of local venues including schools, college campuses and voluntary sector venues. <p>Priorities for 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore potential for further placements and apprenticeships for parents • Launch the new ESOL for Employability programme for job seekers for whom English is not a first language • Work with industry to make sure that people have the expertise to apply for new higher skilled jobs in data and the green economy, aiming to introduce a framework for higher level skills that will lift people entirely out of benefits. • Work with the Scottish Health Equity Research Unit to better understand and develop and implement solutions for people with long term health conditions and disabilities, through the Local Employability Partnership and the Health and Social Care Partnership • Strengthen the employability provider network (Network of Employability Support and Training), focusing on organisations supporting priority families so that providers are connected, resourced, and equipped to respond to emerging labour market challenges. • Share learning from five years of whole-family support delivery of the Intensive Family Support (IFS) to inform future employability and family support policy at local and regional levels. • Improve integration across advice, employability, health, and family support services including closer alignment between the Edinburgh Advice Network (EAN) and Joined Up for Jobs (JUfJ) to strengthen pathways out of poverty. • Support positive destinations for the hardest to reach young people by working with education and intervening earlier • NHS Lothian leading on the development of a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) for employability and health

Action	Progress in 2025 and priorities for 2026
<p>A3. Improve attainment, achievement, and positive destinations for young people who grow up in poverty</p> <p>Supports LOIP 2</p>	<p>We remain focused on raising attainment and improving outcomes for all children and young people and we track pupils' achievements throughout their school years. Children from our most deprived communities were affected most by the impact of COVID-19 restrictions and we remain committed to ensuring inclusive education for all.</p> <p>Key achievements over the last year</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Early Years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We monitor services for children under school age, and whether parents and carers get their preferred model (e.g. forest kindergarten, childminder, full year or term time settings) as this can affect their own employment; we use this information to review capacity requirements; our latest figures showed that 91% (November 2023 survey) of parents said that they received their first-choice of preferred model, an increase of around 15% from the previous survey November 2021. We have responded to parent feedback on the Early Years service by increasing the flexibility of places offered (e.g. term time of across the year) and how funding is accessed and from August 2024, we introduced the option for purchasing additional hours Our additional Early Years Practitioner is now well established and supports all primary schools with their approaches to supporting young learners as they transition from Early Learning and Childcare to Primary 1. Attainment and attendance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attainment against national benchmarks has improved across most measures. The proportion of learners gaining 1,3, or 5 at SCQF levels 5 and 6 has increased for both the least and the most advantaged learners in 2024 with the improvement being greater for the least advantaged group. However, the attainment gap is biggest for learners in receipt of free school meals and care experienced learners and actions are in place including identifying and sharing effective practice and professional training to accelerate the learning among these young people. We opened the Corporate Parent Hub for care experienced learners disengaged from education to deliver national qualifications in partnership with schools; and the We Matter Team has provided 1:1 input in our residential placements to improve attainment for care experienced identified young people. Overall attendance in 2024-25 is above the national average; we continue to support improvement through early intervention, regular rigorous tracking, communication with families and a focus on support to address barriers Edinburgh schools continue to provide a widening range of pathways through vocational qualifications and awards. Schools ensure that these pathways are personalised to the learner and have parity of esteem with other qualifications. Vocational courses are mainly delivered through National Progression Awards (SCQF levels 3-6) and the number of passes has increased from 941 in 2023 to 1,944 in 2025, an increase of over 100%. Edinburgh's Annual Participation Measure which shows the percentage of 16-19 year-olds participating in education, employment or training, was 94%, the highest since 2016. For young people in the least advantaged group the level is 90% compared with 97% for the most advantaged. However, the gap has reduced over the year and is the second lowest on record. Upskilling teachers and early years practitioners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High-quality learning and teaching is essential for children and young people from disadvantaged backgrounds and those with protected characteristics:

Action	Progress in 2025 and priorities for 2026
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have development of the Support Workers Charter and Early Years Practitioners Charter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 900 teachers participated in the Teachers' Charter professional learning 65% of our senior leaders in schools have completed our Leadership for Equity programme, developed to help close the poverty related attainment gap <p>4. Actions to prevent or tackle the effects of poverty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving equity and reducing stigma and the cost of the school day e.g. by revising the Making Education Equal for All good practice guide Using the Pupil Equity Fund to support closing the attainment gap, with support from the Education Scotland attainment advisor and officers Taking a place-based approach to allocating Strategic Equity Funding (SEF) with our Learning Communities bidding for funds to continue their Team around the Community (TAC) approach to improving attendance and closing the poverty-related attainment gap Using SEF to fund a cloud-based pupil tracking system, increased capacity in data analysis, a raising attendance strategy and a pathways team, developing a range of place based vocational courses <p>5. The Whole Family Wellbeing Fund This Scottish Government initiative is intended to address some of the disadvantages and challenges which can limit opportunities for people. Examples of services funded in Edinburgh span support for families with disabilities or neurodivergence, parent-led childcare and support for young people's mental health, delivered through a collaboration of five youth work organisations.</p> <p>6. Connected Communities Edinburgh 2024-27 This a 3-year grants programme supports third sector umbrella organisations as well as local, grassroot organisations delivering direct services to children, young people and families across Edinburgh; there are three funding strands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learning outcomes for disadvantaged children, young people and families in Edinburgh Health and wellbeing outcomes for children, young people and families in Edinburgh Youth and children's work in Edinburgh <p>The funding process built in reporting on the priority family groups (for poverty) as part of the monitoring of use of funds issued to the successful bids.</p> <p>7. The Council's Wider Achievement and Lifelong Learning Service priorities include tackling poverty and inequality and addressing barriers associated with poverty with actions over the past year as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult and Family Learning Team deliver a wide range of learning opportunities to adult learners, with pathways onto further learning and into employment. Courses are free, apart from the Auld Education programme (which offers concessions to around 50% of participants) and include Multiply (adult numeracy), adult literacies, courses for Deaf and Hard of Hearing adults and Outlook which enables people who access mental health services to take up a variety of opportunities. Parent and Carer Support, Wellbeing and Child Poverty The team develop and deliver learning, training and support for parents and carers, children and young people, staff and partners that aim to address child poverty and other inequalities. These include accredited parenting courses which develop parenting skills, improve

Action	Progress in 2025 and priorities for 2026
	<p>health and wellbeing and reduce social isolation. Programmes such as Discover and Chill n Chat directly support parents and families living in poverty, with over 600 families attending the Discover holiday programme. The team also makes links with schools and families living in temporary homeless accommodation and has continued to promote and develop the Support for Families Website.</p> <p>Priorities for 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Edinburgh Community Learning and Development Partnership has set up a working group, to understand financial literacy work support for children and young people, aiming to identify current provision, gaps and options to support improvements. • An increased focus on improved outcomes for young people who are care-experienced and/or in receipt of free school meals. • Share actions taken over the last 10 years of 1 in 5 Raising Awareness of Child Poverty and set aims for the next 10 years

CASE STUDY: EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT FOR ETHNIC MINORITIES

Poverty rates in Scotland are disproportionately high for some ethnic group, including 43% for 'Asian or Asian British' and 50% for 'Mixed, Black or Black British, and Other' groups between 2019-24 ([Scottish Government, 2025](#)). The poverty rate amongst the 'White - Other' group was 20% and that of the 'White - British' group was 18%.

Employment is one of the most powerful levers we have, to build a more inclusive and equitable society. However, in Scotland, the employment gap between white and minority ethnic groups was 13.8% in 2023 ([Scottish Government, 2024](#)). Data for Edinburgh show that ethnically diverse groups' meaningful employment outcomes remain disproportionately low ([CCP, 2023](#)).

Migrants face major adaptation challenges, including navigating UK systems, securing housing, and adjusting to workplace norms. Culture shock, mental health pressures, and prolonged unemployment can reduce confidence and skills.

Edinburgh now has a number of projects which support people from ethnically diverse communities to access and sustain employment and in 2024/25 began a project of engaging with employers to ensure that their workplaces were accessible and inclusive to the graduates from these services. The team at Capital City Partnership has now delivered a number of events and workshops with employers on topics such as immigration and sponsorship, how to evaluate and improve their equality and diversity policies, retaining an ethnically diverse workforce and recognition of qualifications gained abroad. Overall the project has engaged with 50 employers and have reported that being brought together with people with lived experience has been 'illuminating' for them.

CASE STUDY: CHILDCARE

Accessing childcare is a challenge across the city, with some providers ceasing operating. Providers are experiencing the same recruitment and retention challenges as the wider Health and Social Care sector.

The Whole Family Wellbeing Fund's Parent-led Childcare project aims to reduce and prevent the inequities across the city of school-age childcare provision. Key activities are:

- The co-production of new parent led out of school care in the Craigmillar area. This parent-led childcare model ensures a level of affordability and is led by needs of the local community.
- Delivery of a programme of activities to address current challenges for existing providers around governance, business development and fundraising.

Challenges for parent-led childcare include accessing enough space to meet the demand, and many clubs are running a waiting list. The Council provides support these not for profit childcare providers with a free let, so that funds are redistributed back into service provision.

The continued increase in children with additional support needs poses a challenge/opportunity ensuring that the environments are suitable for them.

Next steps: the Parent-Led Childcare Collaborative will continue until 2027 and the focus will be to support providers to strengthen services to help prevent further closures; and to build on learning to date around establishing new provision in areas of need.

B: Maximising support from social safety nets

Action	Progress in 2025 and priorities for 2026
<p>B1. Maximise uptake of benefits entitlements and other income support</p> <p>Supports LOIP 1</p>	<p>Welfare benefits advice is delivered by a range of organisations across the statutory and third sectors and future funding is uncertain. Demand for welfare benefits advice remains high and cases are becoming more complex. An estimate of the level of need for welfare rights and debt advice¹ suggest that there is a considerable gap in provision, with up to 50,000 people not receiving the support that they might need.</p> <p>During the last year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Around 26,500 citizens received advice, gaining £26m across the city. <p>The Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Made a £1m investment in funding to support the continuation of critical income maximisation services provided by the third sector during 2025/26, and began to develop a commissioning approach for future years. • Updated its webpages to provide online support tools including a benefits calculator to help the people find out what benefits they could claim; and <u>Lightning Reach</u> which is a free online portal that allows people to find and apply for financial support from multiple providers, quickly and easily. • Launched a targeted campaign in March to promote its Cost of Living webpages, and the newly integrated Entitled To benefits calculator tool and Lightning Reach. The campaign was designed in collaboration with the End Poverty Edinburgh citizens group. It tested the use of digital marketing techniques to target families with children, as well as the more traditional print resources such as lamppost wraps and use of social media. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sessions on the Council website’s cost of living landing page surged during the generic campaign with 22,313 visits (95% of total sessions) attributed to people clicking through from campaign ads. • 61% of people clicking through to use the benefits calculator (an increase of almost 160% during the campaign) • The daily average of people completing the Entitled Tool increased during the campaign period by from 20 to 38 • Data from the benefits calculator showed an unclaimed benefits value of £170,500 (claimable per week) over the course of the campaign, with Universal Credit being the most unclaimed benefit. • Single parent families have the highest total value of unclaimed benefit (£43,000) followed by families where someone in the home is disabled (£32,000). • On average, per family, large families have the largest unclaimed benefit (£244) followed by young parents (£156). • Delivered a Pension Credit uptake campaign, enabled by a data sharing agreement with DWP, and using housing benefit and council tax reduction data to identify 206 people who might be entitled. This delivered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £697,612 to 132 individuals (an average of over £5k per person) so far, with a further 43 waiting to hear the outcome of their claim

¹ Welfare Rights and Debt Advice Services – Needs Assessment for Edinburgh, NHS Lothian Public Health, 2024

Action	Progress in 2025 and priorities for 2026
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> other entitlements to be identified including 128 Pension Age Winter Heating Payment / Winter Heating / Warm Home Discount etc claims and a number of Council Tax Reduction, Housing Benefit and disability benefit claims; and 31 TV License exemptions. <p>The NHS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progressed of a more joined up approach to income maximisation in NHS settings, including a shared pathway for health visiting, family nurse partnership and midwifery services and established a dedicated city wide Family Nurse Practitioners income max and welfare advice pathway As part of the Scottish Government's Cash First funded project, looked into infant food insecurity, surveying key staff and setting up a short life working group to map current provision, identify gaps and develop recommendations to respond to these. Citizens Advice Edinburgh and CHAI continued to deliver welfare advice services in the Edinburgh acute hospitals, making access easier for families who may struggle to engage with community based services, or who may find they are experiencing financial difficulties as a result of their child's illness or hospital stay. The advisers also offer advice and support a range of issues in addition to benefits, including finance, immigration, employment, housing and debt. These services are funded until the end of September 2026. <p>The <u>Edinburgh Advice Network (EAN)</u> has continued to help build knowledge, skills and awareness among providers through events spanning the cost of living crisis, homelessness, advisor wellbeing and immigration support as well as skills development sessions including Confident Conversations: Child Maintenance training with Fife Gingerbread and Trauma-Informed Practice. They have launched their new website: www.edinburghadvicenetwork.org providing Network News, updates on policy changes, funding, and best practices and Weekly/Bi-weekly bulletins for practitioners.</p> <p>Priorities for 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-design a commissioning specification for income maximisation services provided by third sector Continue to work towards greater parity between the statutory and third sector – pay, security via longer term funding, pensions supported by job evaluation; and introduce Advisor and Support Worker roles to maximise use of limited pool of trained staff. Stabilise long term funding for accredited income maximisation service providers Making sure that income maximisation is integrated at local level including within the Neighbourhood Prevention Partnership, Team Around the Community and Whole Family Wellbeing fund initiatives Build on learning from the targeted campaign to promote the Cost of Living website e.g. those groups found to have the highest total values of unclaimed benefit could inform future targeted campaigns Support benefits uptake – further work is planned to contact all individuals who are in receipt of Housing Benefit or Council Tax Reduction who will reach pension age in 2025, to reduce the risk of poverty as people on from working age benefits; and we will consider taking a similar approach to maximising income for households with children. Continue to support the Scottish Illegal Money Lending Unit's Stop Loan Sharks Scotland Charter Mark by promoting their illegal money lending training for front line staff and their annual awareness raising campaigns.

Action	Progress in 2025 and priorities for 2026
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Edinburgh Advice Partnership (EAP) will hold a session to consider evidence of need and demand as well as their reach and outcomes; this will include a detailed consideration of the scale and extent of debt to support prevention and mitigation The EAP/ EAN to continue to support any raising awareness work in relation to gambling i.e. resources, training etc.
B2. Deliver well targeted cash first and local crisis support programmes Supports all LOIP priorities	<p>The Council delivers direct cash and crisis support to low-income families in need in a range of ways and administers one-off funding from the Government to support people through the cost of living crisis.</p> <p>Progress during the last year</p> <p>The Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided over 9,000 free school meal payments and just over 8,500 clothing grants Delivered £168.5m in housing benefit, £27.4m in Council Tax Reduction and £6.8m in Discretionary Housing Payment funding to low income families in Edinburgh Administered the Scottish Welfare Fund in Edinburgh, including 29,500 Crisis Grant applications to a total value of £2.399m, and 7,876 Community Care Grants, to a value of £1.784m <p>Partners working together:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Cash First approach to food and fuel poverty, provides immediate relief alongside a discussion about the underlying causes of the crisis and help to access other supports, for example, the Scottish Welfare Fund, The Advice Line (the Council's Income Maximisation Service), referral for debt support, energy advice, access to GP and health services. Following a successful test in two areas, it has been extended across the city, including 'pop up' drop-in sessions at 2 local libraries, a food bank and a primary school (see case study). The Menu for All network, led by Edinburgh Community Food, continued to implement the <u>Ending Poverty-Related Hunger in Edinburgh strategy</u>, and progress has been made in developing a network of emergency and community food provision, which aims to support co-ordination and share learning and good practice as well as challenges. <p>Priorities for 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building on the Cash First tests, continue to develop ways to engage with people at risk of poverty and provide support at an early stage Develop a way to ensure that accurate, up to date information on sources of support are readily available to staff, volunteers and citizens Continue to implement Menu for All including the ongoing development and embedding of a network of Emergency and Community Food Providers

Action	Progress in 2025 and priorities for 2026
B3. Help people to prevent homelessness and other crises Supports LOIP 1	<p>Homelessness and access to affordable housing continues to be the biggest and most visible driver of poverty in Edinburgh in 2024, as illustrated by the Council's declaration of a Housing Emergency in 2023. The Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan has been incorporated into our new Local Housing Strategy with the strategic objectives around homelessness remaining; prevent homelessness in the first place, where temporary accommodation is required it meets the needs of the household, support people to access settled accommodation as quickly as possible and reduce rough sleeping.</p> <p>Progress during the last year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Published a strategy to change the mix of temporary accommodation agreed by Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee in February 2025. Prevented homelessness for 1,735 households, supported 579 households to move on from temporary accommodation, answered 4,529 Advice Line calls and delivered 66 homelessness prevention training sessions. Continued to develop the Early Intervention Team, which began in December 2023, to reach out to all households who contact homelessness services who are not immediately roofless, offering an interview to identify opportunities to prevent homelessness. As part of the development of the team, officers have worked on a new Housing Options Checker which all Edindex applicants can access. The tool allows officers to receive notifications when users have identified some emerging housing issues, which the applicant themselves may not recognise at being 'at risk' of homelessness, but can allow officers to intervene at an earlier stage. Continued to change the mix of temporary accommodation stock to meet the needs of the household, including an additional 64 beds in homeless accommodation with support; and increasing the number of households accessing homeshare accommodation. In line with the Housing Emergency Action Plan, increased the number of homes let to homeless households and reduced the number of void properties. Allocation levels for social rent to homelessness households in 2025/25 were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 792 (74%) of Council homes 592 (66%) of RSL social rented homes Continued to support people experiencing homelessness to access employment: an Encompass employability advisor started in February 2024 and is now currently supporting 13 people regularly, focusing on creating and updating CVs, exploring different industries and education options and looking at community activities people can do to increase their confidence, employability and wellbeing. Continued to provide a hospital in-reach service to support inpatients identified as being homeless to register with primary care, engage with the housing system, and gain help with income maximisation <p>Priorities for 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that the Council and partners in the city are prepared for the forthcoming homelessness prevention duties including the duty on public sector bodies such as health and social care and the police to 'ask and act' in relation to someone's housing and homeless situation , including carrying out and learning from the Scottish Government funded Ask and Act pilot in Westerhailes.

Action	Progress in 2025 and priorities for 2026
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scope out all potential options to maximise homelessness prevention activity and build on successes of teams, including utilising data led projects such as Smart Data Foundry and DataLoch. • Continue development of the Youth Housing Hub proposal. • Continue to implement the medium to long term strategy to change the mix of temporary accommodation. • Embed the recommendations from the Children and Young People's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment into the next iteration of the Children's Services Plan. This includes a focus on the needs of children living in temporary accommodation across the city

CASE STUDY: PENSION CREDIT TAKE UP

This initiative has been made possible through a data sharing agreement between the City of Edinburgh Council and DWP.

Responding to the cuts to winter fuel assistance and the rise in cold related deaths, the City of Edinburgh Council identified people who might be entitled to Pension Credit by using Housing Benefit (HB) and Council Tax Reduction (CTR) data.

The Council's Transactions team provided the Advice Shop with a list of around 900 individuals to be screened for entitlement to Pension Credit and allocated a welfare rights adviser to contact them. From this, 206 people were identified as likely to be entitled and made an application, resulting in:

- 132 people gaining £697,612, an average of £5,285 additional annual income per person; a further 43 people are still waiting on the outcome of their claim
- 128 Pension Age Winter Heating Payment / Winter Heating / Warm Home Discount etc claims and a number of Council Tax Reduction, Housing Benefit and disability benefit claims.
- 31 TV License exemptions.

Key learning has been to use a variety of ways to verify that Council advisers are legitimate (needed because there had been a number of recent scams) and to use different approaches to making claims (e.g. home visits, paper forms, office-based assistance etc).

We now have a list of everyone getting HB and/or CTR who have or will reach State Pension age in 2025. This will allow us to offer early intervention and reduce the number of people who leave working age benefits but who do not move into PC Guaranteed Credit.

The next steps will be to consider how we could implement a similar approach to maximising income for households with children.

C: Reducing the Cost of Living

Action	Progress in 2025 and priorities for 2026
C1. Deliver decent homes that people can afford to live in	<p>The Council is the largest affordable housing developer in the city. Our Local Housing Strategy sets out a vision <i>that everyone in Edinburgh can access and live in a home that is warm, safe, high quality, meets their needs and that they can afford. Everyone can access the right support, at the right time, to allow them to be part of a thriving community.</i> Our refreshed Housing Emergency Action Plan focuses on two themes; housing supply and demand for housing.</p>
Supports LOIP 3	<p>Progress during the last year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Housing Strategy (LHS): Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee approved Edinburgh's Local Housing Strategy 2025 – 2030 on 13 June 2025. This sets out the vision for delivery of housing and related services for at least the next five years. It covers all housing tenures and is the over arching parent strategy across housing and homelessness. The LHS has 12 strategic objectives, with an action plan to support delivery of the strategy. Annual updates on the LHS will be reported to Committee and Scottish Government each summer. • Housing Emergency Action Plan (HEAP): Following approval of the HEAP – Annual update in February 2025 officers undertook a series of stakeholder events to inform a refreshed HEAP. The refreshed HEAP has 2 themes, 6 strategic outcomes and 36 actions. Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee approved the refreshed HEAP and governance model on 13 June 2025 and approved the programme plan, KPIs and an update to the governance model on 23 September 2025. Updates to the HEAP will be reported to Committee every six months; the first update is due in February 2026. • Housing Partnership: A strategic housing partnership has been established with the first meeting held on 12 November 2025. A key remit of this partnership is to provide strategic oversight of the HEAP, bringing together key city stakeholders to develop strategic responses to the city's housing emergency. • Increasing affordable housing: working towards a 25,000 target - since 2016, around 10,900 new affordable homes have been approved (658 in 2024/25) and around 10,100 completed (1,135 in 2024/25); challenges include increasing costs and grant funding increases not matching these. The Affordable Housing Supply Programme core budget has returned to levels awarded in 2023/24, this has led to a projected programme of 1,022 approvals and 1,368 completions in 2025/26 • Funding for Affordable Homes: with the support of the £14.882m of National Acquisition Fund monies allocated to Edinburgh for 2024/25, the purchase of 175 homes was possible. This was targeted to alleviate temporary accommodation pressures. As part of this, £4m of the National Acquisition Fund was also used to support bringing 565 long-term void properties back into use. • Housing Bill: The Scottish Government passed the Housing Bill on 30 September 2025 and it is expected that the Bill will receive Royal Assent in December 2025. The Bill includes provision for the introduction of rent controls and introducing 'Ask and Act' homelessness prevention activities. <p>Priorities for 2026</p>

Action	Progress in 2025 and priorities for 2026
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver actions set out in the HEAP, an update on which will be presented to Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee in February 2026, including a review of the housing allocations policy and actions to increase the number of larger social rented homes in the city. • Deliver actions set out in the LHS, an update on which will be presented to Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee in summer 2026, including bringing more empty homes back into use, anchored by a new Empty Homes Strategy and continuing to implement the WHR programme • Continue dialogue with the Scottish Government about the need for additional funding.
C2. Provide targeted support for rising energy costs Supports LOIP 1	<p>Rising energy costs in recent years have increased the urgency of additional support to help households on low incomes in Edinburgh avoid having to face the choice of whether to heat their homes or feed their families. In the short term this has meant providing support with fuel costs. Over the longer term it means taking the steps needed to make properties more fuel efficient.</p> <p>Progress during the last year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication of the Council's Local Housing Strategy which includes an objective to reduce fuel poverty and ensure every household has a warm home they can afford to heat and sets out its actions to tackle fuel poverty are set out in the which was published in June 2025. • These actions include using estimates and data from a range of sources to identify areas of the city with the highest probability of experiencing fuel poverty and commissioned Changeworks to offer in depth energy advice to Council tenants in these areas. • The Council commissioned Energy Advice Service for Council tenants supported 1,621 tenants in 2024/25 (February 2024 to January 2025), resulting in around £305,000 of financial savings to tenants, and provides: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on how to use energy systems and storage heaters efficiently; how 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 and to correct billing errors • The Council is working to support communal heating charges for residents in mixed tenure developments in a number of ways including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacing faulty system meters to make sure that residents and tenants have access to clear and reliable information regarding their energy costs • Transferring energy supplies to operate heating systems to the Council's commercial energy provider to ensure that the lowest wholesale energy costs are secured, which will minimise any increases in energy that may be passed onto owners • Working with owners and landlords to repair and improve mixed tenure including enhancing insulation; owners are able to access grants from the Scottish Government to cover the costs of energy efficiency related works. • Council venues such as libraries, community centres, museums and galleries, alongside partner and community spaces, continue to have free activities for a variety of age groups and provide a spaces where people feel safe, warm, and at ease. In certain spaces residents are able to access information to help alleviate food and fuel poverty and other support available to them.

Action	Progress in 2025 and priorities for 2026
	<p>Priorities for 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress the actions to address fuel poverty which are set out in the Local Housing Strategy <p>Continue to offer warm, safe spaces</p>
<p>C3. Improve access to affordable childcare</p> <p>Supports LOIP 2</p>	<p>Access to affordable childcare can be key to families being able to escape from poverty particularly for women and lone parents, who want to work. However, the cost of childcare is rising and there are waiting lists for places.</p> <p>Progress during the last year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued delivery of the Council's Early Years Expansion Plan, working towards ensuring that support is flexible enough to meet the needs of families, and that there are enough places across providers to meet the demand. • Continue to embed and develop Edinburgh's Affordable Childcare for Working Parents service in areas of deprivation. Four childcare providers are contracted to allow the Council to subsidise places for working parents experiencing poverty or where the cost of childcare pushes them into poverty. Parental Employability Support (PES) officers work with parents to assess their eligibility for the subsidy, offer support around a range of barriers that they may be facing, and link them in with the Council's Advice Shop to ensure they are accessing all financial support available to them. • Using the Scottish Government's Tackling Child Poverty allocation to increase funding to One Parent Families Scotland to deliver the Childcare Connector project. This assists single parents to identify childcare options and information about financial support. By having the right childcare, parents can reach their goals, achieve financial independence and take an equal part in the community. • Funding provision of creche places for parents engaged in training for employment. • Continuing to work in partnership with the Scottish Childminding Association to recruit new childminders in Edinburgh. The aim in 2025/26 is to recruit a further 20 childminders. • Continuing the Parent-Led Childcare Collaborative, funded through the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund. The Collaborative is focused on strengthening the existing network of parent-led School Age Childcare providers through a needs-led capacity building programme, while also supporting the creation of a new provision in an area with a long-term gap. • Development of a multi-disciplinary Childcare Working Group to analyse the landscape and issues around childcare in Edinburgh. The aim of this group is to assess the real issues in the city and identify any actions that can be addressed collaboratively at a local level through the Edinburgh Partnership. <p>Priorities for 2026</p> <p>Continue capacity building element of the Whole Family Wellbeing parent-led childcare pilot to ensure resilience in the childcare sector and continue to work with the identified childcare partner to develop new provision in an under-served part of the city</p>

Action	Progress in 2025 and priorities for 2026
<p>C4. Improve digital inclusion and access to affordable transport</p> <p>Supports LOIP 3</p>	<p>A lack of digital skills and access can have a huge negative impact on a person's life, affecting their ability to learn, apply for jobs, access training opportunities, and engage with many public services. The Council and partners offer a range of supports for people to get access and to develop the skills needed.</p> <p>Progress during the last year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued delivery of actions in the Council's Digital and Smart City Strategy on digital skills and inclusion – achievements include improving citywide connectivity to make internet access inclusive; a focus on improving digital literacy, equipping people with skills to participate in online activities and gain employment Edinburgh's Future Libraries Strategy 2025–2030 has been introduced and includes actions to support people to develop their digital skills and confidence; support improved access to the internet and online information and explore opportunities to provide access to digital learning and virtual reality to combat digital exclusion and encourage participation The Edinburgh Partnership has set up a short-life working group to look at digital inclusion across the city, assess where the gaps and to develop a workplan to address these. Through the Empowered learning Programme we have rolled out personal digital devices for every school pupil from P6 to S6 with 27,500 new iPads issued to pupils/teachers, refreshed iPads for up to 12,000 pupils/teachers and expanded connectivity through additional wireless access points in schools. Providing the citywide Get Online Digital Skills Programme with volunteers supporting people to improve their digital skills on a 1-2-1 basis at their local library <p>The cost and ease of transport across the city can also be a barrier to people's ability to hold down jobs and access educational opportunities. The Council continues to implement actions through the City Mobility Plan (CMP) 2021-2030 which aims to create a safer, more sustainable, and inclusive transport system by shifting away from car use towards public transport, walking, and cycling. Key public transport initiatives include expanding the tram network to Newhaven, reviewing the bus network as part of a regional rapid transit system, and improving overall integration with active travel routes through new and existing "mobility hubs".</p> <p>Priorities for 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue implementation of these strategies

D: Making it easier to find help

Action	Progress in 2025 and priorities for 2026
<p>D1. Deliver integrated, ‘no wrong door’ approaches to service delivery and prevention of poverty</p> <p>Supports all LOIP priorities</p>	<p>A key call to action from the Edinburgh Poverty Commission was for <i>“the design and delivery of a new operating model for all public services so that all public workers are focused and empowered to put prevention of poverty at the heart of everything they do.”</i></p> <p>Progress over the last year</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> System reform <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have started long term work to fundamentally change services and supports in Edinburgh to embed prevention, early intervention and mitigation across the city. The aim is to make it easier for people in need to get the support they need before reaching a crisis, improving the experience of finding and getting help, and also reduce demand for public services Starting with five sites across the city, we are setting up neighbourhood-based partnership prevention teams and services which provide universal, targeted and specialist supports provided by Council, third sector, and other statutory sector partners, physically co-located in the communities they serve The Council has received £279,000 from the Government’s Fairer Futures Partnership to kick start a programme of delivery. Recognising the vital role that the third sector plays in delivering services in this way, we are developing a different relationship and funding arrangements with the third sector Details of the approach are given in Prevention, Early Intervention and Mitigation in Edinburgh – Getting it right through local partnership working. Whole Family Wellbeing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects delivered through the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund continue to support a shift towards prevention and early intervention, spanning early years, early and preventative help in local communities, supporting families with a child or young person with a disability, young people’s mental health and well-being, and parent-led affordable out of school childcare Responding to feedback from professionals that it is challenging to find out what supports are available for families and from parents who say that they are not receiving the right support for their family, the WFW team have developed an interactive session for practitioners where they will learn where to access information on the range of supports available in Edinburgh and how to access them Using data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are developing our use of external and our own data to support early intervention and targeted action to prevent poverty. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A collaboration with Smart Data Foundry (a subsidiary of University of Edinburgh) to combine council held and proprietary datasets to provide bespoke local dashboards to target and monitor anti-poverty and cost of living initiatives Development of a homelessness risk prevention toolkit to help services in the early identification and support of citizens at risk of homelessness

Action	Progress in 2025 and priorities for 2026
	<p>4. Service delivery changes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council has brought advice and family support services together at local level so that people can get access to all of these services more easily Collaborative Approach to Supporting Families with Complex Needs: a subgroup of the Children's Partnership joined a short-life working group to supporting families with complex needs to address the significant barriers to accessing help faced by a number of families, specifically for those No Recourse to Public Funds or complex immigration status. By bringing together statutory and third sector partners, the group aims to strengthen communication, share expertise, and build a more consistent and collaborative response. <p>Priorities for 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue the actions above to drive significant public sector reform in Edinburgh to support early identification of families in need of support, and effective interventions that prevent harm and support improved outcomes for people and services. Support the development of the Neighbourhood Prevention Partnerships as a way of modelling this no wrong door/early intervention and prevention model
<p>D2. Provide the support people need, in the places they live and work</p> <p>Supports all LOIP priorities</p>	<p>Actions have continued in 2025 towards building a city in which people in all parts of Edinburgh can access the supports they need.</p> <p>Progress over the last year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work is underway to develop a digital front door - an effective, user friendly way for people to find information and options to self-serve, on services and supports that are available in the city, addressing a long recognised challenge that information is hard to find and often out of date; this work is being informed by citizens, staff and people with lived experience of poverty and other challenges The Team Around the Community approach aims to identify young people at an early stage of needs and challenges that they or their family might be experiencing. Implementation continues in the Liberton area of the South East of the city with valuable learning on to engage with professionals and support learning across the multi-disciplinary team; the approach will be introduced in the Craigroyston area, in the North West of the city, recognising that the approach needed in that part of the city will need to respond to local circumstances. The new Macmillan Hub, developed in partnership with North Edinburgh Arts, was completed in early 2025. The shared building accommodates Pennywell Early Learning and Childcare centre for up to 185 children, a new Muirhouse Library, the Skills Hub (delivered by CCP, and nominated for a SURF award) additional space for North Edinburgh Arts and six flats for social rent. The hub is a key part of one of the most significant urban regeneration projects in Scotland, helping tackling poverty and inequality in the area. The Team Around the Community approach which is being introduced in the NW will focus on how to support the coordination of early support to families, making best use around the shared space at that McMillan provides.

Action	Progress in 2025 and priorities for 2026
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test site work has continued in Craigmillar via the Edinburgh Children's Partnership 'healthy places' subgroup where the focus for work is on the co-delivery with local children and young people of an art installation and a 'welcoming space' for teenagers. <p>Priorities for 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress the recommendations from the Children and Young People's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment focused on delivery of strong universal services in places where children and young people stay and play Team Around the Community (TAC): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> continue and enhance links to relevant health services, in particular health visiting and school nurse services. Ensure TAC staff receive appropriate information and guidance on health issues and are aware of pathways for signposting Develop the model in the NW using the McMillan Hub and collaboration between services based within and around the Hub, including education settings, to provide prevention and early intervention support for families. Continue work in Pilton work, using the Place Standard Tool with a focus on community safety to identify priority areas and actions, as highlighted by community members. This work will support the development of the Neighbourhood Prevention Partnership as it develops in the area
<p>D3. Deliver poverty awareness training programmes that addresses stigma, and supports public sector workers public to put prevention of poverty at the heart of everything they do</p> <p>Supports all LOIP priorities</p>	<p>The Edinburgh Poverty Commission said that to end poverty in the city, the single biggest transformation Edinburgh could achieve would be to make the experience of seeking help less painful, less complex, more humane, and more compassionate. They called on City of Edinburgh Council to lead in the design and delivery of a new relationship based way of working for all public services in Edinburgh.</p> <p>Progress during the last year</p> <p>1. Training and awareness raising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building on the successful 1 in 5 child poverty awareness programme developed in Edinburgh schools, and the Money Counts training for Council and partner agencies, work this year has continued to review, aligning and update the range of poverty and prevention-related training offered to staff, including homelessness prevention and Money Counts Training for Council and partner agencies. Training delivered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Around 200 people have attended the Money Counts training 150 people across the Council and third sector received training on 1 in 5 70 sessions reaching 679 people on homeless awareness and prevention <p>2. Developing tools and training to tackle stigma</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capital City Partnership have continued to work with The City of Edinburgh Council, the Making it Work for Families Project, and End Poverty Edinburgh to develop resources to support Change the Story which has been designed to tackle to stigma of poverty. This year

Action	Progress in 2025 and priorities for 2026
	<p>we have been working with people with lived experience to better understand the issues and support them to formulate content for the toolkit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council is leading work to develop a series of ten short, animated videos to raise awareness of poverty and the stigma around it. The content of the videos was informed by people with lived experience of poverty, through a series of workshops facilitated by The Poverty Alliance. The first was launched in October 2025, during Challenge Poverty Week, and will be made available to other organisations. The second video in the series can be viewed here. Discussion is underway with Police Scotland about using the videos. This work is funded by the Scottish Government (CPAF round 2). <p>Priorities for 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Health is working with colleagues in NHS Lothian to develop a TRUST passport for clinical staff as part of their CPD programme. Information will be included on training and awareness raising opportunities available to staff Identify training needed to support the culture change needed to embed a preventative approach across the Edinburgh Partnership Continue to roll out the series of videos to tackle stigma and evaluate impact. Promote the Change the Story Commitment across Edinburgh and the wider city region, creating a unified and visible approach to tackling poverty stigma through consistent, dignity-based practice.

CASE STUDY: CASH FIRST APPROACH

This approach uses cash payments as part of a toolkit of providing an immediate response to a financial crisis while exploring the underlying challenges that the person or household is facing, and providing support to address these. Building a trusting relationship is key to the approach.

Following a successful Scottish Government-funded test of change, **Cash First** has been extended to all the locality offices in the city, including 'Pop Up' drop-in sessions at 2 local libraries, a food bank and a primary school.

Immediate support for people presenting with food or fuel poverty could include a Cash Payment (originally £30, but increased to £50 after feedback from people with lived experience and from staff) a £59 Fuel voucher (with funding from the Fuel Bank Foundation), support to access Scottish Welfare Fund, referral to The Advice Line (the Council's Income Maximisation Service) for a same or next-day benefits check and access to the [Lightning Reach](#) financial support portal (currently being tested by the Council).

Further supports available include referrals for income maximisation, debt support, energy advice, access to GP and health services, education, community-based services, housing repairs team, children and families support and food pantries. Ongoing visiting support from the Council's Household Support and Advice Team where required.

Everyone is offered a follow-up appointment within 7 days and another at 4 weeks with the same team member, if possible. People needing more support can be assigned a keyworker for ongoing support.

CASE STUDY: ESOL FOR EMPLOYABILITY

In 2024/25 38% of people engaging with employability services funded by the City of Edinburgh Council were from ethnically diverse communities. Many of our voluntary sector partners were reporting that people were finding it hard to apply and interview for jobs because they didn't have sufficient proficiency in English.

Responding to this, Capital City Partnership set up an ESOL Strategy Group with representatives from Community Education, Edinburgh College, Department of Work and Pensions and the Voluntary Sector. The group spoke to people from ethnically diverse communities, particularly those who have come to Scotland recently, as well as teachers, tutors and employers.

Using the information from these discussions, the Local Employability Partnership commissioned a pilot programme of specific language support for people on an employability journey, helping to break down barriers to employment and reducing poverty in ethnically diverse communities, many of whom who have no recourse to public funds.

The new programme of ESOL for Employability will be delivered by six community-based organisations who are close to their communities and can meet their needs holistically – supporting with job preparation, cultural awareness and language in a single programme.

CASE STUDY: CYRENIANS FOOD PROJECT

FareShare Central and South-East Scotland, run by Cyrenians, addresses food poverty and climate change by redistributing fresh and in-date food industry surplus to people who need it most.

Via our network of charities across seven local authority areas, Cyrenians FareShare helps feed around 15,000 people a week, 27% aged under 18. We work directly with our community food members (including schools, breakfast clubs, youth groups, homelessness organisations and community pantries) to ensure that fresh, nutritious food benefits people. The value of the food we distribute annually exceeds £2M and around 28% is fruit and veg.

Our **Community Pantries** in Edinburgh provide food from FareShare directly to people and helps build community whilst offering a gateway to other services. We currently operate six pantries based in some of the most deprived communities in the city. Run from community buildings, they are welcoming and easy to access and offer hot drinks and snacks with two pantries run alongside a hot meal provision. Through community engagement and volunteering opportunities we promote dignity, connection, and wellbeing. The pantries have been used 5,628 times over the past 12 months.

Our **Cook School** offers cooking classes, workshops and accredited skills development opportunities including REHIS Food Hygiene and Elementary Cooking Skills qualifications. The Cook School organises community meals and lunch clubs and produces meals for distribution via FareShare. It supports around 400 individuals a year who are referred to us via a network of over 20 organisations and agencies. Our aim is to embed the school in the heart of a community (it is currently sited next to our old FareShare depot) where it will become a hub whilst also offering classes and courses across other sites in Edinburgh and the Lothians. Feedback from those who have taken our classes indicates a direct correlation between being able to cook and budget and maintaining a tenancy.

Appendix 1: Key Progress Measures

Table A1 Progress against headline Edinburgh Poverty Commission and Scottish Government Targets			
Edinburgh Poverty Commission Targets ^{xi}	Baseline	Latest data	Change
1. Fewer than one in ten children and fewer than one in ten adults are living in relative poverty at any given time	2017-20 16% (all ages); 21% (children)	2021-24 17% (all ages); 20% (children)	+1% (all ages) -1% (children)
2. No one has to go without the basic essentials they need to eat, keep clean and safe, and stay warm and dry	2019 9,900 individuals	2022 12,200 individuals	+23%
3. No-one lives in persistent poverty.	2016-20 (Scotland data only) 11% (all ages) 13% (children)	2019-23 (Scotland data only) 14% (all ages) 23% (children)	+3% (all ages) +10% (children)
4. No one feels stigmatised, abandoned, or treated with less respect by the city as a result of their income.	No data yet available	No data yet available	No data yet available
Scottish Government Child Poverty 2030 Targets ^{xii}			
Fewer than 5% of children should live in absolute poverty	2017-20 21% (Scotland data only)	2020-23 21% (Scotland data only)	Stable
Fewer than 5% of children should live in combined low income and material deprivation	2016-20 13% (Scotland data only)	2020-23 10% (Scotland data only)	-3%

Table A2. Edinburgh Poverty Commission Actions to End Poverty in Edinburgh Update: Markers of Success	Indicator	Baseline 2025	Intended trajectory
1. A sustained reduction in the number of people being assessed as homeless	Number of households assessed as homeless (at 31 March)	3,463 <i>Timeseries included in table 2</i>	Sustained reduction
2. A sustained reduction in the number of people in temporary accommodation, and where no one is left without suitable accommodation	2.1 Number of homeless households who are in temporary accommodation (at 31 March)	4,358 <i>Timeseries included in table 2 section B</i>	Sustained reduction
	2.2 Number of homeless who are in unsuitable accommodation (at 31 March)	879 <i>Timeseries included in table 2</i>	Sustained reduction
3. A reduction in the proportion of people in work but relying on Universal Credit	Proportion of people in work but relying on Universal Credit	15,194	Reduction
4. An increase in Scottish Child Payment take-up rates to at least the Scotland wide average	Scottish Child Payment take-up rate (estimated by SG)	92% <i>Scotland-wide estimate has not been provided</i>	Increase to at least the Scotland-wide average
5. A drop in the proportion of people citing poor mental health as a barrier to employment	Proportion of working age people citing mental health as a barrier to work Source: CCP for Edinburgh and South East Scotland (includes the Lothians, Fife and Scottish Borders)	0.9% (8,002 individuals)	Reduction
6. A sustained reduction in the poverty related attainment gap in Edinburgh	DRAFT: Attainment of secondary school leavers - % achieving one or more qualification at SCQF level 6 – difference between % for all pupils	2023-24 20.1%	Sustained reduction

	and those from the lowest SIMD Quintile	<i>Range of measures in table 2, section D</i>	
7. A sustained reduction in low school attendance rates	Low attendance: % of Primary pupils whose attendance is less than 85%	8.1% <i>Timeseries included in table 2</i>	Sustained reduction
	Low attendance: % of Secondary students whose attendance is less than 85%	18.4% <i>Timeseries included in table 2</i>	Sustained reduction

Table A3: Progress measures by EPC call to action ^{xiii}							
A	Fair Work that provides enough to live on	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
1	Unemployed Edinburgh citizens ^{xiv}	6,900	12,500	9,000	7,100	11,300	8,100
2	Universal Credit claimants ^{xv}	14,425	37,935	32,423	34,538	39,314	32,604
3	No. Living wage accredited employers in Edinburgh ^{xvi}	334	422	526	640	720	790
4	Edinburgh Employers Recruitment Incentive – uptake of places (all ages)	28	43	89	104	56	42
5	No One Left Behind Funding: number of young people who were supported	168	161	266	903	1,284	1,638
6	Number of people supported by City of Edinburgh Council funded employability programme	3,719	3,761	3,842	4,148	4,948	5,099
7	% of Council suppliers of new regulated tendered contracts that are committed to paying real living wage in delivering Council services	70%	79%	87%	82%	96%	93%
B	A decent home we can afford to live in	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
8	Total number of applicants on EdIndex register	23,998	20,564	21,013	23,550	25,226	26,825

9	Demand for social housing – number of active bidders	7,099	7,213	6,339	11,150	12,303	8,865
10	Average bid per property	203	201	140	185	242	291
11	Number of affordable homes approved	1,930	1,285	1,251	734	668	658
12	Number of affordable homes completed	1,443	1,087	1,041	1,215	934	1,135
13	Homes for social rent completed – total	648	252	247	451	385	580
14	Homes for social rent completed – local authority	208	92	70	54	177	281
15	Number of households assessed as homeless (EPC)	3,355	1,929	2,399	3,287	3,434	3,463
16	Number of households who seek housing advice who do not go on to present as homeless	1,708	1,521	1,288	1,143	1,546	1,564
17	The total number of HOMELESS households in temporary accommodation (EPC)	2,010	2,824	3,316	3,560	3,817	4,358
18	The number of homeless households who are in unsuitable accommodation (EPC)	644	733	807	1,022	1,132	879
19	Percentage of households in unsuitable temporary accommodation (as at 31 March)	32.0%	26.0%	24.3%	28.7%	29.7%	20.2%

C	Income security that provides a real lifeline	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
20	Council Advice Shop – number of individual welfare rights clients in year	3,800	5,752	7,265	3,075	3,709	4,366
21	Council Advice Shop - total financial gain	£ 11.5m	£ 8.5m	£ 6.97m	£ 6.7m	£ 7.6m	£10.2m
22	Council tax reduction scheme – average caseload per year	32,467	35,282	32,946	31,327	31,080	30,434
23	Council tax reduction scheme – amount of funding provided	£26.7M	£28.9m	£27.1m	28.8m	£28.6m	£27.4m
24	Discretionary housing payments - number of claims	7,427	8,205	7,806	7,766	7,682	8,307
25	Discretionary housing – total value of payments made (£)	£6.1m	£6.5m	£6.7m	£6.8m	£6.9m	£6.8m
26	Number of free school meals payments in school year	5,950	8,828	8,994	9,576	9,064	9,065
27	Number of clothing grant awards in school year	5,337	8,301	9,773	9,013	8,371	8,508
28	Scottish Welfare Fund – no. applications for Crisis Grants	16,367	35,923	32,616	31,647	29,500	26,013
29	Scottish Welfare Fund Crisis Grants – amount of funding provided					£2.399m	£1.601m
30	SWF – no. applications for Community Care Grants	5,377	8,320	8,503	8,450	7,876	7,034

31	SWF Community Care Grants – amount of funding provided					£1.784m	£1.171m
D	Opportunities that drive justice and boost prospects^{xvii}	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
32	% parents receiving funded Early Learning and Childcare through their preferred model of delivery.	-	-	74.1%	-	91.2%	-
33	Low attendance: % of Primary pupils whose attendance is less than 85%	-	10.6%	14.0%	11.2%	9.6%	8.1%
34	Low attendance: % of Secondary students whose attendance is less than 85%	-	17.2%	19.1%	20.2%	19.7%	18.4%
35	Literacy (all pupils) - The % of pupils in Primaries 1, 4 & 7 who achieve their expected Curriculum for Excellence level	-	73.8%	77.0%	77.3%	78.2%	80.4%
36	Literacy (Lowest SIMD Quintile) - The % of pupils in Primaries 1, 4 & 7 who achieve their expected Curriculum for Excellence level	-	57.3%	62.5%	64.4%	65%	71.8%
37	Numeracy (all pupils) - The % of pupils in Primaries 1, 4 & 7 who achieve their expected Curriculum for Excellence level	-	80.4%	83.0%	83.7%	84.1%	84.2%
38	Numeracy (Lowest SIMD Quintile) - The % of pupils in Primaries 1, 4 &	-	65.1%	71.4%	72.3%	73.0%	75.6%

	7 who achieve their expected Curriculum for Excellence level						
39	Attainment (all pupils) - The % of secondary school leavers achieving one or more qualifications at SCQF level 6 (Higher or equivalent)	71.1%	72.6%	68.4%	68.2%	70.8%	
40	Attainment (Lowest SIMD Quintile) - The % of secondary school leavers achieving one or more qualifications at SCQF level 6 (Higher or equivalent)	51.1%	50.6%	44.9%	44.9%	50.7%	
41	Positive destinations for school leavers - all pupils	92.5%	95.1%	96.1%	95.3%	95.6%	
42	Positive destinations for school leavers - Lowest SIMD Quintile	88.9%	91.7%	94.7%	93.8%	94.0%	
E	Connections in a city that belongs to us	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
43	Proportion of people living in areas with low levels of public transport ^{xviii}	10%	-	-	-	13%	12%
44	No. CEC homes connected to fibre-to-the-property (FTTP) infrastructure ^{xix}	1,515 (7.7%)	8,917 (45%)	15,449 (83%)	-	19,880 (80%)	NA

Appendix 2: Child Poverty Indicators

Child Poverty in Edinburgh



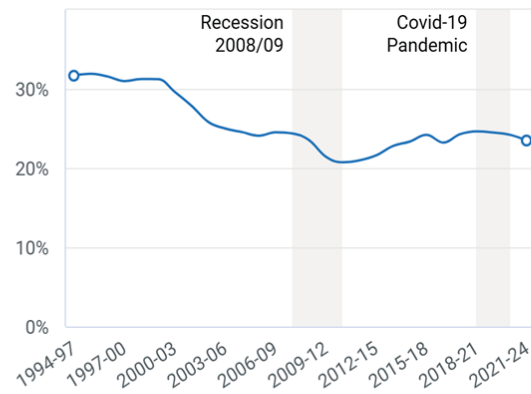
The following infographics visualise data (where available, at local level), on indicators for children and young people living with the effects of poverty, particularly those belonging to child poverty priority family types and most at risk.

What does the data tell us about children living in relative poverty after housing costs?¹

- Child poverty rates after housing in Scotland have remained **largely stable** over the last decade.
- Policy targets for relative poverty after housing costs are **18% for the interim in 2024 and 10% in 2030**.

Child poverty rates have remained broadly stable in over time in Scotland

Proportion of children in relative poverty, Scotland



Source: Family Resources Survey

Best Start Grants and Best Start Food²

- **Best Start Grants** and **Best Start Foods** are payments that help towards the costs of being pregnant or looking after a child if you are on low income.
- People with **no recourse to public funds** may still be eligible for **Best Start Foods**.
- They are provided by Social Security Scotland, and the graph shows the proportions of successful applications.
- There was a steady decline in successful applications until 23/24 followed by a 10% increase in recent years.
- Social Security Scotland took over the Best Start programme in Feb 2024 with new eligibility criteria and payment methods all of which will contribute to new trends in successful applications since.
- There is no data on eligibility for the benefits vs uptake and it is therefore difficult to link this directly to need and whether families are receiving what they are entitled to.

Successful Best Start and Best Start Food Grant applications, City of Edinburgh, 2018-2025

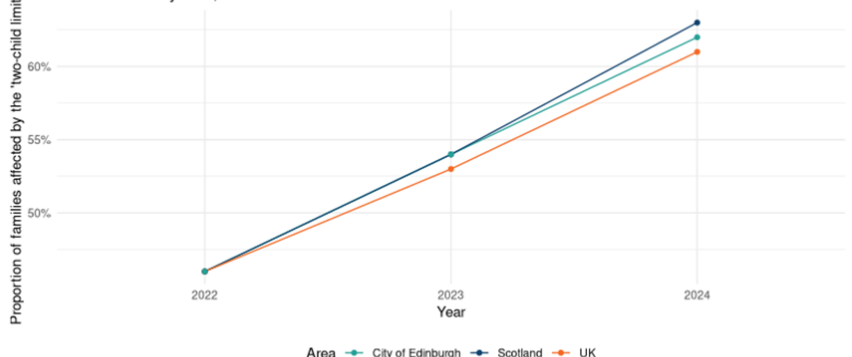


Source: Social Security Scotland

Universal Credit, Child Tax Credit and Two-Child Limit³

- The proportion of families with three or more children in the household affected by the **two-child limit policy**.
- Families affected don't receive a child element/amount for at least one child, for **Universal Credit and Working Tax Credit**.
- This is also used as an indicator of the proportion of **large families, one of the child poverty priority family types**.
- The policy has been a driver of child poverty across the UK.

Large families (three or more children) in receipt of Universal Credit and Child Tax Credits who are affected by the 'two-child limit' by area, 2022-2024



Source: Department for Work and Pensions

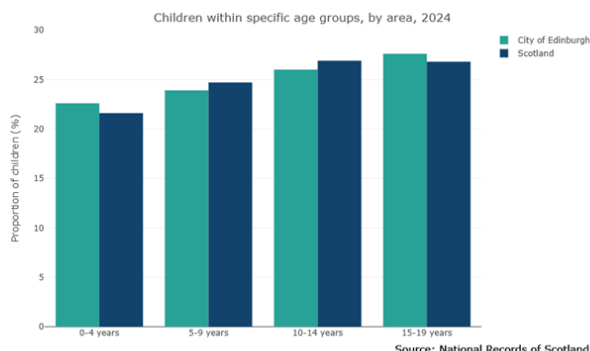
¹UK encompasses all local authorities situated within Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Large families (three or more children) should be interpreted as households who do not receive Universal Credit or Child Tax Credit for at least one child.

1. [Relative poverty after housing costs, Family Resources Survey, Poverty and Income Inequality in Scotland 2021-24 Report](#)
 2. [Best Start and Best Start Food Grant Statistics to 30 June 2025](#)
 3. [Universal Credit and Child Tax Credit claimants: statistics related to the 2-child limit, Department for Work and Pensions](#)

Child Poverty Priority Groups in Edinburgh

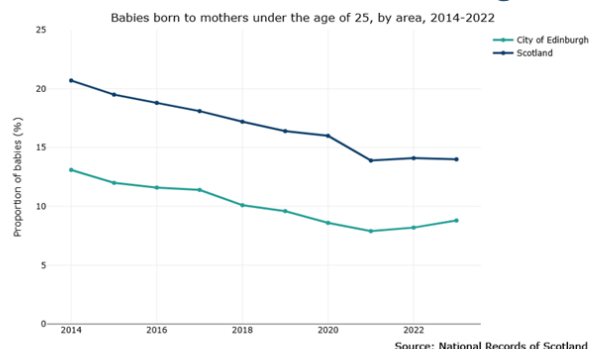
Lone parent families, minority ethnic families, families with a disabled adult or child, families with a younger mother (under 25), families with a child under 1, and larger families (3+ children).

Breakdown of Child Age Bands⁴



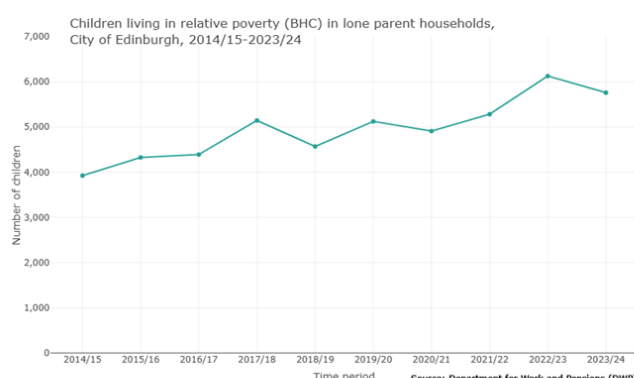
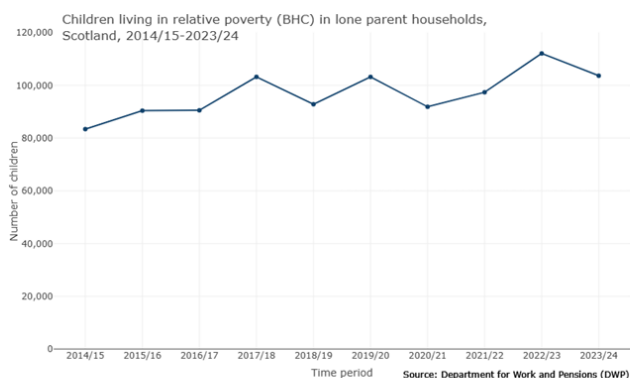
- The age band of children and young people in Edinburgh is slightly weighted towards the younger (0-4) and older (15-19) years.
- In terms of under ones as a priority family type, there are **4304⁴ infants under one** in Edinburgh.
- The **unique nutritional needs** of infants under one make families living in poverty particularly vulnerable to the effects of **infant food insecurity**.

Babies born to mothers under the age of 25⁵



- There was a steady decline in the **overall rate of babies being born to mums under 25** until 2021.
- Proportion of babies born to mums under 25 is **lower** in Edinburgh than in the rest of Scotland.
- Since 2021 numbers have levelled nationally but have seen an increase in Edinburgh.
- Important consideration in **funding and design of services** to support the **needs of these families**.

Children living in relative poverty in lone parent families before housing costs (BHC)⁶

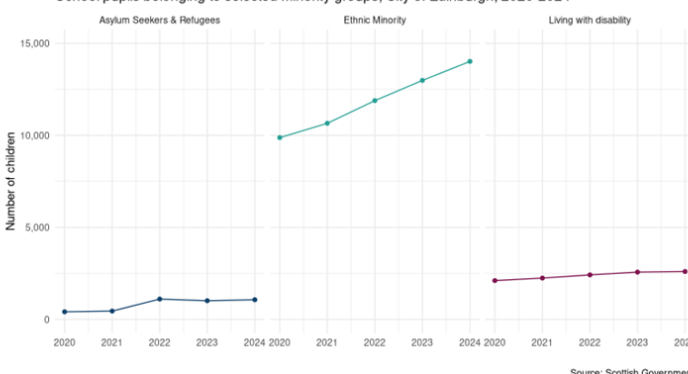


- Overall, there is an **upward trend** of the number of children living in relative poverty in a **lone family** in Edinburgh which is also **reflected in the national picture**.
- The period 2023/24 shows a **decline**, **future numbers will reveal any ongoing trends** and **links to policies** to support these families.

Minority Ethnic Families and Families with a Disabled Adult or Child⁷

- Available data looks at school age pupils over the last 5 years
- There has been a small increase of children **living with a disability**
- There has been a sharp increase in children from **minority ethnic families**.
- Asylum seekers and refugees** contribute a relatively small proportion to the minority ethnic families and have seen a small rise in numbers.

School pupils belonging to selected minority groups, City of Edinburgh, 2020-2024

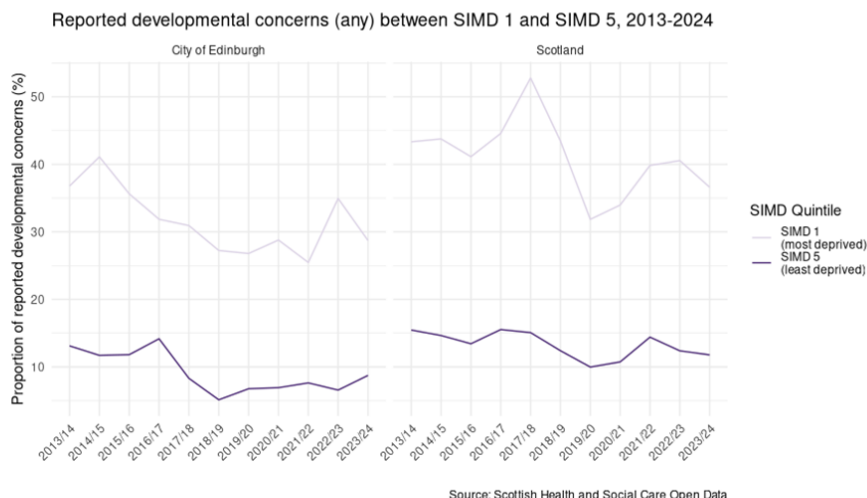


Child Health and Wellbeing in Edinburgh

Living in poverty affects current and future health and wellbeing in children at all life stages and in turn negatively impacts their and future generations' life chances. Children in Edinburgh and elsewhere in Scotland experience unjust and avoidable inequalities in health and wellbeing linked to deprivation. Due to the relative wealth in Edinburgh these inequalities are often hidden when considering city wide numbers only to compare to national data. This highlights the requirement for more localised data in identifying need to enable prevention and early intervention.

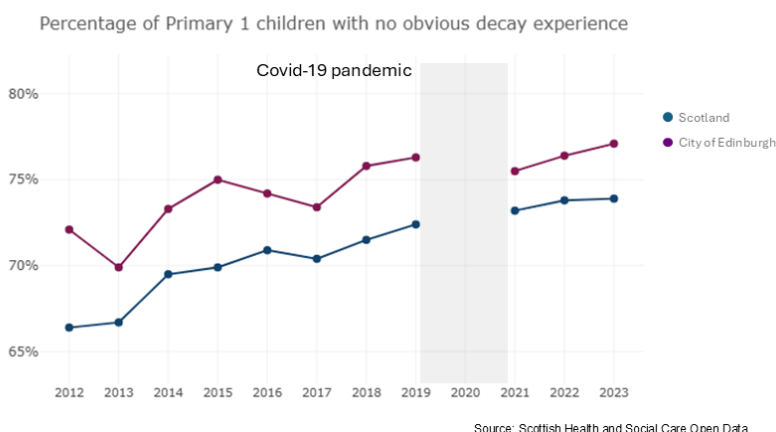
Developmental Concerns⁸

- Developmental concerns are recorded as part of the child health reviews across a range of developmental domains such as: speech, language, communication, hearing, social skills, and emotional wellbeing.
- A consistent trend exists where developmental concerns are **more likely** to be reported for children living in deprived areas at 27–30-month reviews.
- Problems with early child development can lead to **poor health outcomes** later in life, which is why identifying these trends is important to inform **early intervention**.



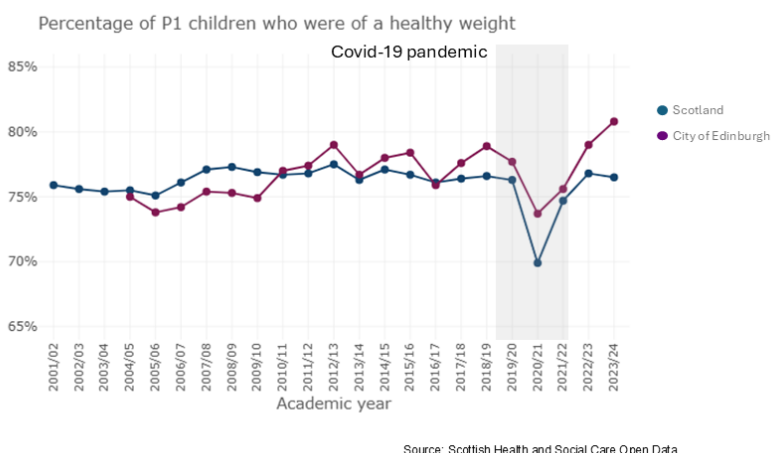
Dental Health⁹

- Poor dental health can worsen the effects of poverty and vice versa.
- Children from low-income families face more **barriers to access to dental care** and are more exposed to **harms linked to the commercial determinants of health** with regards to food and drinks.
- Edinburgh has a higher number of P1 children with no obvious tooth decay than national averages.
- Since the pandemic, these numbers are continuing to rise again.



Healthy Weight¹⁰

- Maintaining a healthy weight is linked to many **health benefits**.
- Following a sharp decline during the pandemic, rates have been rising again, with **numbers in Edinburgh higher and increasing from pre-pandemic levels**.
- Child healthy weight is linked to **inequalities**
- Many complex whole system factors contribute to healthy weight, starting pre-conception.**



8. [27-30 Month Developmental Review by Deprivation Statistics, Scottish Health and Social Care Open Data](#)
 9. [National Dental Inspection Programme 2023, Public Health Scotland](#)
 10. [Primary 1 Healthy Body Mass Index \(BMI\) Statistics, Scottish Health and Social Care Open Data](#)

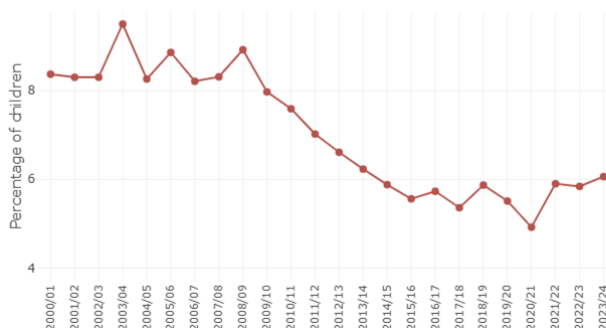
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Low Birthweight¹¹

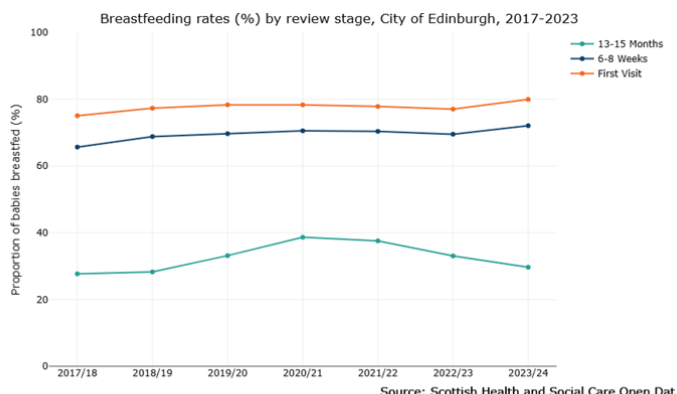
- Low birthweight is linked to **adverse short and long-term health outcomes** for the child.
- Low birthweight is the leading cause of **infant mortality** in the UK.
- Low birthweight is **linked to deprivation**.
- In Edinburgh there was a **downward trend** in babies being born of low birth weight prior to the pandemic.
- There has been a **rising trend** since the pandemic.

Percentage of children born in City of Edinburgh that are of low birth weight



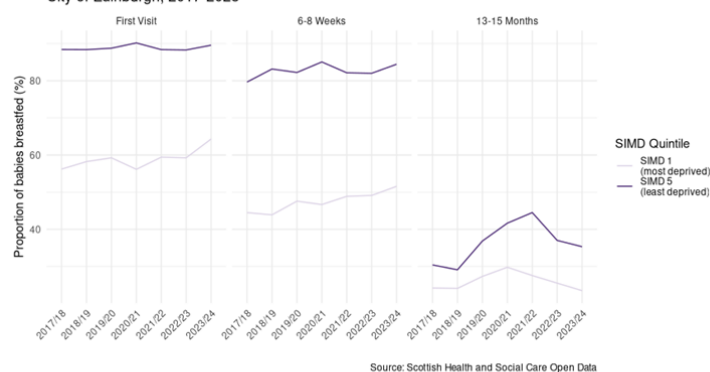
Source: Scottish Health and Social Care Open Data

Breastfeeding¹²



- Breastfeeding is **free** and brings many **short and long-term health benefits** to mothers and babies.
- The longer breastfeeding continues the greater the benefits.**
- Lower breastfeeding rates are linked to **deprivation**.

Breastfeeding rates (%) by review stage between SIMD 1 and SIMD 5, City of Edinburgh, 2017-2023

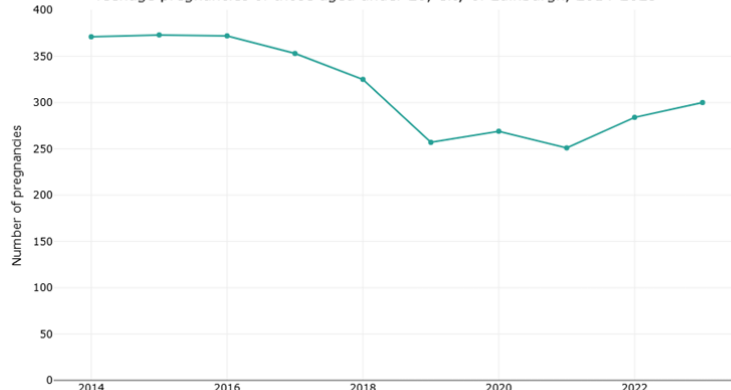


- In Edinburgh there has been a **slight increase** in breastfeeding rates in the **early stages** of babies' lives but a **drop across the board** in rates at **13-15 months**.
- Support** is required to establish and maintain breastfeeding.

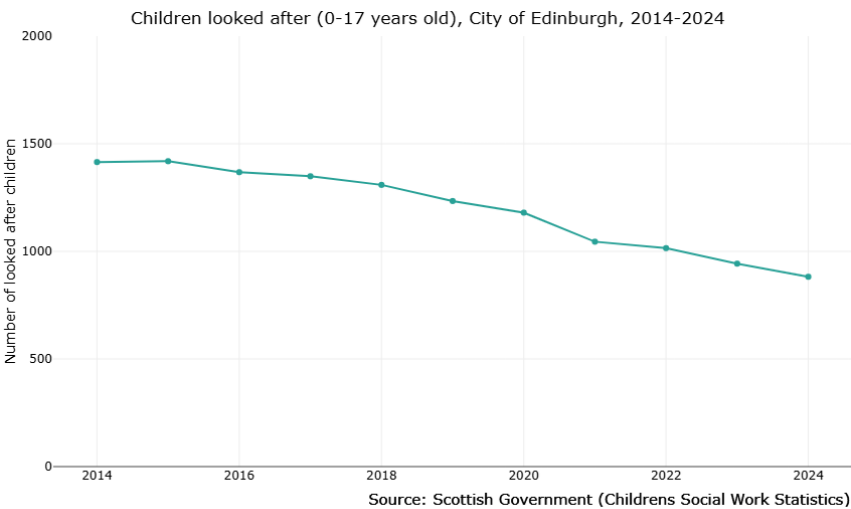
Teenage Pregnancy¹³

- Teenage pregnancy is linked to **poorer outcomes for young parents and their children**.
- In Edinburgh there was steady **decline in teenage pregnancies** prior to the pandemic with a **rising trend** since.
- Teenage pregnancy is **linked to deprivation**.

Teenage pregnancies of those aged under 20, City of Edinburgh, 2014-2023



Appendix A: Looked after children¹⁵



15. [Looked after children by local authority, Scottish Government \(via ScotPHO Profiles Tool\)](#)

ⁱ City of Edinburgh Council estimates, derived from Scottish Government [data sets](#)

ⁱⁱ Birt, C., Cebula, C., Evans, J., Hay, D. and McKenzie, A. (2025) Poverty in Scotland 2025. York: Joseph Rowntree Foundation

ⁱⁱⁱ Fitzgerald, S, et al. (2023) Destitution in UK 2023. York: Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

^{iv} 'A Just Capital – Actions to End Poverty in Edinburgh' Edinburgh Poverty Commission, September 2020

^v Estimates of all age and child poverty in Edinburgh are derived from datasets published by End Child Poverty Coalition - [Child Poverty Statistics - End Child Poverty](#) – and the Scottish Government -

<https://data.gov.scot/poverty/> For a full analysis of methodology used to produce Edinburgh level poverty estimates, please see https://edinburghpovertycommission.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/20200930_Poverty_in_Edinburgh-Data_and_evidence.pdf

^{vi} [The Living Standards Outlook 2025 • Resolution Foundation](#)

^{vii} https://researchportal.hw.ac.uk/files/103278482/Technical_Report_Destitution_in_the_UK_2023_ProofedFinal2.pdf

^{viii} Consumer Price Inflation - August 2025, Office for National Statistics

^{ix} Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics

^x DWP data downloaded from StatXplore

^{xi} Data relates to target 1) % of adults and children living in relative poverty after housing costs; 2) % of individuals in Edinburgh who are destitute; 3) % of individuals who have been living in relative poverty after housing costs for at least 3 years. For a full analysis of methodology used to produce Edinburgh level poverty estimates, please see https://edinburghpovertycommission.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/20200930_Poverty_in_Edinburgh-Data_and_evidence.pdf

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

^{xiii} All data from All data from City of Edinburgh Council records unless listed below

^{xiv} Unemployment levels are from ONS Annual Population Survey, via [NOMIS](#)

^{xv} Universal Credit claimant numbers (as at June) via [DWP](#)

^{xvi} Data presented are as at March each year. Data in main document provides an update as at September 2023 when total accredited employers in Edinburgh had risen to 677.

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

^{xviii} Figure for 2019-20 revised to use new methodology

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



THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

December 3, 2025

Item 7b - Community Justice Annual Activity Return 2024/25

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Edinburgh's Community Safety and Justice Partnership (CSJP) is responsible for completing Community Justice Scotland's Local Area Annual Return Template (the Annual Return) on behalf of the Edinburgh Partnership. The completed Annual Return (link at Appendix 1) contains examples of local community justice activity in 2024/25.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Board is recommended to:
- i. Approve Edinburgh's Annual Return for 2024/25; a link to the document is provided at Appendix A.

3. Main Report

- 3.1 Community planning partnerships are required to report annually to Community Justice Scotland (CJS), the national agency responsible for promoting good practice in community justice across Scotland, on community justice activity carried out in their area. CJS provides a template for completion and guidance underpinned by the national [Community Justice Performance Framework](#).
- 3.2 CJS considers each local authority's community justice activity and progress made locally against the national outcomes and indicators set out in the Performance Framework and provides feedback, including any recommendations for future activity returns. It also publishes an annual national community justice report based on the local area submissions.
- 3.3 Activity detailed in Edinburgh's Annual Return supports the Scottish Government's vision for community justice articulated in the [National Strategy for Community Justice](#) which sets out two long term outcomes for partners:
- Ensuring justice services embed person centred and trauma informed practices
 - Working across public services to improve outcomes for individuals focussing on prevention and early intervention
- 3.4 Local activity carried out in 2024/25 included:

- Throughcare and Aftercare (TCAC) and Adult Justice Services working together to develop a dedicated pilot-based Social Work role focussing specifically on care leavers (under 26 years old) involved with the justice system. The project funded initially for one year recognises their status as emerging adults and the need for access to developmentally appropriate services bridging youth and adult systems. The initiative employs early interventions to proactively support the young adults into positive destinations aiming to reduce their disproportionate representation across social service sectors, prison populations, and community-based justice services.
- Third Sector charitable organisation ECF working collaboratively with the [Willow](#) service to deliver a nutritional guidance and support service for women in the justice system. Recognising the relationship between healthy eating, good mental health and quality of life, ECF delivered a focussed programme providing a range of activities and learning including:
 - Key nutritional information for a healthy diet
 - Practical demonstrations of cooking healthy meals
 - Cooking healthy meals on a budget
 - Safe food preparation and storage

The sessions were hosted collaboratively by Willow staff and ECF and the women were supported to increase their confidence around food choices and cooking, encouraging longer term positive health behaviours.

3.5 Challenges highlighted in 2024/25 include:

- The significant pressures on Edinburgh's temporary accommodation and affordable housing, which have worsened since the declaration of a housing emergency in November 2023. The Council funded Prison Outreach Officer based in HMP Edinburgh does however continue to refer those due to be liberated for bed spaces on their day of release and best efforts are made to ensure that those presenting are offered accommodation that meets their assessed needs.
- The increasing numbers of people referred to employability supports who have been convicted of sexual offences, presenting challenges for support services and the individuals concerned as employers and educational establishments are extremely reluctant to engage with this demographic. Services work to meet those challenges; however, more may need to be done nationally to address this area of work.

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

4. Contact

Carey Fuller, Head of Criminal Justice, Tel: 07711 016 163,
carey.fuller@edinburgh.gov.uk

Appendices:



THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

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Community Justice Scotland

Ceartas Coimhearsnachd Alba

**Community justice outcome activity across Scotland:
Local area annual return template
Reporting year April 2024 – March 2025**

Sept 2025

1. Background

This reporting template has been developed in discussion with community justice representatives from local areas. This template is designed to enable local areas to gather information and report on progress towards the community justice outcomes.

2. Statement of Assurance and Data Usage

The information submitted to CJS using this template will be used by CJS in its role to monitor, promote and support improvement in, and keep the Scottish Ministers informed about, performance in the provision of community justice.

In line with provisions in the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), CJS will use appropriate data to ensure that there is continuous reporting, development and progress towards the national outcomes. By providing data to CJS you are consenting to its use by CJS as indicated. Community Justice Partnerships should be aware that any information held by CJS is subject to statutory Freedom of Information obligations.

Completion of the template can help local partnerships to fulfil their requirements under s23 (1b) of the Act by using the developed content to inform the production of the publicly facing summary statement of annual progress.

3. General principles of the template

The template and guidance have been developed using the following principles:

- Support CJS in developing the evidence base for local community justice activity and progress across Scotland within the reporting year
- Support CJS to comply with their duties set out in the Act, Sections 26-30
- Support local partners to comply with their local reporting requirements set out in section 23 of the Act.

4. How to fill in the template

The return should be completed and consulted on with partners involved in community justice in your local area. In line with the Act this includes statutory partners, third sector bodies involved in community justice in the area, and such community bodies or other persons as partners consider appropriate. CJS expects that completion of this template will be a collaborative effort.

This template incorporates guidance to support completion, with the text *(in blue)* providing reflective prompts to consider when developing your answer, which can be deleted and replaced with your response. These should be considered together through the development of your answer rather than addressed individually.

There is no expectation that areas will return substantial numerical data. It is likely that local areas will not have the national data indicators set out by the Community Justice Performance Framework at the time they are completing this template. **It is not anticipated that CJS will routinely use or refer to local level national indicator data in the context of the national outcome activity annual report.** If in developing the national report it becomes apparent that local-level data may support further analysis of particular outcomes, for example in identifying potential recommendations, exploring data outliers, or areas for further development, we expect this to be taken forward in discussion with the relevant local areas and partners.

Instead, we want partners to focus on the qualitative evidence drawn from their activity and insights about impact. Relevant local supporting evidence from the [CJS improvement tool](#) that will supplement the national indicator data has been specified under each national outcome in this template. We would encourage partners to develop the response to this template in conversation with each other and view it as an opportunity to reflect on your strengths and needs in partnership.

Where the template asks for evidence, a written response will suffice and there is no expectation that you send additional supporting documentation – if there are any aspects CJS is unclear on, it will be our responsibility to request clarification where necessary.

If any response or evidence requires details about people with lived experience (e.g. evidence in respect of someone's life story) please DO NOT include any identifiable personal or sensitive information (as outlined in Schedules 2 & 3 of the Data Protection Act 1998) as CJS does not require such information. If this is unavoidable then please ensure that the data is fully anonymised.

If you have any queries about completing the template, then please email CJSImprovement@communityjustice.scot.

1. Community Justice Partnership / Group Details

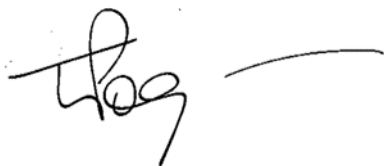
Name of local authority area/s	The City of Edinburgh
Name and contact details of the partnership Chair	Name: Councillor Tim Pogson Email: cllr.tim.pogson@edinburgh.gov.uk Telephone: 0131 529 4164
Contact for queries about this report	Name: Suzan Ross Email: suzan.ross@edinburgh.gov.uk Telephone: 07990791548

2. Template Sign-off from Community Justice Partnership / Group Chair

Enter the name of the chair to confirm that the local community justice partnership representatives have agreed this return as an accurate record. It should be returned to CJS by 26 September 2025.

For the purpose of submitting this return to CJS ensure you have agreement from community justice partners.

Date: 25 September 2025



Name: Councillor Tim Pogson

3. Governance Arrangements

Last year, we asked partnerships to describe their governance structure for community justice arrangements and include links to wider community planning. Please describe any substantive changes since your previous answer.

No change to governance arrangements

4. The year overall

This section should be used to reflect some of the a) challenges/negative implications and b) opportunities/positive implications from the reporting year on the community justice partnership. This can include impact on the improvement activity, partner collaboration, delivery of services, or other as relevant.

Challenges / Negatives

In May 2024, the Community Safety and Justice Partnership (CSJP) held a development session to consider key community safety and community justice issues impacting Edinburgh. This event was designed to seek input from partners on the direction and function of the CSJP including addressing low attendance at some CSJP meetings.

The CSJP was further impacted by a wider City of Edinburgh Council structural review encompassing community safety, community justice, and community planning services. Partnership working continued, however overarching CSJP meetings were placed on hold as key CSJP personnel left the organisation, and staff were recruited into new leadership posts. A follow up development session took place in May 2025 with partners whereby it was agreed that plans would be put in place to resume meetings and proposals drawn up to agree partnership function, direction, decision making, and governance.

As highlighted in previous years, the City of Edinburgh Council (the Council) welcomed the additional Scottish Government monies awarded in 2024/25 to local authorities to commission Third Sector support in delivering improved community justice outcomes. Longer term planning in relation to community justice Third Sector service development and the delivery timeframe however remains a challenge due to the late notification of the award coupled with the funding's short-term nature leading to uncertainty for staff and recruitment challenges. Additionally, the piecemeal funding model leads to repeated annual procurement exercises which does not make best use of resources.

Positives / Opportunities

Although CSJP meetings were placed on hold for a period in 2024, partnership working continued at pace to support people in the justice system and address specific community safety issues impacting Edinburgh. Multi-agency preventative work relating to young people engaged in antisocial behaviour and on the cusp of crime particularly around the bonfire/fireworks period, continued to expand with Lothian Association of Youth Clubs, Young People's Service, Police Scotland, Lothian Buses, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), and education services working together throughout the year to embed pro-social behaviours to discourage and divert young people away from involvement in crime and disorder. The co-ordinated citywide multiagency activity also provided opportunities to work with the private sector who in 2024, supported some of the young people's diversionary

activities around bonfire night with free event tickets while Lothian Buses supported many activities providing transport to and from venues. The positive work continues into 2025/26.

Throughcare and Aftercare (TCAC) and Adult Justice Services have together developed a dedicated pilot-based Social Work role focussing specifically on care leavers (under 26 years old) involved with the justice system. The project recognises their status as emerging adults and the need for access to transitional and developmentally appropriate services bridging youth and adult systems. It also aims to address the disproportionate representation of this high priority group across social service sectors, prison populations, and community-based justice services. The initiative employs early interventions, proactively supporting the young adults to reduce their contact with the justice system and into positive destinations and outcomes. Supports provided to address their needs include relationship-based, trauma informed assistance with accessing housing and education/employment in line with care leaver pathway entitlements, and assistance with successful community rehabilitation. The project is being funded for one year initially and to date has contributed to a clearer understanding of the intersection between care experience and justice involvement in Edinburgh. Going forward the project will continue to gather data, conduct analysis, and identify gaps in provision to better inform service design for this vulnerable population.

A new justice services structure implemented in 2024 following an internal Council review has facilitated the development of more accessible supports for men in the justice system. The new Justice Pathways Service (JPS) has now been established to deliver a wide range of supports for men based on their needs at the time of engaging and creating a more equitable provision that delivers the right justice supports at the right time.

Priority Action One

Enhance intervention at the earliest opportunity by ensuring greater consistency, confidence in and awareness of services which support the use of direct measures and diversion from prosecution

Nationally determined outcome:

More people successfully complete diversion from prosecution¹

Local Evidence

- Mechanisms are in place to understand the views of people undertaking diversion from prosecution and are used to support improvement.
- Mechanisms are in place to understand the views of people supporting the delivery of diversion from prosecution and are used to support improvement.

5. What activity has taken place to increase successful completion of diversion? What impact has there been as a result?

Justice Services has worked to provide a range of interventions and supports to individuals who are completing diversion from prosecution interventions. Following the restructuring of

¹ National Indicator:

Number of diversion from prosecution:

- assessments undertaken
- cases commenced
- cases successfully completed

justice services in 2024, the aforementioned JPS was created to provide holistic community-based supports to men in the justice system. The new service focuses on providing appropriate support to individuals at the right time and offers both 1:1 and groupwork supports to men irrespective of their stage within the justice journey. Under this new model, diversion from prosecution referrals make up a large part of the JPS social work caseload with those completing diversion having access to a wider range of interventions and all supports offered being tailored to suit their needs and address issues they may have.

Working with partners

To support the availability and delivery of varied interventions, JPS has worked with Third Sector partner CGL to co-facilitate a SMART recovery group. Additionally, during the reporting period, and recognising that many of the men attending JPS may be nutritionally deficient, JPS has initiated a new group co-facilitated with Edinburgh Community Food (ECF) supporting men to improve their diet, while exploring basic cooking skills using limited equipment (which often mirrors the facilities men can access at home), and discussing healthy eating on a budget.

JPS has worked with the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) to incorporate flexibility within the delivery of diversion for men. This ensures that complex cases where the alleged behaviour is serious are granted additional time to conduct the diversion assessment. Examples included, one case involving a male who had transitioned to adult justice services from the Young People's Service as he had reached 18 years of age. The alleged offences were serious however he was initially reluctant to work with the service and his engagement was poor. However, with encouragement and time flexibility built in, the individual changed his mind and has since responded well to the interventions offered. Another case involved an 18-year-old male charged with sexual offences alleged to have occurred in his mid-teens. After engaging in a brief period of intervention following initial reluctance, the case was successfully diverted.

JPS considers all diversion cases referred carefully and has been able to recommend diversion without intervention for those cases where an individual has already taken steps to address the issues identified which contributed to the alleged offending. For example, linking in with local recovery hubs for support with substance use or engaging with NHS programmes to support improved mental health.

Table 1 below shows a slight increase in the number of assessments conducted when compared with the previous year. The number of cases commencing in the reporting period fell by 7% however cases successfully completed increased by 128%, some of which will relate to cases started in the previous reporting period but also demonstrating the improved engagement with individuals undertaking diversion, supporting them to achieve a successful outcome.

Table 1 – data on diversion from prosecution 2022-2025

Year	Assessments undertaken	Cases commenced	*Cases successfully completed
2022-23	341	345	101
2023-24	323	358	113
2024-25	335	312	258

* Not all diversion interventions will be completed in the same year as their commencement.

Despite the best efforts of JPS to engage individuals, occasionally it is necessary to return referrals for diversion to COPFS. For example, where an individual consistently fails to attend appointments or completely denies their involvement or presence in the alleged matter. Similarly, very occasionally, referrals are returned where there are concerns about risk, particularly in relation to domestic offending.

Challenges

The delivery of diversion faces challenges in cases where a significant time period has passed between the alleged offence occurring and the diversion referral being made. This can create difficulties in contacting the individual concerned with some cases having to be returned to COPFS for remarking. Additionally, time delay between incident and referral can also lead to cases being returned to COPFS as an individual's circumstances may have changed. For example, an individual was referred to diversion for alcohol related matters nine months after the alleged incident occurred by which time his health had deteriorated, and he no longer had capacity to make his own decisions. Therefore, it was considered inappropriate to proceed with the assessment and the case was returned to COPFS for consideration.

Next steps

Following a self-evaluation exercise conducted by justice services in 2024 supported by the Care Inspectorate, diversion was an area highlighted for development, more specifically relating to increasing uptake, developing local guidance for staff, and improving information recording. The establishment of JPS has improved the variety and accessibility of interventions for men completing diversions, more cases have been completed successfully, and a new information system is being rolled out to facilitate improved recording. Additionally, the active staff recruitment exercise at JPS is expected to conclude over the next few months. A fully staffed JPS team will then be in a position to further facilitate ongoing development of the delivery of diversion.

Priority Action Two

Improve the identification of underlying needs and the delivery of support following arrest by ensuring the provision of person-centred care within police custody and building upon referral opportunities to services including substance use and mental health services

Nationally determined outcome:

More people in police custody receive support to address their needs²

Local Evidence:

- There is an effective relationship between community justice partners, Alcohol and Drug Partnerships (ADPs) and police custody centre for local population.
- Referral pathways and support are in place from police custody centre for local population

² National Indicator:

- Number of referrals from custody centres

6. What activity has taken place to support people in police custody to access support? What impact has there been as a result?

Arrest referral

Edinburgh's arrest referral service has continued to be delivered within St Leonard's Police Station. Commissioned jointly by the Council's justice services and Midlothian Council, the service is delivered by Third Sector organisation Change, Grow, Live (CGL) and is an integral part of the continuity of care model provided by the Edinburgh and Midlothian Offending Recovery and Support Service (EMORSS). The model delivers supports to people across three key elements of the justice system, from point of arrest, into prison, and on their return to the community. Support is provided as far as possible by the same worker or small group of workers within EMORSS which allows for the development of positive relationships crucial to encouraging engagement.

EMORSS workers offer the arrest referral in person service on Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday afternoons while the support is available on a referral basis for people in custody out with those times. Referrals are received from Police Scotland custody staff and NHS custody nurses based at St Leonards as part of their proactive engagement with the most vulnerable. People may also self-refer as shown in table 2 below.

Table 2 – referral sources – arrest referral 24-25

Arrest referral sources	St Leonard's Police Station
Self-referral	148
Police	13
Nurses	30
West Lothian Assertive Outreach	25
<u>Total</u>	<u>216</u>

Arrest referral supports are tailored to the individual's needs with a focus on harm reduction and reducing risk. In the reporting period 843 individuals were seen in custody of which 148 agreed to a full on-site assessment to identify their needs and arrange follow up support. The service is supplemented by an Assertive Outreach Recovery Co-ordinator.

Assertive Outreach Recovery Co-ordinator

The Outreach Recovery Coordinator co-ordinates all referrals into arrest referral, following up each case and proactively engaging those who are hard to reach, and presenting the highest risk of drug-related harm; this included carrying out 79 home visits over the year. The work also included linking in with Arrest Referral Champions in St Leonards to promote the EMORSS service and encourage referrals. The Co-ordinator hosted a weekly drop-in service at Broughton Street and visited Edinburgh Sheriff Court to further encourage referrals into the service from the NHS Court Liaison and Diversion Service and the court social work team.

The Outreach Recovery Coordinator also attended the weekly Community Inclusion Health Huddle (CIHH), building good working relationships with support services in the community such as Streetwork which has been particularly useful for locating and attempting to re-engage individuals who have not followed up on their arrest referral acceptance or initial outreach intervention as the case study below demonstrates.

Case study; arrest referral/assertive outreach – worker perspective

I first came across Individual A through an arrest referral. He'd given consent for follow-up, and staff at the Salvation Army helped me get in touch. I spoke to him over the phone and arranged to meet him at his temporary accommodation. When we met, he was clearly in alcohol withdrawal - shaking and struggling. He told me he was worried about having seizures if he couldn't get alcohol soon. We kept it brief. I gave him a bus ticket and booked him in for an in-office assessment, however he didn't attend.

Not long after, I found out he'd been arrested again and had lost his accommodation at the Salvation Army. That made things more challenging as he had no phone and wasn't staying anywhere consistently. I reached out to Streetwork and asked them to pass on a message if they saw him.

Purely by chance, I bumped into him while I was out visiting another client. We arranged another appointment but again, he didn't turn up. A few weeks later, I saw him in custody at St Leonard's and he told me he'd been down south staying with family. It was an unexpected meeting, but a productive one. We managed to have a proper chat and put together a short-term plan for when he was released. Because he still didn't have a phone, I went back to Streetwork to help bridge the gap. The very next day, he rang me from the Streetwork phone, and we agreed to meet there. This time, we managed to complete the full assessment, and I officially took him on.

Things were still a bit chaotic for him, and as a team we agreed that I'd be his recovery coordinator; it made sense, given I already had a connection with him and the flexibility to be where he was. Later that same week, he turned up at the CGL office on his own asking for support. A colleague recognised it was urgent and got him in to see someone straight away. He came back the following week too, and since then he's been consistently engaging, being supported to address his alcohol use and to become stable in the community. His journey really shows how important persistence and visibility are in this work. If I hadn't kept turning up and working with partners like Streetwork, he might have slipped through the gaps.

Meeting people where they're at, both literally and emotionally, is what makes the difference, and in this case, it helped Individual A take those first steps toward something more stable.

Priority Action Three

Support the use of robust alternatives to remand by ensuring high quality bail services are consistently available and delivered effectively

Nationally determined outcome:

More people are assessed for and successfully complete bail supervision³

Local Evidence

- Mechanisms are in place to support a high quality bail assessment.
- Referral pathways are in place that support identified needs of people on bail supervision.

³ National Indicator:

Number of:

- assessment reports for bail suitability
- bail supervision cases commenced
- bail supervision cases completed

7. What activity has taken place to increase the use of bail, and support people to access services to address needs while on bail? What impact has there been as a result?

Bail supervision activity

Following a justice services review of service provision and consideration of how to improve outcomes for people being supported within the justice system, a dedicated 'Court Team' was created in 2024 to focus on providing a Court Social Work Service. This newly established team has assumed responsibility for conducting all supervised bail and electronic monitoring assessments and providing related assessment reports. The team has worked to improve the conversion rate from supervised bail assessments to Bail Supervision Orders and to increase confidence in the use of bail supervision through improved communications with the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS). Local information about the new Court Team has also been provided to Sheriffs to encourage greater use of this resource through increasing the number of bail supervision referrals. This focus has resulted in a notable increase in the number of bail supervision assessments carried out which in turn has led to a 280% increase in the number of bail supervision cases commenced in the reporting period. Cases successfully completed have seen a 100% increase when compared with the number reported in 2023/24 as Table 3 below shows.

Table 3 – data on bail supervision 2022-2025

Year	Number of assessment reports for bail suitability submitted to the courts	Bail supervision cases commenced	Bail supervision cases successfully completed
2022/23	104	52	104
2023/24	130	44	27
2024/25	425	167	54**

**some cases commencing in 2024/25 will not successfully complete until 2025/26; those are not captured in this figure and the data will be revised upwards in 2026

During the reporting period, the Court Team approached every individual whose bail was opposed by the Procurator Fiscal to explain how the bail supervision service operates and to request consent to carry out an assessment to enable them to be considered for bail supervision. Where consent to conduct an assessment was given, the team considered welfare, risk, and need as well as the specific concerns of the court to create a tailored action plan with the individual, setting out how their identified needs would be managed. The team aimed to complete the assessment before he/she was seen by the Sheriff to avoid delays to the process.

As part of the robust bail assessment process, the Court Team staff confirmed the support of all agencies who would be involved in the individual's care before the final draft was shared with the defence agent. Collaboration with the Third Sector and other partners formed a key element in preparing a workable plan. This plan was activated where the Sheriff agreed to

the bail supervision and the individual subsequently attended an appointment with justice support services JPS for men or Willow for women to enable interventions to commence without delay. Due to the challenges in facilitating the increased number of bail supervision cases commenced in 2024/25 and subsequent appointments needed, an additional justice worker was recruited to support the JPS to manage and support the men attending their interventions appointments. A range of 1:1 specific supports and group activities were offered to assist those on bail supervision including for example, practical and emotional supports, relationship building, assistance with accommodation, and attending appointments for welfare, mental health, and alcohol/drug dependency.

Follow up opportunities for bail assessments

Although conducting a bail supervision assessment prior to each case being heard by the Sheriff is considered best practice, it is not always possible to achieve this during busy periods and cases are prioritised according to vulnerability. In cases where women have been remanded without an assessment being conducted either due to work pressures or where consent was refused, they are offered a follow up opportunity for a bail supervision assessment while in custody to improve their likelihood of being managed in the community. Going forward, the JPS and Court Team will explore how to introduce follow up opportunities for men in custody with the focus being placed on the most vulnerable.

Self-evaluation and local guidance

A justice services self-evaluation exercise was conducted in 2024 which highlighted bail supervision as an area of development. The creation of the Court Team has contributed to improvements in this area evidenced by the increased use of bail supervision during the reporting period. Additionally, the service has been further enhanced by the drafting of new local guidance/procedures to support improved practice and enhance staff confidence in their roles and responsibilities. A new information recording system is also being implemented which will assist staff to more easily record bail supervision activity with accuracy and efficiency.

Priority Action Four

Strengthen options for safe and supported management in the community by increasing and widening the use of electronic monitoring technologies

No nationally determined outcome.

Progress in delivering this priority action should be evidenced with reference to any relevant local activity.

8. What activity has taken place in your area to increase the use electronic monitoring technologies? What impact has there been as a result?

Use of electronic monitoring technologies

The use of electronic monitoring (EM) technologies has continued to support the management of people in the justice system in Edinburgh. For every bail assessment conducted, consent is sought from the individual being assessed in relation to their willingness to participate in the EM scheme and recommendations made to the Court where

appropriate. Over the past three years, EM as a condition of bail issued by Edinburgh courts has risen by 141%.

EM is a useful tool in supporting people comply with their bail conditions. It is particularly helpful when used alongside bail supervision thus ensuring that the individual subject to EM also has a tailored support plan in place to provide further motivation. The increased use of successful EM as a condition of bail demonstrates its effectiveness as an alternative to remand.

Additionally, to aid rehabilitation, EM can also provide reassurance about the restriction of movement of a monitored person by imposing time and locational limitations upon them within a range of justice disposals.

Examples of the use of EM technologies in Edinburgh are shown in Table 4 below. The numbers of breaches/breach rates relating to the Orders listed are not included as the Council does not have access to that information.

Table 4 – use of electronic monitoring technologies in Edinburgh over the past three years

Electronic monitoring (EM) technologies	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
EM as a condition of bail (Orders issued by Edinburgh courts)	75	135	181
EM as a condition of bail (within Edinburgh)	-	-	137*
Restriction of Liberty Order (RLO) (issued by Edinburgh courts)	228	292	293
RLO (within Edinburgh)	-	-	204*

*the Scottish Government has requested the inclusion of local authority specific figures as shown here therefore data for previous years is unavailable

A male individual subject to an RLO from Edinburgh Sheriff Court commented:

"I was really nervous while being on tag. If I went out after 5pm I was always worried that I was going to be late for my curfew. But it has been good for keeping myself away from getting into trouble."

eSafe

Where the Parole Board or the Court have granted a condition or requirement to monitor an individual's electronic devices for example as part of a Community Payback Order, Sexual Offences Prevention Order (SOPO), or Sexual Harm Prevention Order (SHPO), remote electronic monitoring of internet enabled devices can be considered. The eSafe managed monitoring service tracks an individual's use of their I.T. devices to detect signs of inappropriate and/or criminal behaviour. It is only deployed as part of an agreed strategy of the risk management plan and is undertaken with the individual's knowledge. Potential offences/breaches are reported to the lead agency and where concerns emerge relating to risk and harm, eSafe will notify Police Scotland via the 999 system. The use of remote electronic monitoring software continues to be developed by the Council's justice services and Police Scotland.

Priority Action Five

Ensure that those given community sentences are supervised and supported appropriately to protect the public, promote desistance from offending and enable rehabilitation by delivering high quality, consistently available, trauma-informed services and programmes

Nationally determined outcome:

More people access services to support desistance and successfully complete community sentences⁴

Local Evidence

- Availability of local programmes to support desistance from domestic abuse and sexual offending.
- Availability of referral pathways to support the needs of local population on community disposals.
- Mechanisms are in place to understand the views of people with experience of community disposals to support improvement.
- Mechanisms are in place to understand the views of the community justice workforce with regard to supporting the needs of people subject to community disposals to support improvement.

9. *What activity has taken place that will support people serving sentences in the community to desist from offending, address their needs, and help them successfully complete their sentence? What impact has there been as a result?*

Supports for people serving a community sentence

A range of interventions exist to support people to service their sentence in the community. A few examples are illustrated below.

Edinburgh Community Food (ECF)

During the reporting period, Third Sector charitable organisation ECF worked collaboratively with the [Willow](#) service to deliver a nutritional guidance and support service for women in the justice system. Recognising the relationship between healthy eating, good mental health and quality of life, ECF have developed a programme focussed on food and nutrition. The programme provides a range of activities and learning including:

- Key nutritional information for a healthy diet
- Practical demonstrations of cooking healthy meals
- Exploring healthy ingredients on sale at local supermarkets
- Cooking healthy meals on a budget
- Safe food preparation and storage

⁴ National Indicator:

Percentage of:

- community payback orders successfully completed
- drug treatment and testing orders successfully completed

- Exploring various cooking ingredients and flavours including use of herbs and spices in cooking
- Cooking as part of a team and group lunches
- 1:1 nutrition sessions
- Using kitchen essentials
- Kettle cooking

The nutrition sessions are hosted collaboratively by Willow staff and ECF and the women are supported to develop skills around cooking and to increase their confidence around food, food choices, and cooking skills, encouraging longer term positive health behaviours. The service recognises that some women may not have access to conventional cooking facilities particularly those living in temporary accommodation and creative cooking solutions are employed to support women in those circumstances. The service also provides other supports where required alongside the nutritional learning, for example supports for literacy issues, learning difficulties, and mild learning disabilities.

The collaboration benefits from the input of peer supporters which further encourages participants to develop improved interpersonal skills and reduces the risk of their reoffending. For women who are interested in continuing their learning, ECF offers pathways into volunteering and food/nutrition/food hygiene educational courses. Sessions are delivered at the Women's Justice Centre where a range of wider supports for women in the justice system is available.

During the reporting period there were:

- 166 attendances at the lunch clubs; two lunch clubs are held each week, some women may attend more than one lunch club
- 146 1:1 nutrition conversations took place between the women and an ECF nutritionist
- 1006 portions of food were made and consumed by the sessions' attendees

Evaluating the impact of the service has presented some challenges in relation to attendees' literacy, inconsistent attendance, and participants being at a stage in their justice journey where they are able to consider how the service has influenced them. ECF regularly encourages feedback, both paper-based and online (via a QR code) with forms displayed on the ECF noticeboard alongside the 'Recipe of the Week' at the Women's Justice Centre. Qualitative verbal feedback is routinely captured in addition to ECF facilitator observations and feedback from Willow staff.

Feedback included:

"Thank you, I needed some hot food... I enjoyed making the scrambled eggs in the kettle, it really worked" – woman living in accommodation with limited cooking facilities on attending a session demonstrating 'kettle cooking' – group attendee

"K has come on such a long way, a few years ago I would never have imagined she would be able to even join in a group" – Willow staff member

Justice Pathways Service (JPS)

JPS is a newly created service providing a wide range of interventions and supports to men in the justice system based on need and irrespective of their stage in the justice system. It supports those serving community orders through 1:1 and groupwork supports and facilitates access to more specialist interventions where needed. Groups include health and wellbeing,

SMART recovery and nutrition, dietary and cooking supports. Many interventions are delivered collaboratively with the Third Sector. As well as working with people serving community sentences, JPS also supports people completing a diversion intervention and those on bail supervision with more information on those areas included under Priority Actions One and Three respectively.

Case study – JPS and NHS joint working

A community sentence may address a specific issue where it is identified as a driver of offending and reoffending, for example, in the following short case study, JPS in collaboration with NHS Lothian, supported an individual to complete a CPO with a drug treatment requirement.

Individual G began working with JPS after the Court imposed a CPO with a drug treatment requirement to address problematic substance use that had been a key factor in G engaging in a pattern of offending behaviour. The requirement aimed to address the issues G faced by focussing on stabilising/reducing his substance use while supporting him into recovery and community rehabilitation. JPS linked in with NHS Lothian to enable G to access medical intervention and Opiate Replacement Therapy in conjunction with non-medical interventions:

- 1:1 support
- SMART recovery group (group-based addiction recovery model)
- Survive and Thrive (NHS course supporting individuals move on from interpersonal trauma)
- Relapse prevention support

A key challenge was G's accommodation instability with periods homelessness and rough sleeping significantly impacting on his health. A priority therefore was also to secure temporary accommodation for G to support his recovery. Despite the considerable accommodation challenges, the treatment requirement facilitated the provision of additional supports to enable the health and housing concerns to be addressed, which in turn had a positive impact on G's recidivism.

Community Interventions Services for Sex Offenders (CISSO)

Agencies across Edinburgh, the Lothians and the Scottish Borders continue to work together under Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) to manage individuals presenting the highest risk of harm to the public and communities. CISSO has supported those partner agencies within the MAPPA framework with the risk management of people with convictions for sexual offences through the delivery of community-based group treatment programmes and individual interventions, addressing the behaviour and attitudes associated with sexual offending.

In 2023/24 (latest MAPPA data available), CISSO received 70 new referrals, which resulted in 84 people receiving a service. CISSO also continued to deliver the Moving Forwards Making Changes (MFMC) programme prior to the national roll out of the redesigned Moving Forward 2 Change, which included an adapted MFMC group for men with enhanced learning needs.

Other group-based programmes delivered included lower intensity interventions for men whose offending was technology based and Survive and Thrive for men with interpersonal trauma. This psychoeducational intervention aims to increase understanding of how past interpersonal trauma can impact on current functioning and employs practical strategies to support people to manage this impact more effectively. CISSO also continued to work

collaboratively, supporting national training on working with people with sexual offending, using a model of online resource packs, virtual delivery, and face to face, allowing for greater flexibility for future training events.

On 31 March 2023, 60 Sexual Offences Prevention Orders (SOPO) were in place in Edinburgh/Lothians. SOPOs place conditions on an individual's behaviour, providing a power of arrest if breached thus enhancing the police role in their management. For some, a SOPO is sufficient to provide daily life structure, through which they may avoid further offending. SOPOs will remain in force until the Order ends however are being replaced by Sexual Harm Prevention Orders (SHPO) which have a lower threshold in that they can be applied for in a wider range of circumstances and also prohibit an individual from doing anything described in the Order. On 31 March 2024, there were 50 SHPOs in place in Edinburgh/Lothians.

CPO Connect

Justice services have partnered with the Wise Group to provide individuals in the justice system who wish to engage with 'other activity' opportunities as part of a Community Payback Order (CPO), with access to the CPO Connect programme. The programme delivered flexible, live, online sessions throughout the week including evenings and weekends to ensure maximum availability for those with other commitments. The sessions were hosted by trained facilitators, with mentors also available to provide 1:1 supports to individuals. Each participant had access to a menu of live sessions available to book weekly to address a range of issues including the examples shown in table 5 below:

Table 5 – examples of CPO Connect courses in 2024/25

Topic	Content	Learning Outcome
Mental wellbeing	Explore different ways to improve your wellbeing and mental health. Learn about self-esteem, mindfulness, self-care and discover tools to manage anxiety and depression.	Develop a toolkit of techniques to improve mental wellbeing and prioritise self-care.
Dealing with conflict	Understand the difference between anger and aggression and use it to help manage conflict in different environments. Learn what is acceptable and what is not and how to approach challenging situations.	Be able to identify triggers and how to manage anger.
Building positive networks	Learn about positive relationship with self (self-worth). Understand personal boundaries and peer relationships. How to build positive relationships with friends, family, and support organisations.	Ability to differentiate between positive and negative relationships and the impact this can have on your life and choices. Understand the importance of building a support network.

During the reporting period across 71 sessions held, 12 individuals completed 142 hours of 'other activity'.

Participants commented:

"Learned about recognising my triggers and understand what triggers them. How I develop my control of my emotions and take responsibility for my behaviour"

"I found myself feeling comfortable enough to talk about my emotions which I hope to be able to do moving forward"

Cyrenians garden project

Individuals sentenced to community payback have the opportunity to complete their unpaid work hours in the Cyrenians Community Garden which is made possible through the use of [NHS Green Space Projects](#). The Community Garden project teaches participants a range of practical skills including gardening, landscaping, garden furniture making, health and safety when using garden tools, and plant care as well as growing herbs and vegetables. Individuals are also supported to develop transferable social/softer skills such as relationship building, working as part of a team, and achieving mental wellbeing. Many engaging with the project have found it to be a positive experience with their completed tasks bringing a sense of achievement, pride, and increased confidence. The project is delivered in a safe, supportive environment and a pathway into volunteering is also offered for those seeking employability supports.

During the reporting year, 264 project learning sessions took place with 83 different people attending and completing a combined total of 2,435 hours of unpaid work.

The impact of this much valued project is evident from quotes below:

"You helped make what has been a pretty rubbish period of my life a whole lot more bearable than it might have been"

"I sometimes wake up in the morning feeling like I can't be bothered to come in, but then always feel like it was worth it at the end of the day"

"They have collectively made a difficult experience more manageable and often enjoyable too. Even though I'd have preferred not to have this order, I feel grateful for being assigned to this project. I look forward to a future day when I return to the garden on my own accord and see the abundance in summer. I feel an affinity to the group of other attendees too - a great bunch of people."

"Peaceful setting, good team environment, supportive, time to reflect"

"Coming here is making me want to eat more fruit and veg!"

Staff observations included:

"We supported our longest attending member to finish his order; X was with us on and off for more than a year and a half and although he struggled with his attendance, we were always glad to welcome him back.

When he first started, it was clear he did not want to be in the garden and was not motivated at all. As time progressed, we saw him blossom as he became more confident and comfortable with the group and the staff. X told us that outside the garden he would normally keep his head down and avoid interactions but that in the garden he was comfortable to be who he is.

We got to know his very specific sense of humour and his natural sense of kindness towards others. Although his journey here with us was not linear in terms of progression, we strongly felt as though we had been able to offer him a safe space in which he could socialise with people outside of his circle and in which he could gain confidence and learn new skills."

Priority Action Six

Ensure restorative justice is available across Scotland to all those who wish to access it by promoting and supporting the appropriate and safe provision of available services

No nationally determined outcome.

Progress in delivering this priority action should be evidenced with reference to any relevant local activity.

10. What activity has taken place to make restorative justice available to people and support them to access it, and what impact has there been as a result?

Edinburgh's Young People's Service worked with registered charity [includem](#) to explore restorative justice opportunities with young people under 18. A case involving a group of young people and a group of residents was identified however the complexities and challenges presented could not be overcome, and staff were unable to proceed with the restorative approaches.

Staff involved in the process have suggested that there is a need to identify people who would potentially engage in restorative justice much earlier in the justice process. For example, exploring whether the question could be posed to victims/witnesses as part of Police Scotland's process for obtaining statements.

Priority Action Seven

Enhance individuals' access to health and social care and continuity of care following release from prison by improving the sharing of information and partnership-working between relevant partners

Nationally determined outcome:

More people have access to, and continuity of, health and social care following release from a prison sentence⁵

Local Evidence

- Health and social care circumstances/care plans are reflected in collaborative plans for release.
- Referral pathways and information sharing arrangements are in place to support timely access to health and social care supports upon release.

11. What activity has taken place to support people to access health and social care support after release from prison, and what impact had there been as a result?

[Healthcare from custody to community](#)

⁵ National Indicator:

Number of transfers in drug/alcohol treatments from:

- custody to community

The continuity of care model via EMORSS has been implemented in Edinburgh to ensure that supports are provided at each stage of the justice journey. This applies from point of arrest through to prison and includes preparation for release and the transition from custody to community where individuals can continue to be supported for up to one year post liberation. A key element of supports provided involves focussing on the physical and mental health of those being assisted.

The partnership agreement between justice services and NHS Lothian, facilitated by Scottish Prison Service (SPS) enables individuals in HMP Edinburgh to receive NHS clinical treatment for their physical health needs including treatment for drug and alcohol dependencies while simultaneously receiving psychosocial supports for mental health, addiction, recovery, and motivation from prison based EMORSS staff. All individuals eligible for voluntary throughcare are contacted three months prior to release with advice on supports available.

The full range of EMORSS supports available to people serving short term prison sentences is also available to those on remand. In recognition of the particular vulnerability of this group whose releases are often unplanned and unexpected leaving little time for support planning, targeted awareness sessions are conducted to encourage them to engage with pre-liberation support. This includes support with arranging appropriate prescriptions/medications and follow up health appointments ready for release to support the transition from prison healthcare to community provision.

Every eligible individual being released to Edinburgh is offered a prison gate pick-up on their day of release. This intensive 1:1 assistance provides motivation and companionship to the most vulnerable as they navigate essential appointments including healthcare and registering with a GP.

27 gate pick-ups took place in the reporting period.

Feedback from those who received support on release included:

"I just wanted to thank you for your time and help during my sentence. I've got really good support in place and am definitely going to pursue a career in addiction-based work. I'm planning on doing some Open University stuff over the winter. Also sticking with AA."

"Very helpful, especially good help with the lib pack on the lib day. All staff are great, very approachable. I'd like to thank you for the help and support, and I want to help others thanks to CGL."

Naloxone provision and training

During the reporting period, Naloxone training was successfully delivered in HMP Edinburgh primarily by Peer Naloxone Champions. This peer-led delivery model empowers those with lived experience and encourages individuals to engage with the harm reduction training as part of their preparation for release, further strengthening community resilience.

As a result of increased use of peer-led training, the number of individuals EMORSS has directly trained has decreased over the past few years. EMORSS targeted training however, at individuals who may not meet the criteria for peer support. This included those not in receipt of prescribed medications, those without a peer on their landing, and those without a history of substance use, ensuring that no one was excluded from the lifesaving intervention.

49 people were offered training with 17 accepting and receiving training via this route. The NHS Addictions team continued to provide Naloxone to individuals on prescription, further expanding access.

The Access Place

For those who are homeless, EMORSS accompanies them to the Access Place, a 'one-stop-shop' in Edinburgh city centre offering a multi-disciplinary primary healthcare service to people aged 16 and over who are experiencing homelessness/ in temporary accommodation and who have additional needs.

The service delivers high quality co-ordinated care for people who have multiple and complex needs to support them to access permanent accommodation, improve their health, maximise life opportunities, increase hope, and move on into communities where they are active citizens. 'Complex needs' are identified as persistent, problematic and interrelated health and social care needs affecting a person's life including mental, psychological and physical health needs, and drug and alcohol recovery needs, including underlying adverse childhood experiences or experiences of trauma. They may also have had sporadic and inconsistent contact with services or been serially excluded from services.

Voluntary throughcare

People being released from prison and accessing voluntary throughcare are supported to access healthcare where required; this can include accompanying them to health appointments. All women attending Willow can meet with the co-located NHS Willow nurse to address their health needs and be encouraged to engage with additional community health supports as required.

Case study; prison healthcare to community provision pathway

The EMORSS case study below illustrates the complex and multi-faceted needs many people in the justice system face and their journey into receiving supports and encouragement to help them maintain stability and crime free lives.

I first met Individual E while he was serving a prison sentence. At that time, he was on the brink of homelessness and had a long history—over 30 years—of problematic drug and alcohol use. E was prescribed 45ml of methadone and faced numerous challenges including mental health issues, financial instability, and difficulties managing his benefits. E presented well physically due to the structured environment in prison, which had helped him gain weight, although he expressed dissatisfaction with his appearance. His mental health was fragile, and his life story was marked by severe trauma which dated back to childhood. Substance use had been a coping mechanism for years and his way of numbing the pain from a lifetime of suffering. He had lost all belief in himself and had essentially given up on life.

Upon his release from prison, we provided E with a liberation pack containing essential items to help him through the transition period. We immediately began working to secure his tenancy, which he was close to losing. His home was unfurnished, so we applied for a grant and managed to make the house liveable within three days of his release.

We also addressed his financial and healthcare needs through:

- *Assisting with setting up Universal Credit*

- Supporting his application for Adult Disability Payment
- Re-registering him with a GP
- Arranging continuation of his methadone prescription

With the foundations in place, we began implementing E's recovery plan. He engaged fully with all appointments and showed consistent commitment. He began attending:

- Weekly SMART Recovery meetings at our hub
- Mutual aid groups, which we supported him to attend initially
- A local recovery café, where he began building social connections

We also referred him to LEAP, a residential rehabilitation centre. His referral was successful, and all assessment appointments have been completed. E is now scheduled to enter rehab within the next four weeks.

E's incredible progress included:

- Methadone reduced from 45ml to 15ml
- Regularly attending mutual aid meetings and recovery cafés
- Building friendships within the recovery community
- Showing high levels of motivation and willingness to change

He is now only months away from achieving complete abstinence and is feeling much more positive about himself and his future.

E's journey illustrates the impact of holistic, person-centred support during a critical period of transition. His story is a testament to resilience, the importance of coordinated care, and the power of community in recovery.

Priority Action Eight

Ensure that the housing needs of individuals in prison are addressed consistently and at an early stage by fully implementing and embedding the Sustainable Housing on Release for Everyone (SHORE) standards across all local authority areas

Nationally determined outcome:

More people have access to suitable accommodation following release from a prison sentence⁶

Local Evidence

- SPS admissions and liberations information is shared with relevant partners to support suitable accommodation planning.
- Proportion of admissions where housing advice was provided.
- Percentage of people leaving prison who have been housed by the local authority and have maintained tenancy for more than 1 year

⁶ National Indicator:

Number of:

- homelessness applications where prison was the property the main applicant became homeless from

12. What activity has taken place to support people to access suitable accommodation following release from prison, and what impact had there been as a result?

Prison based housing support

Edinburgh has continued to fund a full-time Prison Outreach Officer based in HMP Edinburgh to support people entering and leaving custody with their accommodation needs. This key role working collaboratively with SPS and other support agencies within HMP Edinburgh focusses exclusively on assisting people to actively engage with support around their housing circumstances to reduce the risk of prison release homelessness presentations. Recognising that early intervention is key, the Prison Outreach Officer conducts assessments with people entering custody to establish their housing situation and where they have an existing tenancy, supports them to sustain it where their sentence timeframe and benefit eligibility allows.

Aspiring to embed the Sustainable Housing on Release for Everyone (SHORE) standards, the Council's justice services and SPS data sharing agreement facilitates information sharing between both partners to ensure that individuals scheduled for release from prison are targeted and encouraged to engage with appointments offered to discuss their housing. This proactive approach seeks to support a smooth, properly planned transition from custody to community where each individual has adequate accommodation set up for their release.

In addition to actively promoting the service to individuals scheduled for release within three months to generate self-referrals, the Prison Outreach Officer receives referrals from partners specifically SPS officers, EMORSS workers, prison based social work, and housing providers where an existing tenancy applies. Table 6 below shows that the Prison Outreach Officer received less referrals this year when compared with the previous two years. Anecdotal evidence suggests that this could be due to staffing and workload pressures impacting the ability of SPS to complete core screening duties resulting in lower referral numbers.

Table 6 – Prison Outreach Officer activity

Prison based Housing Outreach Officer activity	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Referrals	355	391	297
Tenancies maintained	48	45	75
Tenancies terminated	9	18	23
Temporary bed spaces arranged	41	73	65

The data shows that the number of tenancies maintained while an individual was in prison increased by 67% when compared with the previous year. The widespread awareness of the challenges in securing affordable housing in Edinburgh may have encouraged existing

tenants to engage with housing supports, recognising the significant difficulties they would face in securing replacement accommodation.

The data also shows however, that the number of tenancies terminated increased. Many individuals spend a considerable period of time on remand and for most cases, DWP cover rent payments for up to 6 months only. Those individuals on remand for more than 6 months begin to accrue rent arrears and this may encourage them to terminate their tenancy. Conversely, some individuals on remand may be willing to accrue rent arrears and prefer to address the debt on release, rather than face the challenges of attempting to access social housing via a new application.

Collaborative working

The Prison Outreach Officer supports people being released to Edinburgh from other prisons and works collaboratively with staff across the wider prison estate to ensure that they are supported as far as possible with their accommodation needs. In November 2022, the Scottish Government removed the requirement for homeless applicants to have a local connection to the area in which they presented to be considered for social housing.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that some people without a local connection who have served sentences in HMP Edinburgh looked to remain in the City on release while a lesser number with a local connection to Edinburgh travelled to other local authority areas to seek accommodation. As well as working in partnership with SPS, the Officer works with other support agencies involved in supporting those in prison including EMORSS, DWP, social work, Upside (the new national prison voluntary throughcare service), and NHS.

Challenges and homelessness

Significant delays in the court system have impacted on remand numbers which remain high, with many people spending longer periods on remand. This has created uncertainty for many individuals as they are unsure what action to take relating to their tenancy. Some are willing to risk accruing rent arrears rather than terminate their tenancy and have to re-enter the housing system on release, navigating the difficulties that temporary accommodation entails. Others choose not to address their situation and refuse to engage in any housing related matters.

The demand in Edinburgh for affordable housing considerably outstrips supply and there is an acute shortage of affordable social housing and bed spaces. Despite individuals in prison engaging with the Prison Outreach Officer who will also highlight to housing colleagues those who are particularly vulnerable, up to 50% of bed space requests may not be honoured due to no accommodation being available. Accepting a gate pick up therefore and engaging with housing supports and voluntary throughcare does not guarantee accommodation on release and delivering SHORE remains aspirational.

As part of the housing supports provided, the Prison Outreach Officer makes individuals aware of the significant pressures on Edinburgh housing and the uncertainty around securing a bed space. This may have led to a reduction in the number of bed spaces being requested/arranged as prison leavers seek housing elsewhere.

Table 7 below shows data on the % of households presenting as homeless and stating the reason as "due to being discharged from prison"

Table 7 – homelessness data including homeless presentations following release from prison

Year	Total homeless presentations	Homeless presentations following prison release	% of homeless presentations citing prison release as reason
2019/20	3556	101	2.8%
2020/21	2215	80	3.6%
2021/22	2540	81	3.2%
2022/23	3542	104	2.9%
2023/24	3871	108	2.8%
2024/25	3817	96	2.5%

Homeless presentations reduced by 1% in 2024/25 when compared with the previous year which had seen presentations at their highest since 2019/20. During the same period, the numbers citing prison release as a reason for homelessness reduced by 11%, falling to the lowest level for three years.

Tenancy sustainability

To understand the rate of tenancy sustainability amongst those who had been housed in Edinburgh following a period in custody, data from 2023/24 was examined to explore the outcomes of the 28 individuals who were housed by the Council or a Registered Social Landlord (RSL) on liberation. Of the 28 housed, one year later in 24/25, 23 cases remained in their allocated homes, a sustainability rate of 82%. 3 individuals (11%) had returned to prison, one tenancy ended (reason unknown), and for one RSL property, the situation is unknown.

Housing emergency

Edinburgh declared a housing emergency in November 2023, and the situation has worsened since this time. A report to the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee on 25 April 2025 demonstrated that the Council's failure to accommodate (i.e. offering temporary accommodation to households presenting as homeless at the time of presentation) had increased to 57.9% in March 2025. To address this, Committee agreed to a pause on the advertising of Council homes for permanent let, with any empty homes being offered to the Temporary Accommodation Service to offer as suitable temporary accommodation.

The impact of the pause on advertising Council homes, coupled with increased numbers of homeless presentations and households requiring emergency accommodation has had an impact on the availability of temporary accommodation. The Prison Outreach Officer does, however, continue to refer people due to be liberated for bed spaces on their day of release and the Council does its best to ensure that those presenting are offered accommodation that meets their assessed needs.

Priority Action Nine

Enhance individual's life skills and readiness for employment by ensuring increased access to employability support through effective education, learning, training, career services and relevant benefit services

Nationally determined outcome:

More people with convictions access support to enhance their readiness for employment⁷

Local Evidence

- Effective links between the Local Employability Partnership (LEP) and Community Justice Partnership supports:
 - i. local employment, education and training providers to respond to the needs of those with convictions
 - ii. local employment, education and training providers are confident and competent in providing effective conviction disclosure support
 - iii. local employers to develop more inclusive recruitment processes and employ people with convictions.
- Referral pathways are in place to connect people to appropriate services and support:
 - i. at commencement of, during and at the end of a CPO
 - ii. following release from custody.

13. What activity has taken place to support people to access employability support, and what impact had there been as a result?

A range of community justice Third Sector partners delivered activity to support people into employment, training and/or volunteering.

Encompass employability service

The Encompass project provides employability supports to people in Edinburgh living with complex needs for example, those impacted by homelessness, and those who have been in the justice system/people with criminal convictions looking to move on from past offending. The project is managed by Access to Industry whose staff work to deliver bespoke supports to individuals facing challenges entering the labour market so that they may access education, training, and volunteering opportunities. Tailored employability assistance involves each individual receiving one-to-one support from their assigned worker in a safe and supportive environment while completing an individualised, regularly reviewed, personal development action plan. Topics covered include:

- Creating a CV
- Job searching
- IT skills
- Improving communication skills

⁷ National Indicator:

Percentage of:

- those in employability services with convictions

- Confidence building
- Interview practice

This is supplemented by learning and groupwork sessions as applicable to their area of interest.

Community and peer mentoring related roles have proved popular with people at Encompass with many engaging with the 'Working with Communities' course delivered by Edinburgh College as a route into peer supporting.

Access to Industry accepts referrals from a range of sources including social work services, SPS in HMP Edinburgh, Crane supported accommodation, Skills Development Scotland (SDS), NHS Lothian's Orchard Clinic, justice services Unpaid Work Team, and Edinburgh's local recovery hubs. Access to Industry also attends at the Links Centre in HMP Edinburgh weekly to offer practical employability support to people as part of their preparation for release.

Links with construction industry and employers

Access to Industry continues to support individuals in HMP Edinburgh to access training to enable them to obtain the Construction Skills Certificate Scheme (CSCS) qualification prior to their liberation. In 2023/24, the Scottish Government withdrew funding for the scheme which created challenges for prison leavers looking to be trained however since then, Edinburgh's Capital City Partnership (CCP) and Access to Industry have worked together to source funding to ensure this valuable provision that supports people with convictions into employment was sustained in 2024/25 and continues at least in the short term. Community based weekly CSCS and driving theory training sessions also took place at the Access to Industry premises in the City's Cowgate. Work is underway with CCP to be able to support and track more successful CSCS candidates towards jobs in the construction industry.

Access to Industry has been working with employment organisations/agencies and delivering training sessions on disclosures and recruiting people with convictions to encourage more employers to consider recruiting people with convictions. This has resulted in people being able to secure jobs within the legal sector, NHS, tour operators, the Third Sector, and the Council. Similarly, Access to Industry is working with Edinburgh University's Future's Institute to plan a small number of paid internship positions that would be suitable for Encompass' students.

Access to Industry Volunteering

Access to Industry is also running a project entitled Make your Mark in collaboration with Historic Environment Scotland combining learning on heritage and stonemasonry with confidence building and opportunities towards volunteering in the heritage sector. Feedback from participants is included in the [Volunteering with the Scottish Stonemasons' Marks Project](#) clip filmed at Linlithgow Palace.

Additional volunteering opportunities have been available within Royal National Institute of Blind People, and Lothian Buses.

Challenges

Due to the high cost of living and housing in Edinburgh, the majority of Encompass students looking to be supported into employment cannot realise financial benefits from working full

time which would result in loss of their welfare benefits. Therefore, for many, part-time work is the only realistic option to enable them to gain experience while still retaining their welfare payments.

Increasing numbers of people referred to Encompass have been convicted of sex offences which presents particular challenges for Access to Industry and the individuals concerned, as employers and educational establishments are extremely reluctant to engage with this demographic. Equally, volunteering positions may be closed altogether to this group. Access to Industry addresses those challenges through working closely and carefully with the individuals referred however, more may need to be done nationally to address this difficult area of work.

Access to Industry's community garden in Edinburgh's Canongate also offers opportunities for individuals to work outdoors and to acquire gardening skills. Those activities may be accessed as part of community payback 'other activities' and for which individuals receive accreditation towards their required CPO hours.

During the reporting period AI actively supported 302 people, a 13% increase on the previous reporting period.

Skills Development Scotland (SDS)

Community justice partner and universal service provider SDS worked in partnership with every state school in Scotland, delivering career information, advice and guidance to enable young people from S1 to S6 to develop their career management. This included advice and career supports for young people who have been in conflict with the law. SDS recently closed its central premises in Shandwick Place and shifted to a community venue delivery model. Libraries, community centres, and other key community locations are utilised to deliver SDS supports facilitating access to training and employment for local communities.

All age services offered include:

- Personalised career information, advice and guidance
- Advice on the routes into careers including jobs, apprenticeships, training and learning
- Help with CVs, application forms, and interviews
- Careers events
- Information on the local labour market
- Access to Scotland's careers web service, My World of Work
- Redundancy support
- Support for parents and carers

SDS has also produced a liberation leaflet specifically for those leaving prison to encourage them to engage with the service and meet up with an SDS adviser or access their online resources. A QR code also allows individuals to set up an appointment with SDS directly.

CPO Connect

The CPO Connect programme funded by justice services and described under Priority Action Five offers a selection of employability specific courses to support people completing CPOs to increase their employability skills. These optional courses are available to individuals who chose to engage with the 'other activities' element of a CPO which focusses on personal development. Courses are delivered online with daytime, evening and weekend

learning sessions available to increase access and maximise engagement. Table 8 below highlights employability related topics delivered via this flexible resource.

Table 8 – examples of CPO Connect employability related content in 2024/25

Topic	Content	Learning Outcome
Preparing your CV and Job searching	Designing and writing your C.V; what content to include: how to update your C.V; ten tips for a great C.V; sourcing job opportunities and best practice in job applications.	To be confident and equipped to design, prepare and write a great CV. How and where to search, apply and source job opportunities to give you the best chance of employment success.
Interview and Presentations Skills	Preparing for an interview; conducting yourself at an interview; top ten tips for interview success; presenting yourself in a confident way, how to present or pitch yourself or an idea.	To be confident and equipped to prepare for and conduct yourself at an interview; to be able to present yourself confidently. To help you in your self-awareness and confidence.
Work Readiness	Preparing for getting back into work, getting settled into work life & dealing with work issues & work life balance.	Feel suitably prepared for work life. To understand and manage going into employment, and a new job, finding work/life balance.

EMORSS traineeships and volunteering

Traineeship posts within the EMORSS service were funded by justice services and the Edinburgh Alcohol and Drugs Partnership (EADP). The traineeships provided opportunities for two individuals with lived experience and in recovery from substance addiction and offending to complete paid work placements, study fully funded SVQ 3s in Health and Social Care and receive 1:1 employability mentoring. During the reporting period both recruits successfully completed their traineeships and moved on to permanent full-time employment.

Many people with lived experience have been out of the workplace for many years with little or no higher education and/or work experience making it difficult for them to enter employment. EMORSS also offers volunteering opportunities enabling individuals to gain valuable work experience with some using this as a stepping stone to completing a formal traineeship or securing a peer mentoring role, bringing visible recovery into the service. As well as offering health and social care training opportunities, during the reporting period, EMORSS worked with an individual in recovery who was interested in working in an administrative environment and completed several months of volunteering within the EMORSS office before securing a paid administrator role.

EMORSS also supported various initiatives within HMP Edinburgh relating to peer mentoring including training peer mentors to deliver the Naloxone programme to individuals in custody. Additionally, CGL Edinburgh facilitated a peer Naloxone programme in Edinburgh utilising volunteers, most with lived or living experience, to target areas of the City with high overdose rates, and engage members of the public through delivering education on overdose awareness and providing Naloxone training and kits to support the reversals of opiate overdoses.

Case study; from training to employment

Individual D was successful in being offered a traineeship with CGL EMORSS. D had lived experience of battling with substances for over 20 years and during active addiction, had a history of offending related to addiction, as well as multiple health and social issues related to long term substance use.

After a period of over two years abstinence, D was looking for opportunities to give back to their local community and gain work experience to re-enter the work force. D initially came to CGL as a volunteer, working across Edinburgh services doing a variety of roles including peer Naloxone training and groupwork facilitation. Whilst volunteering D was encouraged to apply for the paid trainee post once a role became available at EMORSS. D was successful and became a trainee for EMORSS.

As a trainee, D completed an SVQ 3 in Social Care and worked in EMORSS providing psychosocial support, groupwork, harm reduction and throughcare. D's lived experience proved to be impactful and an asset to the service in that he was able to bring to EMORSS, a prosocial model using his own recovery experience to support individuals aiming to recover. D also gained other experiences having not worked for decades including working as part of a team, meeting deadlines, recording information accurately, understanding boundaries, and respecting confidentiality in a work setting. While the traineeship only lasted twelve months, D was encouraged to look for employment near the end of his traineeship and successfully secured a permanent full-time post working in the social care field.

Priority Action Ten

Enhance community integration and support by increasing and promoting greater use of voluntary throughcare and third sector services

Nationally determined outcome:

More people access voluntary throughcare following a short term prison sentence⁸

Local Evidence

- Mechanisms are in place for partners to support people serving short term sentences.
- Proportion of people liberated from short term custody:
 - i. made aware of support
 - ii. accepting support offer
 - iii. with a co-ordinated pre-release plan in place.
- Mechanisms are in place to understand the views of people accessing voluntary throughcare to support improvement.
- Mechanisms are in place to understand the views of community justice partners in delivering voluntary throughcare to support the needs of people leaving short term custody.

14. What activity has taken place to support people to access voluntary throughcare? What impact had there been as a result?

EMORSS voluntary throughcare

⁸ National Indicator:

Number of:

- voluntary throughcare cases commenced

Justice services in Edinburgh commissioned Third Sector partner CGL to deliver the EMORSS which provides voluntary throughcare to people being released to Edinburgh from across the prison estate and to those on remand in HMP Edinburgh. EMORSS staff based within HMP Edinburgh identify individuals due for release predominantly through interrogating the prison information system (PR2) however may also access names of those eligible for voluntary throughcare from justice social work under existing data sharing arrangements with SPS. EMORSS pro-actively contacted eligible individuals three months prior to their liberation date and again at one month prior to release, inviting them to engage with the supports on offer. This included prison-based holistic support within HMP Edinburgh and HMYOI Polmont to address needs, creating an individualised, co-ordinated pre-release plan for each person to assist their transition from custody to community and to support rehabilitation. People intending to travel to Edinburgh having been released from other prisons across the estate are offered telephone appointments.

Support provision is wide ranging and may include assistance with practical matters such as accommodation, GP/dentist registration and appointments, applications for welfare benefits, and arranging/collecting prescriptions as well as help with other needs such as linking in with mental health supports, addictions services, relationship building and emotional support. Gare pick-ups are available to support people navigate the move from custody to community which for those with multiple needs, can be overwhelming.

EMORSS voluntary throughcare continues to support individuals post release to successfully reintegrate into their community while continuing to address their unmet needs. In addition to providing 1:1 support, individuals are linked into the wide range of existing holistic community services available according to their needs, including recovery hubs and NHS mental health supports. For example, Willow for women offers a one-stop shop of supportive interventions, including access to an NHS nurse, groupwork, nutritional/healthy eating groups and supports for domestic abuse. For men, the JPS offers SMART recovery groups co-delivered with EMORSS, and other 1:1 and group interventions.

People in the justice system have often experienced significant disadvantages and live with multiple and complex needs in relation to poverty, poor education, diagnosed and undiagnosed mental health conditions, physical health challenges, alcohol and drug dependencies, relationship/family difficulties, poor housing, history of trauma, and limited experience of employment. Many are overwhelmed with the challenges they face to turn their lives around and make repeated attempts to make positive changes before they can succeed. The percentage of people being supported via throughcare who report improved circumstances reflects the challenges they face.

EMORSS utilises the Recovery Outcome Web (ROW) validated tool to routinely gather feedback from individuals in receipt of voluntary throughcare to measure their progress towards improved outcomes. Feedback is sought at the start of contact, every three months thereafter, and at contact end. Results from 108 responses are shown in table 9 below.

Table 9 - voluntary throughcare outcomes 2024/25

Outcome	Progress	Number supported and %
Drug/Alcohol Use	Improved	12 (11%)

	Same	95 (88%)
	Worse	1 (1%)
Offending Behaviour	Improved	12 (11%)
	Same	96 (89%)
	Worse	0
Physical/ Mental Health	Improved	10 (9%)
	Same	98 (91%)
	Worse	0
Family/ Relationships	Improved	7 (6%)
	Same	99 (92%)
	Worse	2 (2%)
Housing	Improved	6 (6%)
	Same	101 (93%)
	Worse	1 (1%)

Despite the challenges faced by people accessing voluntary throughcare, comments received from those who engaged with EMORSS were positive. Of the 111 feedback forms collected, 100 (90%) reported high satisfaction scoring 8 out of 10 or above across core areas which asked how they felt about the service, whether their needs were met, whether the service was timely and professional, and whether their caseworker was professional and able to support their needs. Responses included:

"I always felt in a better headspace after meeting my worker"

"My worker always makes me feel at ease and valued even when I don't value myself"

"Was always professional with warm touch, never awkward and always been able to chat about difficult situations or problems; I never thought I could say this but recommended services to anyone, also trustworthy, thank you again"

"So friendly and supportive, not judgemental, trustworthy, it has helped me in ways you could never imagine. Thank you!"

"I hope your work doesn't go unnoticed. Without the support I would not be the person I am today"

Partnership working

EMORSS worked with key partners NHS, SPS, justice services, and other Third Sector agencies to ensure the effective delivery of voluntary throughcare, including engaging with multi-agency forums such as SPS Addictions Strategy Meeting, Women's Throughcare Meeting, HMP Edinburgh's Blood Borne Virus Meeting, and the Community Inclusion Health Huddle.

EMORSS has also developed working relationships with local agencies that can contribute to voluntary throughcare provision for example, Crisis Skylight Edinburgh, and Shelter for accommodation supports, and CHAI for financial inclusion/welfare advice enabling individuals to access benefits checks and income maximisation advice. Individuals were also linked into the ERA Community Café, and 12 Step Fellowship recovery meetings in the community.

Liberation packs

EMORSS offered liberation packs to individuals being released from prison who were particularly vulnerable and in greatest need for example, those without settled accommodation and/or basic essentials. EMORSS received excellent feedback from recipients of the pack which showed how much they were appreciated. The packs included backpack, mobile phone, hat, gloves, wipes, torch, diary, a list of useful numbers, deodorant, toothbrush, and water bottle/ flask. 39 packs were distributed in 2024/25.

Early release scheme

The SPS early release scheme Standard Determinate Sentence (SDS) 40 took place in February and March 2025. Delays in receiving the list of individuals eligible for early liberation created unpredictable spikes in demand for support which EMORSS met through:

- Adapting service delivery plans to accommodate increased volume
- Prioritising support for those with limited external networks
- Close co-ordination with SPS staff and external partners to ensure timely liberation planning and community handovers

Case study – pre-release planning in voluntary throughcare

The case study below demonstrates co-ordinated interventions employed to deliver supports to those in custody.

Individual J is a male in his 20s who was referred to EMORSS in December 2024 while serving a short-term sentence in HMP Edinburgh. J presented with problematic substance which he reported had in part been a recreational habit that had gotten out of hand; a factor in his increased use was also that he felt more confident when taking Subutex (opioid) and that it masked his mental health issues.

A support plan was created with J to address the issues he raised through psychosocial and motivational interventions while a referral was made to NHS Addictions (prison treatment team) to access Opiate Replacement Therapy to stabilise his substance use.

While in custody, J attended weekly motivational meetings with his worker while simultaneously committing to his medical treatment programme. In January 2025, he commenced Buprenorphine which supported him to achieve stability and abstain from illicit opioid use. During this time, his support meetings focussed on identifying triggers, managing urges, relapse prevention, developing healthy coping mechanisms, and building self-esteem.

J's turbulent personal life and history however caused him to struggle emotionally; he agreed to be referred to NHS clinical psychology for trauma focussed work and was placed on the

waiting list. J's 1:1 supports continued in readiness for his release while a plan was put in place for him to transition to support in the community.

Case study; voluntary throughcare

Individual C is a woman in her twenties who first came into contact with the service soon after release through attending the Drug and Alcohol Awareness Sessions that the EMORSS Recovery Coordinator co-facilitated at Willow Women's Justice Centre for their Health Group.

At her assessment, she presented with problematic alcohol use and physical and mental health difficulties. The Recovery Coordinator initiated a support plan to support her to decrease her alcohol intake and improve her health issues. She agreed to fill in regular alcohol diaries to create a clear picture of how many units she was consuming daily in order to facilitate a reduction plan. During discussions with her, she was given tips on reducing her alcohol intake.

She was supported to engage with CHAI at one of their weekly clinics in the EMORSS Broughton Street premises to receive advice on financial matters which led to her being supported to claim for Adult Disability Payment as her mental health and physical health severely impacted on her daily living. She was also assisted by the EMORSS worker to apply for a bus pass to support her to get to appointments.

Individual C did not feel safe in her living situation. She was living with family members and was finding this a real strain. The EMORSS worker liaised with Willow workers around a housing application, and she was supported to complete and submit an Edindex application.

Although she regularly filled in alcohol diaries and participated in creating a reduction plan, she struggled to stick to the plan and due to her relationship breakdown with her partner, her drinking increased. She shared that she was fearful of a life without alcohol. She was encouraged to consider various recovery activities she could attend in order to keep herself busy and manage her urges to drink alcohol, but her physical health and regularly feeling physically unwell due to her drinking limited her ability to attend these activities. At this point, EMORSS made a referral to a detox at the Ritson Clinic, and she is currently waiting to be assessed. She was also referred to LEAP as she expressed an interest in residential rehabilitation, but after attending the LEAP information day, she realised that she was not yet ready to commit to that process.

She continues to engage with EMORSS to focus primarily on reducing her alcohol.

Priority Action Eleven

Deliver improved community justice outcomes by ensuring that effective leadership and governance arrangements are in place and working well, collaborating with partners and planning strategically

No nationally determined outcome.

Progress in delivering this priority action should be evidenced with reference to any relevant local activity.

Local evidence:

- Mechanisms are in place to support engagement in each local authority, specifically:

- a community justice outcomes improvement plan (CJOIP)
- a participation statement
- an annual report on progress towards nationally and locally determined outcomes.
- Mechanisms are in place to support an effective interface between national partner organisations and their local representatives within Community Justice Partnerships.
- Evidence of mechanisms to engage non-statutory partners in strategic planning
- Use of the Care Inspectorate 'self-evaluation guide to support quality improvement for community justice in Scotland', with focus on Leadership and Direction

15. How has your partnership worked to develop local leadership and enhance strategic planning and collaboration? What impact had there been as a result?

During the reporting period, the CSJP was impacted by successive personnel changes coinciding with an internal Council review. The new Partnership leadership has recently canvassed the views of the membership to inform strategic direction and focus in 2025/26. CSJP leadership changes however, did not impact the extensive collaborative working and strategic planning which took place with statutory and Third Sector partners to ensure the delivery of effective community justice services. Examples include:

Partnership with Women's Aid

Justice services continued its partnership with Edinburgh Women's Aid (EWA), providing a peer support service for women in the justice system who have been victims of domestic abuse. The peer support service works collaboratively across Domestic Abuse Services (DAS) and Willow (support services for women in the justice system) ensuring that women serving community sentences and/or receiving Willow supports can also benefit from peer mentoring in a closed group setting. The service supports women who are ready to move on from their experiences of domestic abuse to regain their independence and confidence through participating in a range of activities together and engaging in facilitated group discussion.

Groups are hosted jointly by staff from Women's Aid and justice services covering topics such as identifying needs, understanding boundaries, conversations about self-esteem, relationship building, and coping mechanisms. All groups are delivered in a safe, supportive environment and include a member of staff with lived experience, embedding co-production into the service.

The model also offers opportunities for women who have graduated from the programme, to become peer mentors themselves and when confident to do so, to take on co-facilitator roles in a group setting. The service uses the Empowerment Star measurement tool to gauge impact and results from feedback during the reporting period are shown at table 10 below:

Table 10 – feedback from women supported by the EWA peer mentoring service 2024-25

Area measured	Improvement rating (year average)
Support networks	90%
Health and wellbeing	84%

Empowerment and self esteem	92%
Would recommend on exit	100%

Individual feedback included:

“The program subjects and content were well designed and there is huge power to hearing your own story from someone else, and seeing their progress versus being told you are not alone, and that your life will improve”

“I needed people, a support network that were peers rather than just professionals. Being able to meet people who just ‘got it’. No explanations necessary. This brought some joy, purpose, and structure to a hard time”

“I learnt a lot about my needs and boundaries and also about psychology generally which I find very interesting. The topics fit very well into figuring out how we ended up in these situations and how to avoid such relationships again”

Going forward, the service will be establishing additional routes into education and employment for women who are interested, and strengthening links between EWA supports provided and volunteering opportunities across Third Sector partners.

Citywide Bonfire Strategic Planning Community Improvement Partnership (Bonfire CIP)

Significant planning for the bonfire/fireworks period in 2024 took place with multi-agency meetings commencing in March 2024 and continuing throughout the year. Work included educational presentations delivered jointly by Police Scotland, SFRS, and Lothian Buses in state secondary schools to discourage firework/bonfire related crime and antisocial behaviour and encourage engagement from young people on keeping safe.

Targeted resources were deployed to support young people previously involved in antisocial behaviour/on the cusp of crime during the period to engage with diversionary activities including local organised fireworks displays. The CSJP leadership provided a small grant to the Bonfire CIP to support this work. Additionally, Third Sector providers, Youth Clubs, Housing Associations, schools, local businesses, transport networks, Waste and Street Cleansing Services, licensing teams, and statutory partners co-ordinated a range of actions to minimise disruption and disorder. While pockets of disorder did occur during the period, there was a reduction in the levels of violence seen during the same period in 2023.

Working in partnership with NHS Lothian

Partnership arrangements with NHS Lothian supported delivery of key community justice services. For example, a nurse is assigned to the Willow service for women in the justice system ensuring they can use this resource for any immediate health needs and also be supported to access relevant community healthcare.

The Drug Treatment and Testing Order service was restructured in 2024 moving it away from a stand-alone arrangement to an integrated service within JPS for men, replicating the successful model in place for women.

The vision for the service is to:

- Bring about a more integrated model of service delivery for people impacted by substance use, including better links with the Recovery Community and Third Sector.
- Establish a more seamless pathway and consistency of response across all Justice Services, which is both flexible and proportionate in terms of people's history of involvement in offending and that can reflect and adapt to changing complexity of need/risk.
- Create a more responsive and holistic service by removing allocation limitations, which are based on the type of order people are subject to rather than individual need. This allows for a wider range of sentencing options for people affected by substance use proportionate to their journey in Justice, irrespective of their clinical treatment needs. This moves us from a provision where access to specialised intervention and wrap around support was contingent on a specific type of Order i.e. a DTTO.

The service will achieve this by:

- Completing assessments – Justice Social Work Reports (clear criteria has been developed for both Community Payback Orders with supervision and drug treatment requirements and Drug Treatment and Testing Orders), Alcohol Problem Solving Court and Diversion.
- Supervising Orders, including Community Payback Orders, Drug Treatment and Testing Orders, and also Diversion, Supervised Bail, Structured Deferred Sentences; and Voluntary Throughcare.
- Delivering groupwork (for Orders/Licences, Diversion, Supervised Bail, Structured Deferred Sentences, and Voluntary Throughcare) including provision of relapse prevention and smart recovery groups, contribution to Survive and Thrive, Road Traffic Group, Stepping Stones and Health.
- Undertaking Trauma and Mental Health Screening, helping to define the persons needs/risks and intervention pathway.
- Linking with the Recovery Community and Third Sector, including peer supporters

This has contributed to the ability within JPS to offer a greater number of programmes and opportunities for men to meet varying levels of intensity and need irrespective of the type of Order being completed.

Other examples include working with NHS Lothian under MAPPA arrangements as described under Priority Action Five above, and co-located nurses within St Leonard's Police Station and Edinburgh Sheriff Court led by the Court Liaison and Diversion service which provides access to mental health and other clinical supports in a custody setting.

Priority Action Twelve

Enhance partnership planning and implementation by ensuring the voices of victims of crime, survivors, those with lived experience and their families are effectively incorporated and embedded

No nationally determined outcome.

Progress in delivering this priority action should be evidenced with reference to any relevant local activity.

16. How has your partnership worked to understand and incorporate the voices of victims of crime, survivors, those with lived experience and their families into partnership planning and implementation? *What impact has there been as a result?*

Incorporating the voices of those with lived experience into service design, planning and delivery is integral to key community justice services with mechanisms for obtaining feedback built into early-stage service planning. Additionally, families of those in the justice system are supported through the provision of the Travel Service and justice services work with Victim Support Edinburgh to ensure support is available for victims and witnesses to crime. Examples include:

Just Us

Just Us is a peer-led group started within and supported by the Willow Service since 2013. They are made up of women who are nearing the end of their involvement with Willow or have completed their work with the main Willow service. Just Us offers a pathway for women to remain at the heart of service, whilst also being able to begin to shape their futures and move on at the same time. The aim of Just Us is to help professionals better understand the issues faced by women in contact with the justice system and encourage them to think about how they can best offer support. They also offer an opportunity for women who are/have been involved in the justice system to understand that they are not alone with their experiences and that they have something positive to contribute.

Over the years, Just Us has taken part in many events, sharing their experiences with a wide range of professionals including Police, Social Workers, Social Work Students, Sheriffs, Elected Members, and Members of Parliament. One of the key opportunities they offer involves delivering Conversation Cafés, where they show a powerful video highlighting a woman's journey through the Justice System. The video includes footage from a Police Station in Glasgow, Edinburgh Sheriff Court, and HMP Edinburgh. After the video, they invite attendees to reflect on the woman's journey and the barriers and potential opportunities we each have to positively make a difference to this journey and consider ways to offer more effective support.

Looking ahead, Just Us plan to provide an opportunity for the Edinburgh Equally Safe Community to have its own bespoke Conversation Café hosted at the Women's Justice Centre, where the Willow Service is based.

Members of Just Us have expressed that being part of the group feels empowering, allowing them to give something back and build their own self-confidence and develop skills. The women have described having experiences they never thought possible, such as sharing a cup of tea with a Sheriff at court. Just Us hopes to continue meeting with a variety of professionals in different roles, sharing their lived experiences, and reflecting on what truly helps (and what does not) in delivering trauma-informed practice.

Peer mentoring

Lived experience is incorporated into the interventions provided by EMORSS with peer mentoring being an integral part of the supports provided to people in the justice system and particularly for those with an alcohol and/or drugs dependency requiring specialist support. The visible recovery helps individuals to build resilience and stay motivated in their attempts to achieve a life free from addiction and crime. The EMORSS traineeship pathway has also enabled people with convictions to become qualified to support others and has provided opportunities for paid employment to those successfully completing the programme.

The EMORSS group worker in partnership with a Recovery Coaching Scotland worker co-ordinated 'Recovery Panels' activity within the Recovery Café at HMP Edinburgh involving external speakers with lived experience sharing their recovery journeys. These sessions aimed to provide varied perspectives on recovery and promote peer-led learning as part of preparation for liberation. Peer Naloxone training was also successfully delivered by Peer Naloxone Champions on the halls, a model that empowers individuals with lived experience and fosters peer-led harm reduction. Feedback included:

"I realised these sessions are enjoyable and a really good tool to my recovery journey, thank you!"

"You have helped me in so many ways whether it was advice or just a chat or support, I felt all my needs were met and I didn't have urges to use; having the support in place has helped me self-manage"

"Learning all the tools I learned and the way I was listened to when I talked was genuine, thanks to all!"

Peer mentoring is also an integral part of the Women's Aid Peer Support service delivered in partnership with justice services DAS described above under Priority Action Eleven. A participant on the programme commented:

"Each week gave me a positive sense of purpose and value in attending with women who understood me and within aspects our shared experiences, the strength we all have inside us"

Support for families of those in the justice system – Sacro's Travel Service

Justice services continued its partnership with Third Sector provider Sacro to deliver the Travel Service supporting eligible Edinburgh residents to maintain relationships with their relatives/ loved ones in prison. Sacro assisted Edinburgh residents with travel to Scottish prisons and the State Hospital. Sacro's team of volunteer drivers collected registered passengers from their home, drove to a prison/hospital visit and returned the passenger/family home at no cost.

Maintaining contact with loved ones can lessen the impact of imprisonment on families and reduce the likelihood of re-offending on release. Individuals who may be able to benefit from the service include, those with additional needs/disability, low-income families, and those travelling with young children.

Support for victims and witnesses to crime

Justice services worked together with Victim Support (VS) in Edinburgh to ensure that victims and witnesses to crime had access to specialist emotional and practical supports to assist them to move on from their experience. Supports are tailored to suit needs and may

be provided face to face, online and web chat, or by telephone depending on each individual's preference. Practical supports include accompanied court familiarisation visits prior to the trial date to assist those who are concerned about appearing in court to give evidence, as well as court support on the appointed day. In 2024/25, across all mediums, VS Edinburgh delivered 6202 support sessions.

Referrals into VS originate from various sources including the COPFS, Police Scotland, other support agencies, and Council services including the Family and Household Support Service which supports individuals involved in neighbour disputes. Council services submitted 119 referrals during the reporting period.

VS in Edinburgh has relocated to alternative premises with the new venue being a designated 'remote link site' equipped with live video link facility from which victims and witnesses may give evidence away from the Court environment.

VS in Edinburgh is a member of both the CSJP and the Scottish Government led Victims Taskforce set up to improve the experiences of victims and witnesses to crime as they navigate their way round the justice system. Additionally, many individuals involved in crime have themselves been victims of crime and VS materials are available within the Court buildings and police stations, highlighting supports VS can offer.

The VS Emergency Assistance Fund provided financial support for essentials to the most vulnerable victims of crime. Following feedback from those who have applied to the fund, the amounts awarded for some essential items have increased for example the food award has risen to £240, up from £150, to reflect pressures from the general increase in cost of living. Many of the fund's awards support enhanced safety measures for victims of domestic abuse for example, a doorbell camera or personal safety alarm. During the reporting period, 184 Edinburgh applications were received of which 89 were approved for support.

VS continued to run lived experience workshops on key topics to listen to the voices of survivors and consult on proposed service amendments. For example, feedback received led to VS extending its National Support Service opening hours to seven days a week provision as well as one late night opening per week; those changes have proved popular with those accessing VS.

Routine feedback collated from those using the service included comments below:

"I would like to continue my support with Alan, he has been so supportive, he truly is one in a million"

"The two volunteers were fantastic; I'm so pleased with the service. Without it I would have been on my own and not knowing what was going on" – individual who received support to attend court

"Staff at the helpline were amazingly helpful, thank you!"

Priority Action Thirteen

Support integration and reduce stigma by ensuring the community and workforce have an improved understanding of and confidence in community justice

Nationally determined outcome:

More people across the workforce and in the community understand, and have confidence in, community justice⁹

Local Evidence

- Community justice partner contribution to joint activity across policy areas to tackle stigma.

17. What partnership-driven activity has taken place to improve understanding of and confidence in community justice across the workforce and local community?

Encouraging confidence in community justice

Sharing case studies that illustrate positive partnership working, gathering staff feedback, and reviewing comments from people using community justice services are a key part of demonstrating community justice activity locally. The public facing CPO annual report is shared widely across local partners and the public through social media showcasing the range of community justice activity that has taken place by those completing community payback. The report also provides an opportunity to highlight work carried out by those undertaking unpaid work in the community, supporting various projects to improve the local landscape and to share feedback from the beneficiaries of the work. Examples of recently undertaken unpaid work activity publicised through the report included:

Prestonfield School - the team organised the delivery of woodchips for the wildlife garden and spread them around the relevant areas as part of a general tidy up

Dr Neil's Garden, Duddingston Village – the garden benefitted from work to fix a drainage area, and the interior of one of the garden shelters was repainted. The team also erected new fencing and laid new decking. All rubbish was cleared away and the garden left in a much-improved condition.

Southside Community Centre – the team cleaned and redecorated rooms in the Community Centre, painting the space and creating a brighter and more welcoming environment for those using the facility

The above examples highlight the community benefits that unpaid work teams bring to the City of Edinburgh through their support for community projects which in turn helps increase public confidence in and support for community sentences. A public consultation for partners, staff, and the general public was conducted in the summer of 2024 to gauge the level of public awareness and support for unpaid work as an alternative to custody including the perceived impact on offending. Public awareness of CPOs and unpaid work remains high with 100% of respondents stating they either fully or partly understood the purpose of a community disposal. Feedback also showed that 96% of respondents supported either in full

⁹ National Indicator:

Percentage of people who agree that:

- people should help their community as part of a community sentence rather than spend a few months in prison for a minor offence

or partly, community payback as a tool allowing people to pay back to the community for their crimes. Comments from a range of respondents included:

“As the offence has already taken place, it cannot prevent previous offending but could help in rehabilitation and prevention of reoffending” – member of the public response.

“It offers diversionary activity, the chance to build new skills and allow people to reflect on their conviction(s) and the reasons they offended” - member of the public response.

“It’s an opportunity to look at the wider community’s needs and not just be focused on the personal” – member of the public response.

“The offenders get an opportunity to make amends in a meaningful way which has the potential to help them feel they have a positive contribution to make” - member of the public response.

“Work within the community provides a useful service and reduces the prison population” - member of the public response.

“While there may not be a direct relationship between the crime and the payback, if the unpaid work improved the local environment, then the community benefits” – member of the public response.

“I am a supporter of unpaid community service when it’s done well and allows the offender to understand they are better off contributing and especially at the end of the program, they are followed up with options on how not to reoffend” – member of the public.

“I just wanted to say thank you! YOU have made a massive difference to our wildlife garden, and it looks brilliant. All the children and staff are very thankful for all your hard work organising the materials and applying them to the landscape, thanks again, much appreciated!” – feedback from a primary school in the south of Edinburgh.

“It’s great know that the work I’ve done helps other people” - individual undertaking unpaid work.

“I appreciate the opportunity to have a go at new activities” - individual undertaking unpaid work.

“I’ve found a job now and thanks! I’ve enjoyed working in the Community Garden especially helping staff with the polycrub” - individual undertaking unpaid work.

“Unpaid work is a really important aspect of community justice because it allows people who have committed crime(s) to give something back to their local community while at the same time, learning new skills and engaging in teamwork – those transferable skills can be taken into employment. Being appreciated for the work they have done in communities also supports those undertaking unpaid work to feel like they have a stake in society which in turn can encourage them to live a crime free life” – staff member feedback.

Supporting volunteering and employment

People undertaking unpaid work often carry out activities within Edinburgh’s community gardens, enhancing and maintaining the space for residents to enjoy. As well as improving the visual amenity, which encourages public confidence in community justice, the community garden projects provide volunteering opportunities for those who have completed their

community sentences but may not be ready to move into employment. They offer pathways for individuals to gain more work experience or undertake meaningful activity to provide structure to their day and support their desistance. Third Sector providers Cyrenians and Access to Industry both manage community gardens which provide supports and volunteering opportunities for people in the justice system.

Encouraging employer and employee confidence

Access to Industry has continued to deliver training to potential employers looking to employ people with convictions to dispel some of the myths associated with recruitment, encourage employer confidence, and address the concerns they may have. Additionally, individuals can access tailored advice and supports relating to their own convictions and how to navigate the disclosure system effectively. An educational programme is also offered to employers focussing on best practice in relation to disclosure and how it interacts with the jobs market.

Highlighting community justice in action

Community justice unpaid work projects have been highlighted on social media posts for example the Brake the Cycle project featured on [Facebook](#), while the public has been encouraged to contribute to the conversation around unpaid work and community justice via social media and traditional media outlets such as [The Herald](#).

Arrest referral workshops

Police Scotland led workshops which took place across local areas in 2024, encouraged a range of statutory and Third Sector partners and staff working in justice services to consider how the community justice offering at point of arrest could be improved. The workshops helped promote the value of community justice in the custody setting and how timely interventions can prevent individuals being further drawn into the justice system and contribute to desistance.

18. Look ahead for your local area. Please tell us what the next steps are for your partnership.

The CSJP conducted a self-evaluation exercise and canvassed members for their views on the Partnership strengths and weaknesses in relation to a range of issues including Partnership operation, activity, planning, strategic direction, vision, and governance. The results are being collated and will form an agreed approach for the Partnership's development, revised Terms of Reference, and way forward in 2025/26. This exercise is being supplemented by a review of the Partnership's grant monitoring practice, application process, and decision making for awarding funding to community safety and community justice projects. This will ensure the Partnership's limited budget is managed effectively and allocated to community justice/community safety areas likely to evidence the greatest impact.

The CSJP will follow up changes implemented in the coming months with a further evaluation after twelve months to ensure that partners remain invested in the Partnership's work and to support its continuous development.

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THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

December 3, 2025

Item 8a - The Road to Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) 2028 – 2038: Timeline and Budget Proposal

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) is a ten-year strategy covering 2018 – 2028. To ensure the new LOIP and performance framework are ready for April 2028, work will need to begin now.
- 1.2 This paper sets out the proposed timeline and resources required to deliver LOIP 2028 – 2038.

2. Recommendations/Decisions/Action?

- 2.1 The Board is recommended to:
 - i. Approve the proposed timeline (Appendix A).
 - ii. Agree to the resource requirements and a financial contribution where possible to enable work to take place (3.10 and Appendix B).
 - iii. Agree to continue to review overall resourcing for this work and receive regular updates on progress.

3. Main Report

- 3.1 The proposed timeline for the development of the LOIP 2028-2038 is outlined in Appendix A and the budget is at Appendix B.
- 3.2 The Community Empowerment Act (2015) states that all named Partners have a duty to contribute such funds, staff and other resources as the Community Planning Partnership considers appropriate to improve local outcomes in the LOIP and secure participation of community bodies throughout community planning. However, locally its recognised by all partners that making a financial contribution can be challenging. Often, partners are able to offer resources but not make a financial contribution.
- 3.3 For this reason, the Community Planning Support Team (CPST) was established and will lead on the new LOIP, drawing on partners' expertise and facilitating opportunities for communication and engagement for all partners and the wider public. Partners who have not yet been able to contribute resource to this team are asked to look at when resourcing could be made available.

- 3.4 To help CPST deliver the 2028-2038 LOIP, a financial contribution from partners is requested where possible. Expenses will occur in two financial years and expenses have been split to demonstrate this. It is proposed that the financial contributions are met by those Partners with additional duties to support shared leadership and collective governance i.e. City of Edinburgh Council, NHS, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and Scottish Enterprise.
- 3.5 The EP Board will receive regular progress updates throughout the development of LOIP 2028-2038 from the CPST.



THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

3.10

Partner	In-kind request	Funding request
2003 Act Partners		
City of Edinburgh Council	<p>2026/2027</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPST Team 1d/w • Share data and insights from engagement between June 2025-June 2026 • Comms team to develop & deliver comms campaign • Consider facilities available to support community engagement • Consider web team support for website update • Insight Team to launch and monitor formal consultation and support data analysis. <p>2027/2028</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider Data Team capacity to develop Performance Management Tool 	<p>2026/2027</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £4,000 – for community engagement sessions if no in-kind • £200 for engagement materials and supplies • £1,000 barrier reduction fund • £1,000 facility for LOIP conference if no in kind • £1,000 Speaker expense • £500 in comms expenses • £10,000 for new website if not done in house • £1,000 per annum website maintenance if not done in house. This is an est and could be much lower. <p>Total: £17,700 + est £1,000pa</p> <p>2027/2028</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £2,000 Formal Consultation comms • £1,000 Graphic Design

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £2,000 Performance management tool if not done in house <p>Total £5,000</p>
NHS Lothian	<p>2026/2027</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPST Team 1d/w • Any member of Data & Intelligence working group to develop Population Needs Assessment and support with analysis of community engagement. • Share data and insights from engagement between June 2025-June 2026 • Consider facilities available to support community engagement • Consider facilities available to support LOIP Conference <p>2027/2028</p>	<p>2026/2027</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £4,000 – for community engagement sessions if no in-kind • £200 for engagement materials and supplies • £1,000 barrier reduction fund • £1,000 facility for LOIP conference if no in kind • £1,000 Speaker expense • £500 in comms expenses • £10,000 for new website if not done in house • £1,000 per annum website maintenance if not done in house. This is an est and could be much lower. <p>Total: £17,700 est £1,000pa</p> <p>Total 2026/2027: £13,600</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £2,000 Formal Consultation comms • £1,000 Graphic Design • £2,000 Performance management tool if not done in house

		Total 2027/2028: £5,000
Police Scotland	2026/2027 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPST Team 1d/w • Share data and insights from engagement between June 2025-June 2026 • Consider facilities available to support community engagement • Consider facilities available to support LOIP Conference • Consider capacity to support for website update 	2026/2027 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £4,000 – for community engagement sessions if no in-kind • £200 for engagement materials and supplies • £1,000 barrier reduction fund • £1,000 facility for LOIP conference if no in kind • £1,000 Speaker expense • £500 in comms expenses • £10,000 for new website if not done in house • £1,000 per annum website maintenance if not done in house. This is an est and could be much lower. Total: £17,700 + est £1,000pa Total 2026/2027: £13,600 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £2,000 Formal Consultation comms • £1,000 Graphic Design • £2,000 Performance management tool if not done in house Total 2027/2028: £5,000

Southeast Scotland Transport (SESTran)	<p>2026/2027</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPST Team 1d/w • Share data and insights from engagement between June 2025-June 2026 • Consider facilities available to support community engagement • Consider facilities available to support LOIP Conference <p>2027/2028</p>	<p>2026/2027 £0</p> <p>2027/2028 £0</p>
Scottish Enterprise	<p>2026/2027</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPST Team 1d/w • Share data and insights from engagement between June 2025-June 2026 • Consider facilities available to support community engagement • Consider facilities available to support LOIP Conference <p>2027/2028</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider capacity to develop Performance Management Tool 	<p>2026/2027</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £4,000 – for community engagement sessions if no in-kind • £200 for engagement materials and supplies • £1,000 barrier reduction fund • £1,000 facility for LOIP conference if no in kind • £1,000 Speaker expense • £500 in comms expenses • £10,000 for new website if not done in house • £1,000 per annum website maintenance if not done in house. This is an est and could be much lower. <p>Total: £17,700 + est £1,000pa</p> <p>Total 2026/2027: £13,600</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £2,000 Formal Consultation comms • £1,000 Graphic Design • £2,000 Performance management tool if not done in house <p>Total 2027/2028: £5,000</p>
Scottish Fire & Rescue Service	<p>2026/2027</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPST Team: 1 day every other week • Share data and insights from engagement between June 2025-June 2026 • Consider facilities available to support community engagement • Consider facilities available to support LOIP Conference <p>2027/2028</p>	<p>2026/2027</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £4,000 – for community engagement sessions if no in-kind • £200 for engagement materials and supplies • £1,000 barrier reduction fund • £1,000 facility for LOIP conference if no in kind • £1,000 Speaker expense • £500 in comms expenses • £10,000 for new website if not done in house • £1,000 per annum website maintenance if not done in house. This is an est and could be much lower. <p>Total: £17,700 + est £1,000pa</p> <p>Total 2026/2027: £13,600</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £2,000 Formal Consultation comms • £1,000 Graphic Design • £2,000 Performance management tool if not done in house <p>Total 2027/2028: £5,000</p>
2015 Act Partners		
Edinburgh College	<p>2026/2027</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider participation in CPST • Share data and insights from engagement between June 2025-June 2026 • Consider support with data analysis and insight development for Integrated Community Engagement Report • Consider facilities available to support community engagement • Consider facilities available to support LOIP Conference • Cascade invites etc through contacts. <p>2027/2028</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider capacity to support development of Performance Management Tool 	<p>2026/2027 £0</p> <p>2027/2028 £0</p>

Edinburgh Integration Joint Board (EIJB)	<p>2026/2027</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider participation in CPST • Any member of the Data & Intelligence working group to develop Population Needs Assessment and support with analysis of community engagement. • Share data and insights from engagement between June 2025-June 2026 • Consider facilities available to support community engagement • Consider facilities available to support LOIP Conference <p>2027/2028</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider capacity to develop Performance Management Tool 	<p>2026/2027 £0</p> <p>2027/2028 £0</p>
Historic Environment Scotland	<p>2026/2027</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider participation in CPST • Share data and insights from engagement between June 2025-June 2026 • Consider facilities available to support community engagement • Consider facilities available to support LOIP Conference • Cascade invites etc through contacts. <p>2027/2028</p>	<p>2026/2027 £0</p> <p>2027/2028 £0</p>

Nature Scot (Scottish Natural Heritage)	<p>2026/2027</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider participation in CPST • Share data and insights from engagement between June 2025-June 2026 • Consider facilities available to support community engagement • Consider facilities available to support LOIP Conference • Cascade invites etc through contacts. <p>2027/2028</p>	<p>2026/2027 £0</p> <p>2027/2028 £0</p>
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	<p>2026/2027</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider participation in CPST • Share data and insights from engagement between June 2025-June 2026 • Consider facilities available to support community engagement • Consider facilities available to support LOIP Conference • Cascade invites etc through contacts. <p>2027/2028</p>	<p>2026/2027 £0</p> <p>2027/2028 £0</p>
Scottish Sports Council	<p>2026/2027</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider participation in CPST 	<p>2026/2027 £0</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share data and insights from engagement between June 2025-June 2026 • Consider facilities available to support community engagement • Consider facilities available to support LOIP Conference • Cascade invites etc through contacts. <p>2027/2028</p>	<p>2027/2028 £0</p>
Skills Development Scotland	<p>2026/2027</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider participation in CPST • Share data and insights from engagement between June 2025-June 2026 • Consider facilities available to support community engagement • Consider facilities available to support LOIP Conference • Cascade invites etc through contacts. <p>2027/2028</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider capacity to develop Performance Management Tool 	<p>2026/2027 £0</p> <p>2027/2028 £0</p>
University of Edinburgh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider participation in CPST • Share data and insights from engagement between June 2025-June 2026 	<p>2026/2027 £0</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider support with data analysis and insight development for Integrated Community Engagement Report • Consider capacity to support development of Population Needs Assessment. • Consider facilities available to support community engagement • Consider facilities available to support LOIP Conference • Cascade invites etc through contacts. • Consider capacity to support website development. <p>2027/2028</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider capacity to support development of Performance Management Tool 	<p>2027/2028 £0</p>
Visit Scotland	<p>2026/2027</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider participation in CPST • Share data and insights from engagement between June 2025-June 2026 • Consider facilities available to support community engagement • Consider facilities available to support LOIP Conference • Cascade invites etc through contacts. <p>2027/2028</p>	<p>2026/2027 £0</p> <p>2027/2028 £0</p>

Community Bodies		
Armed Forces	2026/2027 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider participation in CPST Share data and insights from engagement between June 2025-June 2026 Consider facilities available to support community engagement Consider facilities available to support LOIP Conference Cascade invites etc through contacts. 2027/2028	2026/2027 £0 2027/2028 £0
Chamber of Commerce	2026/2027 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider participation in CPST Share data and insights from engagement between June 2025-June 2026 Consider facilities available to support community engagement Consider facilities available to support LOIP Conference Cascade invites etc through contacts. 2027/2028	2026/2027 £0 2027/2028 £0
Edinburgh Affordable	2026/2027	2026/2027

Housing Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider participation in CPST Share data and insights from engagement between June 2025-June 2026 Cascade invites etc through contacts. <p>2027/2028</p>	<p>£0</p> <p>2027/2028</p> <p>£0</p>
Edinburgh Association of Community Councils (EACC)	<p>2026/2027</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share data and insights from engagement between June 2025-June 2026 Cascade invites etc through contacts. <p>2027/2028</p>	<p>2026/2027</p> <p>£0</p> <p>2027/2028</p> <p>£0</p>
Edinburgh Voluntary Organisation Council (EVOC)	<p>2026/2027</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CPST Team 1d/w Share data and insights from engagement between June 2025-June 2026 Consider facilities available to support community engagement Consider facilities available to support LOIP Conference Cascade invites etc through contacts. <p>2027/2028</p>	<p>2026/2027</p> <p>£0</p> <p>2027/2028</p> <p>£0</p>

Equality and Rights Network (EARN)	<p>2026/2027</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share data and insights from engagement between June 2025-June 2026 • Support CPST with engagement & consultation development to ensure equality lens • Support IIA • Support Workshops with specific groups experiencing inequity. • Cascade invites etc through contacts. <p>2027/2028</p>	<p>2026/2027 £0</p> <p>2027/2028 £0</p>
Strategic Partnerships	<p>All Lead/Chairs to participate in development of LOIP 2028-2038</p> <p>ECLDP to support development of youth workshops/surveys</p>	



THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

4. Next steps

- 4.1 Following Board consideration the proposal will be taken to the relevant partner boards and committees at the earliest opportunity for their consideration and the approval of budget.
- 4.2 Following these approvals, the CPST would begin early preparation work for the new LOIP in March 2026 as outlined above.

5. Background reading/external references

- 5.1 [Current LOIP 2018-28](#)

6. Appendices

- 6.1 Appendix A - LOIP 2028-2038 Timeline
- 6.2 Appendix B - LOIP 2028-2038 Proposed Budget

7. Contact

Community Planning Support Team

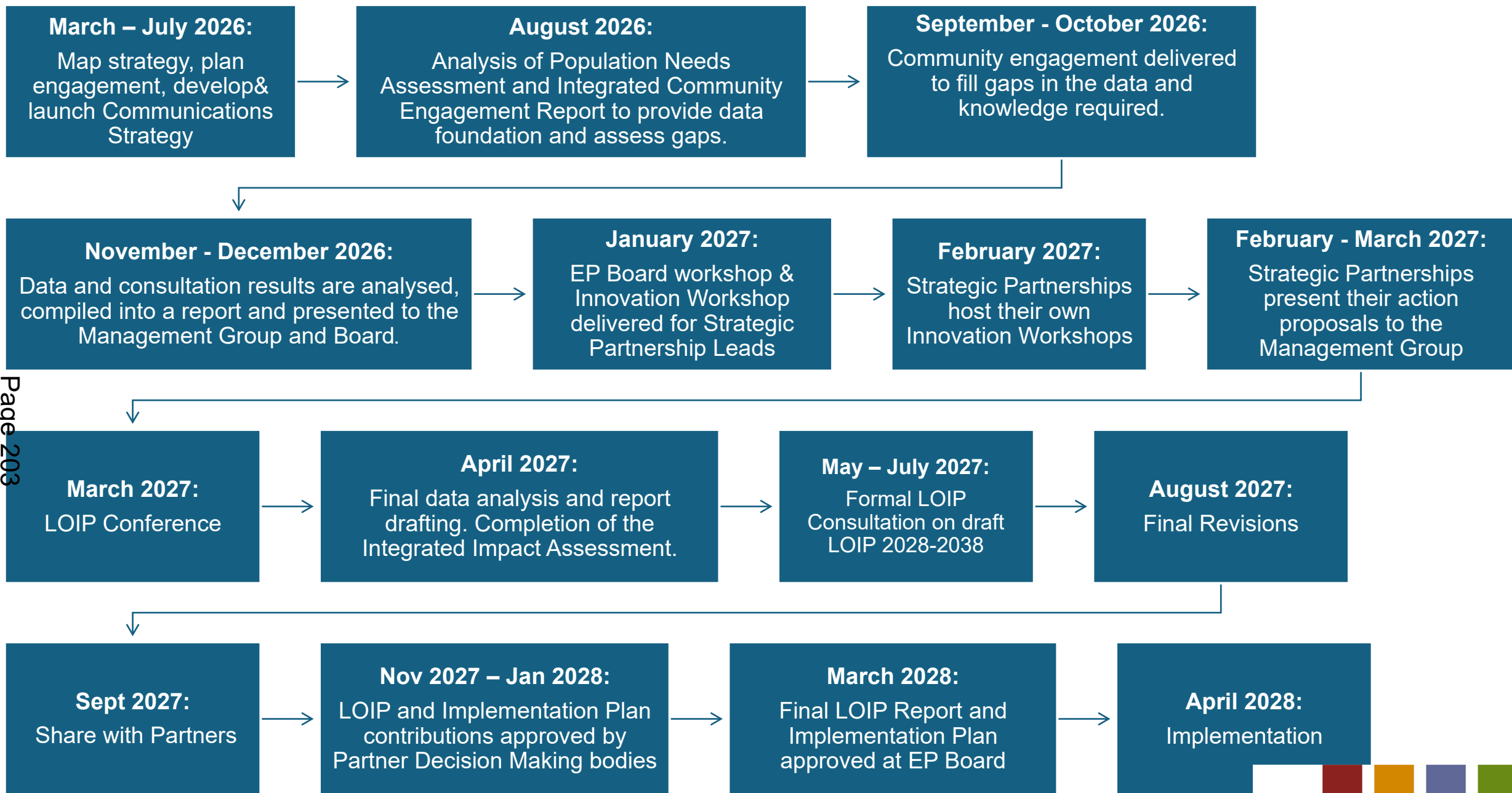
Georgina Bowyer

Sabina McDonald

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The Road to Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) 2028 – 2038: Appendix B: Proposed Budget

Proposed Budget in 2026/2027

Item	Detail	In kind commitment	Funding commitment (£)
Overall Development of LOIP 2028-2038	The Community Planning Support Team (CPST) is required to develop and deliver the actions needed to produce LOIP 2028-2038	<p>1 day per week from City of Edinburgh Council, NHS, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Scottish Enterprise and EVOC</p> <p>Other Partners are welcome (and encouraged) to support this team as their capacity allows.</p> <p>All EP Board members, SP Leads and Chairs to support development and cascade information where applicable</p>	N/A
Population Needs Assessment	Developing the data foundation for LOIP 2028-2038 priorities and actions	EP Data and Intelligence working group to develop	N/A
Integrated Community Engagement Report	Gathering insights from engagement across the partnership between June 2025-June 2026	<p>All Partners to share insights from engagement between June 2025-June 2026</p> <p>Who can support with data analysis and insight development? (EP Data and Intelligence working group? University? College? Others?)</p>	N/A
Community Engagement	<p>At least 5 general events across the city, with capacity for 50.</p> <p>Estimate 4 additional conversations with specific groups including a youth group.</p>	CPST to plan the workshops and develop the survey.	

	<p>Survey and youth survey</p> <p>Facility costs & refreshments</p> <p>Materials & Supplies</p> <p>Barrier reduction fund to facilitate participation (may inc. translation, BSL support, etc)</p> <p>Comms (promoting workshops/survey participation)</p>	<p>ECLD Partnership to support CPST to develop youth focussed workshop and survey.</p> <p>CPST to deliver the workshops</p> <p>EP Data and Intelligence working group to support CPST with data analysis and insight development.</p> <p>CEC Comms Teams to develop & deliver the campaign</p> <p>Can any partner(s) provide facilities & refreshments in-kind and reduce costs?</p>	<p>If no in-kind facility support est. £20,000</p> <p>£1,000</p> <p>£5,000</p> <p>£2,000</p>
LOIP Conference	<p>1 day 'Towards a Fairer Future' conference modelled on Aberdeen CPP's approach to LOIP development. It will bring together partners, practitioners and community members to explore how we can collectively shape a fairer future in Edinburgh based on the data and insights gathered through Population Needs Assessment, Integrated Community Engagement Report and community engagement (above). Est 150 attendees.</p>	<p>CPST to plan, facilitate, collate data.</p> <p>EP Data and Intelligence working group to support CPST with data analysis and insight development.</p> <p>Partners/community et al to cascade invites etc through their contacts.</p> <p>CEC Comms Teams to develop & deliver the campaign</p>	<p>£500 (paid socials/print for partners)</p>

		Can any partner(s) provide facilities & refreshments in-kind and reduce costs?	If no in-kind facility support est. £5,000
		Speaker cost	Est £5,000
EP Website Improvements:	<p>EP website does not meet standards for accessibility and needs a significant refresh to incorporate improved comms, live outcome progress update etc. A full options paper on this recommended to properly scope options, but budget outline shared here to support budget preparation for partners.</p> <p>Options include: Update current website. Likely means no option for @edinburghpartnership email address and reliance on CEC officers to do all updates</p> <p>Ongoing maintenance costs.</p> <p>Possible option to utilise Consul Requires further scoping</p> <p>Ongoing maintenance costs.</p> <p>Develop new website. Option for @edinburghpartnership email address and for other partners (CPST) to share updates.</p> <p>Ongoing maintenance costs</p>	<p>In Kind from CEC (Community Planning & Web teams)</p> <p>In Kind from CEC (Community Planning & Web teams)</p> <p>In Kind - currently costs to update may be included in funding from Scot Gov.</p> <p>Via COSLA</p> <p>Partners to undertake training and share website updating.</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>Est £5,000 p/a</p> <p>Est. £50,000</p> <p>Est £5,000 pa</p>
Total in 2026/2027			£13,500-£88,500 one-time costs plus

			£0-£350 per annum
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Proposed Budget in 2027/2028

Item	Detail	In kind commitment	Funding commitment (£)
Formal Consultation	3-month formal consultation – survey	<p>CPST to develop consultation survey</p> <p>ECLD to develop youth focused consultation survey</p> <p>CEC Insight Team to launch and monitor survey on Citizen Space and to support CPST and EP Data and Intelligence working group with data analysis.</p> <p>CEC Comms Teams to develop & deliver the campaign</p>	£10,000
Graphic design	LOIP Report - easy-read and full version	N/A	£5,000
Performance Management Platform	<p>Software tool to track, measure and improve performance against identified priorities and outcomes.</p> <p>Cost to develop if done ‘in-house’</p> <p>Cost for software purchase if no internal capacity</p>	<p>Is a partner (s) able to use PowerBi, Excel and a web integration tool to develop this?</p> <p>Is there a partners(s) that can support with expertise on evaluation?</p> <p>CPST to develop procurement.</p>	Est £10,000

Total in 2027/2028			£15,000- £25,000

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Community Learning and Development Progress Visit Report

The City of Edinburgh Council

2 April 2024

1. Context

HM Inspectors visited The City of Edinburgh Council to undertake a community learning and development (CLD) progress visit during February 2024. During the visit, we talked to learners and community representatives, CLD leaders, managers, staff, volunteers, and other key stakeholders. HM Inspectors evaluated the effectiveness of local authority CLD partnerships' approach to self-evaluation and planning for improvement, and considered progress made against identified priorities in their CLD plans.

The leadership and delivery of CLD is situated within two City of Edinburgh Council directorates. Community learning is led by the newly established Wider Achievement and Lifelong Learning Team (WALLT). Community development is aligned to Community Empowerment in the council's directorate of Place.

2. Findings from the progress visit

How effective is the leadership of the local authority and their CLD partners in improving outcomes?

Areas of positive progress

The newly established WALLT staffing structure has the potential to support staff to realise the ambitions for CLD. Staff are clearer about new roles and their individual areas of work. The majority of CLD partnership members are now committed to the partnership. A few CLD partners have well established working relationships with each other. The focus of CLD programmes on tackling poverty and inequality is understood well by the majority of local authority staff and partners.

WALLT managers and practitioners value the opportunity to engage in newly established in-service days. These are providing staff with helpful opportunities to share practice and work towards improved consistency in the delivery of CLD. A few staff delivering learning programmes gather learner feedback and data on participant numbers. For example, English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) tutors use a range of self-evaluation arrangements to ensure that there is a continued focus on improving outcomes for learners. As a result, tutors who gather and use this feedback regularly adapt the focus of lessons, including for those seeking employment. A few tutors involved in the Multiply programme connect with colleagues across the wider Multiply network. This is helping them to share practice to enhance the delivery of numeracy programmes and to better meet learner needs.

Areas for development

The CLD Partnership is not providing the required leadership and governance for the delivery of the CLD Plan. The majority of the priorities in the CLD 2021-24 plan focus on recovery from the pandemic and require to be refreshed and updated. The current plan does not yet inform sufficiently council CLD services or partners' priorities. As a result, the local authority is not meeting its legislative duties as set out in The Requirements for Community Learning and Development (Scotland) Regulations 2013 to coordinate provision of and provide CLD, to identify unmet need, and to specify what action partners intend to take over the period of the plan. Progress towards CLD priorities is not being monitored or reported on. The reorganisation of CLD within the local authority is not yet sufficiently well embedded to demonstrate its

effectiveness. In particular, the relocation of community development has resulted in a disconnect between community learning and the delivery of community development.

Community engagement and empowerment leaders with responsibility for community development do not yet recognise how their work contributes to outcomes set out in the current CLD plan. Senior leaders now need to accelerate efforts to strengthen the governance and leadership across all aspects of CLD practice. This includes publishing a new plan by 1 September 2024 in line with legislative requirements. Plans to engage with communities on the development of the new plan are incomplete. Senior leaders now need to develop further their plan to gather the views of learners and communities. This should help to ensure that the priorities for the new plan reflect learner and community needs.

The use of self-evaluation to inform continuous improvement is inconsistent across CLD partners. Similarly, there is no systematic reporting by partners of progress towards achievement of the outcomes set out in the CLD plan. As a result, there is insufficient evidence to demonstrate that CLD provision is being targeted to those most in need. This is limiting the ability of senior leaders and their partners to accurately assess the impact of CLD and ensure that resources are targeted to those most in need. CLD leaders now need to develop further their approach to self-evaluation and ensure that arrangements are in place to monitor and report on progress made against CLD priorities.

How well does the performance of the local authority and their CLD partners demonstrate positive impact?

Areas of positive progress

In a few programmes, such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE), Multiply and ESOL classes staff use data and learner feedback to report on progress. Performance information for DofE shows improvement in uptake of the award. Questionnaire feedback from ESOL learners and informal discussions with learners are helping CLD staff to understand how they are meeting learners needs. Multiply leaders are beginning to use a management information system to monitor and track progress. Although at an early stage, the partnership approach to grant funding through Connected Communities has the potential to be a useful resource to fund, monitor and evaluate a range of CLD interventions.

Delivered in partnership with local organisations and schools, a wide range of flexibly delivered programmes in local communities are enhancing the life chances for participants. Staff use the Community Sports Hub programme to bring about positive changes for underrepresented groups using sport and physical activity. A strong partnership with local organisations including the Young Men's Christian Association is helping with the co-design and co-delivery of projects such as 'The Welcoming' for New Scots and a women and girls only group. The WALLT youth work staff are now working more directly with local schools. Although at an early stage, this is helping to develop a more consistent approach to meeting young people's needs, including support for mental health. The Chill and Chat project is helping to alleviate poverty in an area of high deprivation through the provision of family meals and signposting families to appropriate support.

A few learning programmes offer accredited learning pathways. For example, young people involved in the Scottish Youth Parliament gained a Participative Democracy Certificate. A few parents working with the WALLT family learning team have successfully completed the Scottish Qualifications Authority Childcare course. Screen Education Edinburgh provides helpful opportunities for young people and adults who live in areas of multiple deprivation within

Edinburgh to access and engage in film making and film education training programmes. A very well-developed learner pathway is meeting the needs and aspirations of all learners and increasing their confidence, wellbeing, attainment. The majority of learners are progressing to further and higher education or into employment in media.

Areas for development

CLD partners do not yet understand and evaluate fully the impact of their work. This area requires significant improvement. There is no systematic approach to collating or using data to inform planning for improvement. Similarly, arrangements to monitor, track and report on progress towards achievement of the CLD plan are not systematic or consistent. As a result, there is the potential for duplication of effort by CLD partners. Strategic leaders now need to work with partners to address these aspects to ensure that best use is made of shared resources.

CLD programmes do not link sufficiently to CLD planned priorities. As a result, CLD staff and partners are not clear about how their work contributes to strategic outcomes or meets learner needs. Learners would benefit from a consistent learning offer that is targeted to those most in need that includes clear progression pathways and opportunities for accreditation. Whilst existing learners are asked about their preferences within classes, such as topics they wish to cover, there is no consistent approach to measuring the impact of learning programmes on learners and their aspirations. There is scope to expand further learner negotiated programmes to develop opportunities for learners to become co-producers and co-deliverers of provision.

3. Main points for action

The following main points for action are required.

- As a matter of urgency, the local authority and its partners should strengthen the leadership and governance of CLD in line with legislative requirements.
- Senior leaders should engage further with communities and stakeholders to help inform priorities for the new CLD plan.
- The approach to community development needs to lead to the identification of clear outcomes, which are embedded within the future CLD plan.
- The local authority and its partners should strengthen approaches to the systematic tracking, monitoring and reporting of progress against CLD priorities.

4. What happens next?

The local authority and their CLD partners are not making sufficient progress with their CLD plan. HM Inspectors have identified important areas requiring improvement. As a result, we will visit the local authority again within one year of the publication of this report to evaluate progress made by the local authority and their CLD partners in addressing these areas.

Andrea McMillan
HM Inspector
2 April 2024

Community Learning and Development Further Inspection following Progress Visit

The City of Edinburgh Council

22 April 2025

1. Context

HM Inspectors visited The City of Edinburgh Council to undertake a community learning and development (CLD) further inspection during March 2025. During the visit, we talked to learners and community representatives, CLD leaders, managers, staff, and volunteers, and other key stakeholders. HM Inspectors evaluated the progress made by the local authority and their partners on the main areas for improvement from the original Progress Visit.

Main points for action

- As a matter of urgency, the local authority and its partners should strengthen the leadership and governance of CLD in line with legislative requirements.
- Senior leaders should engage further with communities and stakeholders to help inform priorities for the new CLD plan.
- The approach to community development needs to lead to the identification of clear outcomes, which are embedded within the future CLD plan.
- The local authority and its partners should strengthen approaches to the systematic tracking, monitoring and reporting of progress against CLD priorities.

2. Findings from the further inspection

Areas of positive progress

CLD is now an integral part of the Chief Executive and The City of Edinburgh Council's vision for delivering services in the community. Edinburgh's CLD Plan (2024-27) sets out well, the direction of travel for CLD. There is now a clearer focus on early intervention, prevention and addressing inequality. This reflects the ambitions of wider council plans. A refreshed CLD partnership has updated their terms of reference and has added new members. Governance of and reporting on CLD activity is strengthened. Members of the CLD partnership are clear about their role in overseeing the CLD plan and work together to do so. This is having a positive impact. For example, collaboration between members is leading to enhanced employability pathways for learners.

CLD leaders now regularly engage with communities and learners to understand their views. This approach, including a comprehensive learner survey, helped to inform year one of the current CLD plan. Through the Edinburgh Youth Action network, young people are supported effectively to develop their participation in social and community issues. Although at an early stage, there is a clear pathway to develop the network as a route for the CLD partnership to better engage with young people. The recently implemented Adult Learning Forum is beginning to be an opportunity for learners to share their views and to influence the delivery of CLD services.

Community development is more clearly embedded within the CLD plan. Targets for community development work are included in the plan and clearer support is in place to identify needs and support communities. The Community Engagement and Empowerment Team's current focus is on supporting community centre management committees and the commissioning and distribution of small grants to local organisations. The streamlining of the main grants programme is resulting in a more equitable system with robust monitoring arrangements. As a result, programmes target those most in need.

A more systematic approach to self-evaluation is helping Wider Achievement and Lifelong Learning (WA&LL) staff to embed it within programme arrangements. Effective tracking and monitoring with the WA&LL team ensures that programmes are better aligned to CLD and council priorities. The data helps CLD managers to allocate services based on needs and to track progress against targets. For example, the equalities data developed for the Active Schools programme is now being used by other team members to review where they place their services. This helps ensure that resources are targeted appropriately. The range of awards available to learners has broadened and an increased number of learners are achieving accredited awards.

Areas for development

Collective decision-making by the CLD partnership is at an early stage and not yet sufficiently well developed to fully support the delivery of CLD. There remains a need to strengthen their capacity to govern CLD successfully.

Further engagement with communities and young people is required. The planned implementation of the Adult Learning Forum and the development of the Edinburgh Youth Action network have the potential to be important vehicles for learners to shape future CLD priorities.

3. What happens next?

Since the original Progress Visit, the local authority and their CLD partners are making positive progress and have the capacity to continue to improve. As a result, HM Inspectors will take no further action in relation to this further inspection.

Andrea McMillan

HM Inspector

22 April 2025



THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

EDINBURGH COMMUNITY LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

Year 1 Achievements

2025

CLD Partnership Annual Report

Overall ECLDP Successes

- A strong Partnership has been re-established with a committed Membership.
- A coherent plan has been devised and statutory duties are being met.

Community Development

- A multi-agency Community Development working group has been established within Year 1.
- Community Development Working group has devised a menu of support and resources that Community Centre Management Committees are able to draw upon for support.
- A wider offer can now be made to Management Committees due to partnership working through the Community Development Working Group.
- The inclusion of Team Around Community work within ECLDP has supported this emerging model, recognition that principles of TAC align with CLD principles.
- A focus for ECLDP on the Transformation and Improvement programme has enabled ECLDP to be anchored into wider Strategic Partnership discussions and elevated the profile and role of ECLDP.

Youth Work

- Delivery of Countylines and Criminal Exploitation training between Police and third sector aimed at youth workers.

This training will support me in what to look out for and feel confident in taking the right steps forward to ensure the safety of the child or young person.



I will now be able to participate in discussions with my team and be more aware of potential risks to children and how to approach different situations.

Participant feedback from 'Child Exploitation Awareness' training, Tuesday 4 March 2025.

- The Collaborative Enquiries completed in Craigroyston, Liberton and Gracemount Learning Communities, supporting children, young people and family voice to contribute to Team Around Community developments.
- Delivery of Youth Awards through City of Edinburgh Council and voluntary sector.

257 Youth Awards have been delivered within Year 1.

Through participation in the awards young people develop skills for learning, life and work.

Stronger communication skills

Improved self esteem

Enhanced teamwork

Strong friendships

New skills

- An extensive training and capacity building offer has been provided for youth and children's work sector. This training offer has included ECLD Partners i.e. NHS Lothian and Police.



These courses included:

Mentors of Violence Prevention

Supporting Children at Risk of Exploitation

United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child

Healthy Respect: Relationships, sexual health and parenthood)

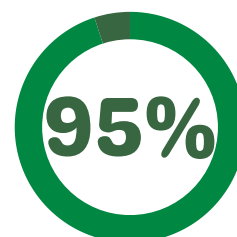
"It was amazing hearing people with lived experience share their story! It was an informative and enjoyable session."

"Knowing the policies and procedures will allow me to make informed decisions and be more confident in my practice."

"I will take away a lot of great and helpful ideas for connecting with the young people I work with and understanding their needs better."

Recent feedback regarding training courses at LAYC.

Participants report increase in skills, knowledge and confidence



Adult & Family Learning

- Strengthening of the ESOL Sector through development of the ESOL Providers Forum and the ESOL Strategic Group
- Capital City Partnership has secured an additional £200,000 to enable third sector providers to deliver increased ESOL Employability provision
- A Family Learning Collaboration has been established and is developing a citywide mapping of family learning provision, to identify gaps and opportunities
- Whole Family Wellbeing has coordinated access to Peep Learning Together and Peep Progression Pathways training for all partners
- Accredited learning has been increased in collaboration with Multiply and Edinburgh College.
- City of Edinburgh Council Wider Achievement & Lifelong Learning increased accredited adult learning outcomes for adult learners
- ECLDP Adult and Family Learning Sub Group has considered ways to strengthen learning pathways, with links to employability. This conversation is ongoing
- Initial meeting of the ECLDP Adult Literacies Sub Group has taken place



THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

Adopted Term	Proposed Definitions for the EP	Examples from across the EP
Primary Prevention	<p>Stopping problems happening in the first place.</p> <p>Primary Prevention addresses the root cause of poor outcomes and inequalities.</p> <p>Activities may focus on the general population (universal) or a specific population (e.g. those living in a specific area, vulnerable populations/individuals or those sharing a protected characteristic).</p> <p>Activities may include improving access to, and engagement with, environments & resources that strengthen the capacity of individuals and communities to prevent or reduce risk factors and build resilience.</p>	<p>EP examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Income maximisation Employability support <p>Other examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sexual health education, Employability, Vaccination
Early Intervention	<p>Reducing the negative impact of an emerging issue and/or stopping problems getting worse when they first occur.</p> <p>Activities seek to address emerging issues at an early stage, before they trigger a crisis response.</p> <p>Activities will likely focus on specific populations/individuals but should still aim to be inclusive and accessible to all those with a specific need.</p> <p>Activities should include assessing & preventing/intervening in problems which might be broader than the specific issues the individual is seeking help (presenting) with.</p>	<p>EP examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teams around the Community (TAC) <p>Other examples:</p>
Mitigation	<p>Managing issues/problems well, after they have arisen.</p> <p>Activities include intensive support services and potentially crisis support services as/ when required.</p> <p>This includes ensuring that individuals are supported with prevention or Early intervention in relation to other potential challenges.</p>	<p>EP examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cash First <p>Other examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management of L/T conditions



THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

End Poverty in Edinburgh & Edinburgh Plan (LOIP) Annual Progress Report

1. Executive Summary

This report provides the fifth annual overview on progress made by Edinburgh Partnership members in response to the calls to action made by the Edinburgh Poverty Commission. It also provides a refreshed framework of priorities for action by the Council and partners during 2026, aligning with the Edinburgh Poverty Commission's 2025 calls to action.

For the first time, this report also provides an annual progress report against delivery of the Edinburgh Community Plan (LOIP) for 2022-28.

2. Recommendations

2.1 The Board is recommended to:

- i. Note the actions carried out by partners to prevent and help people move out of poverty in Edinburgh and to delivery on the priorities of Edinburgh's Local Outcome Improvement Plan
- ii. Note the findings of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission (EPC) 2025 update report, and thanks the members of the Commission and End Poverty Edinburgh for their work in leading this update
- iii. Agree that EPC calls to action will be embedded in the LOIP refresh
- iv. Agree to ask all Strategic Partnership to consider and report to the board during 2026 on the work they are carrying out to embed EPC actions into partnership delivery plans
- v. Agree, in support of this work, to invite all Strategic Partnership chairs and lead officers to meet with EPC and the End Poverty Edinburgh Citizen's Group
- vi. Agree that actions arising from this work will be built into next year's annual report.

3. Main Report

Poverty in Edinburgh

- 3.1 The latest available data shows that an estimated 17% of people in Edinburgh were living in poverty in 2024, including 20% of all children. That represents 89,000 people in total, including 18,000 children.

- 3.2 In October 2025, the [Edinburgh Poverty Commission](#) published an update to its inquiry on the causes of and solutions to poverty in Edinburgh. The Commission found that:
- 3.2.1 Like Scotland as a whole, Edinburgh is not yet on track to meet its headline target to reduce poverty rates to 10% by 2030,
 - 3.2.2 Meeting those poverty targets means lifting 36,000 people, including 8,000 children, out of poverty in the city by 2030
 - 3.2.3 These targets are challenging, but data modelling shows that they remain achievable
 - 3.2.4 The experience of poverty has become more severe and more complex for many people in Edinburgh over the past five years
 - 3.2.5 This increasing complexity is due in large part factors outwith the direct influence of partners in the city - including continuing effects of the covid pandemic, the cost-of-living crisis, and increasing pressures on the local services on which people in poverty depend.
 - 3.2.6 There is no solution to poverty in Edinburgh without significant investment and policy changes from the national Governments - particularly on matters relating to housing and social security policy.
 - 3.2.7 But that national policies will not meet their own targets without corresponding change from "the local public sector bodies, employers, and third sector organisations which hold the relationships needed to make an impact on the lives of individual people in poverty"

Progress during 2025

- 3.3 The Commission's update and this report provide evidence of progress made by local partners against the framework of actions outlined in the End Poverty in Edinburgh Delivery Plan and the Edinburgh Community Plan for 2022-28.
- 3.4 This progress includes continued delivery of critical pieces of the city's end poverty infrastructure - including the housing emergency action plan, employability support, income maximisation support, and others - as well as progress in strategic change programmes needed to make long term, sustainable improvements.
- 3.5 Key examples of progress delivered in the past year include:
- 3.5.1 Almost £26m generated for low income people in Edinburgh through money and welfare advice services delivered or commissioned by members of the Edinburgh Advice Partnership.
 - 3.5.2 Helped Edinburgh citizens access £203m through locally administered benefits such as housing benefit, DHP, and Council Tax Reduction; and

£2.8m in Crisis Grants and Community Care Grants to people in need of support across Edinburgh.

- 3.5.3 Supported 5,099 people into work and learning, including over 1,638 young people through programmes managed by the Edinburgh Local Employability Partnership
- 3.5.4 Delivered early intervention support to prevent 1,735 households from homelessness and supported 579 households to move on from temporary accommodation
- 3.5.5 Used data led approaches to help people on low incomes maximise take up of entitlements - including helping older people in Edinburgh access over £600,000 in additional Pension Credit payments
- 3.5.6 Began partnership wide strategic change programmes to improve the resilience and sustainability of third sector organisations and support local poverty prevention activities.

Priorities for 2026

- 3.6 In October 2025, the Edinburgh Poverty Commission made a call for the City of Edinburgh Council and Edinburgh Partnership to review the Commission's findings and embed them within strategic and budget decision making processes.
- 3.7 Towards this, a first priority for partners in 2026 will be to:
 - 3.7.1 Embed the Commission's updated calls to action within a refreshed Edinburgh Partnership Local Outcome Improvement Plan by spring 2026, and
 - 3.7.2 Embed the Commission's calls to action within the work programmes of all Strategic Partnerships.
- 3.8 These work programmes will incorporate responses to the Commission's specific calls to action on critical issues such as Housing, Employability, Health and Wellbeing, and Education.
- 3.9 They will also incorporate responses to the cross-cutting priority actions identified by the Commission, including:
 - 3.9.1 Delivering the city's plans for five Neighbourhood Prevention Partnerships, as part of a city-wide poverty prevention programme.
 - 3.9.2 Completing the Review of Support for the Third Sector, to provide sustainable funding for voluntary and third sector partners
 - 3.9.3 Further embedding the voices of people with lived experience of poverty within decision making and design of the services they depend on, including continued work with the End Poverty Edinburgh Citizen's Group.
 - 3.9.4 Improving the availability and accessibility of affordable childcare in Edinburgh.



- 3.9.5 Developing partnership wide Community Wealth Building approaches to maximise the impact that local anchor institutions can have on their communities.
- 3.9.6 Improving digital inclusion, and access to skills and devices needed to maintain a minimum digital standard of living.
- 3.9.7 Improving access to ESOL training, translation, and interpretation support across a range of services.
- 3.9.8 Improving the quality and use of data to shape and evaluate the impact of poverty prevention and mitigation actions.
- 3.9.9 Developing partnership wide approaches to ensure people, particularly children, in poverty in Edinburgh have access to affordable, healthy food, and lower exposure to advertising and sales of health harming products including tobacco, vaping, alcohol, gambling, and foods high in fat/sugar/salt.

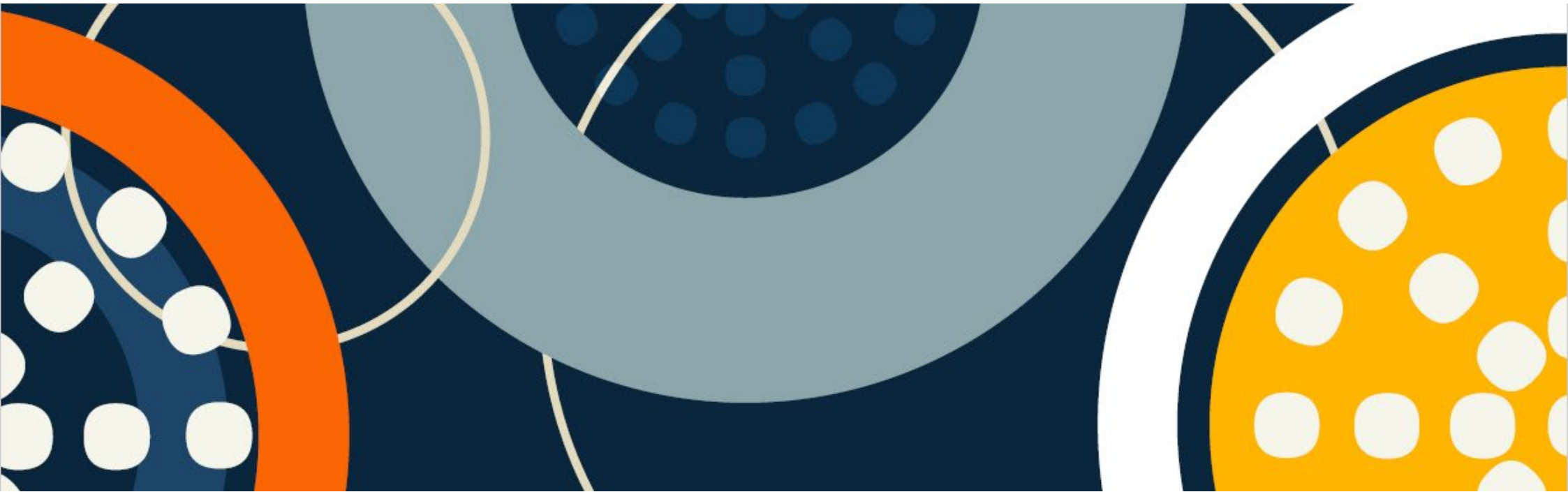
4. Contact

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Appendix 1 – End Poverty in Edinburgh Annual Progress Report

End Poverty in Edinburgh Annual Progress Report

2025



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Foreword

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

And it is the first report since the Edinburgh Poverty Commission published its 2025 update on its inquiry into the causes of and solutions to poverty in Edinburgh.

The findings of that update were both sobering and encouraging.

The Commission found that Edinburgh, like Scotland as a whole, is not yet on track to meet its 2030 targets. They found that, for people who live in poverty, not enough has changed in the past five years. And they found that the experience of poverty in this city has, for too many, become more complex, more severe, and more difficult to escape from. We face higher rates of destitution than we did five years ago, more people in temporary accommodation, and higher demands on all the public and third sector services which work to help people in poverty.

Those findings are a reminder of the challenges we face, and how important it is that we take every local action we can to improve the lives of people who are struggling to get by in Scotland's most wealthy city. And we are encouraged by the examples the Commission found of good practice already happening in the city to do just that.

In this report we show evidence of actions that have been delivered in the past twelve months, and the work we plan to do over the next year to continue our response to the Commission's calls to action.

This annual report shows that the city's money and welfare advice teams have helped put another £26m into the pockets of low income households in

Edinburgh in the past year and have done so while testing new approaches to using data and online tools to make it easier for people to access their entitlements.

The city's employability and skills teams have helped 5,100 people into work and learning, while providing intensive support to families affected by disabilities, and to people from black and minority ethnic communities.

And in the midst of a housing crisis, the city's homelessness prevention teams have delivered early intervention support to prevent 1,700 households from homelessness and helped almost 600 households to move on from temporary accommodation.

These are the kinds of interventions that transform lives and make for a better city, and they demonstrate the impact that local services can have when they are provided by effective partnerships between national governments, local public sector bodies, and local third sector organisations.

Over the next five years the Edinburgh Poverty Commission have left us a new challenge – to make the most of the powers we have as anchor institutions in Edinburgh, to increase the pace and scale of delivery of actions against poverty, to improve the sustainability and resilience of those actions, and to reform the way they are delivered in small communities across the city.

We accept these challenges and are committed to embedding the Commission's calls to action within our local outcome improvement plans, and across all the actions we take as partners over the coming years.

Councillor Jane Meagher
Council Leader, City of Edinburgh
Council & Chair, Edinburgh
Partnership

Susan Webb
Director of Public Health, NHS
Lothian & Vice Chair, Edinburgh
Partnership

Executive Summary

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

In doing so, this report fulfils statutory requirements for the Council and NHS Lothian to co-produce an annual Local Child Poverty Report on actions to meet Scottish Government child poverty targets. It also provides the annual progress report for the Edinburgh Partnership's Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP), reflecting the overlap between the goal of reducing child poverty and the LOIP priorities of ensuring those in the city have 'enough money to live on', 'access to education, training and employment', and 'a good place to live'.

Poverty in Edinburgh

The latest available data shows that an estimated 17% of people in Edinburgh were living in poverty in 2024, including 20% of all childrenⁱ. That represents 89,000 people in total, including more than 18,000 children.

The [Edinburgh Poverty Commission's 2025 update report](#) found that:

- Like Scotland as a whole, Edinburgh is not yet on track to meet its headline target to reduce poverty rates to 10% by 2030, and that
- Meeting those poverty targets means lifting 36,000 people, including 8,000 children, out of poverty in the city by 2030.

Edinburgh is one of few local authorities in Scotland not to have seen a drop in child poverty rates after housing costs since the full rollout of the Scottish Child Paymentⁱⁱ. This is most likely due to the high cost of housing in Edinburgh, with some evidence showing that poverty levels before housing costs have fallen slightly in the most recent period covered by data.

The experience of poverty has become more severe and more complex for many people. The proportion of people in Edinburgh who are destitute – i.e.

had to go without basic essentials such as food, shelter, heat, light, clothing and toiletries – rose by 15% between 2019 and 2023ⁱⁱⁱ. At the same time, levels of persistent poverty – measuring the length of time people remain on low incomes – have risen in the most recent period for which data is available.

In its 2025 report, the Commission concluded that

- This increasing complexity is due in large part factors outwith the direct influence of partners in the city – including continuing effects of the covid pandemic, the cost of living crisis, and increasing pressures on the local services on which people in poverty depend.
- There is no solution to poverty in Edinburgh without significant investment and policy changes from the national Governments – particularly on matters relating to housing and social security policy.
- But that national policies will not meet their own targets without matching change from “*the local public sector bodies, employers, and third sector organisations which hold the relationships needed to make an impact on the lives of individual people in poverty*”.

For too many people in poverty, the Commission found that not enough has changed in the past five years since its initial report. At the same time, they concluded that:

- *Edinburgh “can lay claim to some of the best and most innovative examples of action to end poverty taking place anywhere in Scotland. We are convinced that because of those actions... poverty in Edinburgh today is lower than it otherwise would be, and that many thousands of lives in this city are better off because of them.”*

This report provides a summary of the actions that have been delivered by partners in the past 12 months as part of this work, the outcomes achieved, and the priority actions for the next 12 months that are being developed in response to the findings of the Commission's 2025 update report.

Actions to end poverty in Edinburgh

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

1. Increase income from work and opportunity to progress:

This includes actions this year to:

- Promote the **real Living Wage**, with the number of accredited employers in the city rising to 790. **Living Wage accredited employers now account for around 50% of all jobs in Edinburgh**, while the proportion of workers who earn below a real Living Wage in Edinburgh has halved in the past 5 years.
- Support **5,100 people into work and learning, including over 1,600 young people** through Council funded employability programmes as well as continuing to offer targeted employability programmes to support people to access employment within the NHS
- Provide targeted employability support for people from child poverty priority groups, including over **700 people from ethnically diverse backgrounds**, and **nearly 500 people from families with a disabled child or adult**, with a shift this year to providing more intensive support to a smaller number of families
- Support social enterprises to be able to operate on NHS premises
- Improve **literacy, numeracy, and attainment** levels for pupils in the most deprived areas of Edinburgh
- Deliver and develop **Discover! And Chill n Chat** for families with children at risk of poverty, including term time programmes in addition to school holiday support

2. Maximise support from social safety nets: This includes actions this year that have:

- Helped around **26,500 low income people** in Edinburgh achieve total financial gains of almost **£26m** through money and welfare

advice services, including continued funding for welfare advice provision within primary care, hospital settings and Family Nurse Partnership services

- Invested £1m from Council reserves to provide continued support for organisation providing income maximisation services
- Using a data sharing agreement with DWP, delivered a Pension Credit uptake campaign, which provided an average of **£5k per year to 132 people**
- Delivered **£203m** for Edinburgh citizens through locally administered benefits such as housing benefit, DHP, and Council Tax Reduction
- Delivered **£1.6m in Crisis Grants** and **£1.2m in Community Care Grants** to people in need of support across Edinburgh
- Delivered early intervention support **to prevent 1,735 households from homelessness** and **supported 579 households to move on from temporary accommodation**

3. Reduce the cost of living: This includes local actions this year that have:

- Refreshed the **Housing Emergency Action Plan** focused on reducing homelessness, improving access to housing and housing advice, improving the supply and quality of housing across the city, preventing harm and improving the experience of tenants in Council housing
- Completed **1,135 new affordable homes** in Edinburgh, including **281 new Council homes**, and **299 other social rented homes**
- Commissioned [Energy Advice Service](#) for Council tenants supported 1,621 tenants to make around £305,000 of financial savings
- Provide **subsidised childcare places** for working families in four areas of the city through Edinburgh's Affordable Childcare for Working Parents service

4. Make it easier to find help: This includes local actions taken this year to:

- Begin a long term programme to develop a new structure of **Neighbourhood Prevention Partnerships** to help make it easier for people to find the support they need in their local area.
- Secure almost £300k of Scottish Government Fairer Futures Partnership funding to support this work.
- Begin engagement and long-term planning with Edinburgh Partnership to ensure the **sustainability and resilience of the third sector** in Edinburgh
- Complete initial stages and recruit a first cohort of organisations to benefit from the new **Regenerative Futures Fund**, a third sector led programme bringing £15m of new investment to help end poverty in Edinburgh over the next decade
- Deliver six projects through the **Whole Family Wellbeing Fund** including those to improve access to childcare and youth work opportunities as well as providing access to more holistic early support to reduce the need for crisis interventions
- Work with **Smart Data Foundry** and **DataLoch** to use data driven approaches to help identify people who may benefit from targeted financial inclusion support

Priority Actions for 2026

In its 2025 update report, published in October 2025, the Edinburgh Poverty Commission made a call for the City of Edinburgh Council and Edinburgh Partnership to review the Commission's findings and embed them within strategic and budget decision making processes.

Towards this, a first priority for partners in 2026 will be to:

- Embed the Commission's updated calls to action within a refreshed Edinburgh Partnership Local Outcome Improvement Plan by spring 2026, and

- Refresh and update the Council actions within this End Poverty Delivery Plan.
- These refreshed approaches will incorporate responses to the Commission's specific calls to action on Housing, Employability, Health and Wellbeing, and Education.

They will also incorporate responses to the cross-cutting priority actions identified by the Commission, including:

- Delivering the city's plans for five **Neighbourhood Prevention Partnerships**, as part of a city-wide poverty prevention programme.
- Completing the **Review of Support for the Third Sector**, to provide sustainable funding for voluntary and third sector partners
- Further embedding the **voices of people with lived experience of poverty** within decision making and design of the services they depend on, including continued work with the **End Poverty Edinburgh Citizen's Group**.
- Developing partnership wide **Community Wealth Building** approaches to maximise the impact that local anchor institutions can have on their communities.
- Improving the **availability and accessibility of affordable childcare in Edinburgh**.
- Improving digital inclusion, and access to skills and devices needed to maintain a **minimum digital standard of living**.
- Improving access to **ESOL training, translation and interpretation** support across a range of services.
- Improving the quality and **use of data to shape and evaluate** the impact of poverty prevention and mitigation actions.
- Developing partnership wide approaches to ensure people, particularly children, in poverty in Edinburgh have **access to affordable, healthy food**, and **lower exposure to advertising and sales of health harming products** including tobacco, vaping, alcohol, gambling, and foods high in fat, sugar and salt.

END POVERTY EDINBURGH CITIZEN GROUP - REFLECTIONS

After the publication of the original Edinburgh Poverty Commission report in 2020, End Poverty Edinburgh (EPE) were tasked with carrying the baton within a movement to end poverty in the city; to spread awareness of poverty, influence decision making, and “hold the city to account”. Now five years later, having reached the crucial midway point in the journey to those 2030 targets, they have just co-produced the follow up, [2025 Update: Actions to End Poverty in Edinburgh](#).

To contribute to this report, EPE took part in hundreds of conversations, learning a lot more about the poverty landscape in Edinburgh. This involved meeting many inspirational people and groups, which strengthened hope that it is still possible to eradicate poverty from Scotland’s capital city. EPE members may not be “professionals” in the same sense that the original Edinburgh Poverty Commissioners, but they are most definitely qualified to sit at the same table due to their in-depth knowledge of the impact that poverty can have on the lives of people and families in their communities.

EPE say that at every meeting they attended – be that with community groups or with the Council Leader and Directors, they have been treated as equal partners and shown respect. Their lived experience has been included in decision making, and their views and opinions have been taken on board. This itself shows some of the positive progress EPE have witnessed, not just in this review, but over the past five years. It is a practice they believe is important to continue implementing in anti-poverty measures, be that with them or other lived experience panels. EPE believe that involving lived experience in the decision-making process is crucial, as they have personal experience of the reality of poverty and its impact, making them well positioned to suggest alternative solutions or approaches. As they say, they’re all trying to reach the same aim, to eradicate poverty, and seeing this involvement more regularly taking place is overwhelmingly positive.

During this review process, the group have seen some fantastic examples of collaborative working which are starting to make an impact, albeit it on a small scale. For example, they visited organisations successfully implementing “one-stop-shop” approaches – a concept they’ve advocated for a long time, and this appears to be working well. Efforts of the third sector are highly commendable, and truly inspirational at times. However, EPE have also heard some quite distressing stories of the impacts and effects of poverty on families, as well as the frustrations of the agencies and people who are trying to help them. This can be due to multiple obstacles like staff shortages, funding, silo working between departments and agencies; it must sometimes feel like one step forward and then one step back.

Certainly, poverty still has a grip on our city, and urgent action is still needed. No one should have to go without basic essentials, such as a safe and healthy home. No one should be forced into choosing between food and warmth. No one should be working long and stressful days, yet still unable to pay their bills or live a dignifying and fulfilling life. The injustice of poverty is still as prevalent as when the group formed five years ago, and as the 2025 update report finds, meeting Edinburgh’s poverty targets means lifting 36,000 people, including 8,000 children, out of poverty in this city by 2030.

Clearly then, it can be so easy to look at poverty, housing, health, employment statistics, and so on, and feel deflated and disheartened. Despite these harsh realities, the city has made a commitment to eradicating poverty and *are* moving forward. End Poverty Edinburgh welcome this update, and commends the progress made. However, with the current state of poverty and trajectory we’re on, EPE demand further and consistent action that can build on small areas of progress and gain momentum. Ultimately, EPE believe poverty will be eradicated from our city, but only with immediate, continuous and significant action from all involved.

Strategic Context

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

This commitment was made in response to the findings of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission which has now conducted two independent inquiries into the causes of and solutions to poverty in Edinburgh – publishing its first report in 2020, with a further 2025 update published earlier this year.



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

In making its calls to action, the Edinburgh Poverty Commission^{iv} noted that:

“Ending poverty does not mean Edinburgh becoming a city in which no one ever loses a job or experiences a period of their life on low income.

But it does mean Edinburgh being a city where living on a low income is temporary, not a persistent trap, and does mean not having to go without food, or warmth, or safety.

And it means Edinburgh becoming a city where the number of people experiencing low income at any given time falls to a level comparable with the highest performing societies in Europe.”

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

- **Fewer than 10% of children and fewer than 10% of adults are living in relative poverty at any given time**

- **No-one lives in persistent poverty**
- **No one has to go without the basic essentials they need to eat, keep clean and safe, and stay warm and dry, and**
- **No one feels stigmatised, abandoned, or treated with less respect by the city as a result of their income.**

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

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

This fifth annual progress report reflects the Commission’s findings and calls to action for the next five years. It sets out:

- An overview of the latest data and evidence on changing trends in poverty in Edinburgh
- A review of actions delivered in 2025 by the Council, NHS Lothian, and the Edinburgh Partnership across each of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission calls to action, as well as
- Planned priority actions for partners during the next 12 months, building on and reflecting the findings of the Commission

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

The report also provides the annual overview of progress against the Edinburgh Partnership’s Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP). Actions to deliver its three priority areas align directly with the those reported here as part of the End Poverty in Edinburgh (EPE) Delivery Plan:

LOIP Priority 1 Enough money to live on	LOIP Priority 2 Access to work, learning and training	LOIP Priority 3 A good place to live
EPE Delivery Plan actions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maximise uptake of entitlements• Support in a crisis• Support for energy costs• Homelessness prevention	EPE Delivery Plan actions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fair work• Support to get and progress in work• Attainment, achievement, and positive destinations• Affordable childcare	EPE Delivery Plan actions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Decent, affordable homes• Digital inclusion• Accessible transport
EPE Delivery Plan – cross-cutting actions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No wrong door to support• Prevention and early intervention		

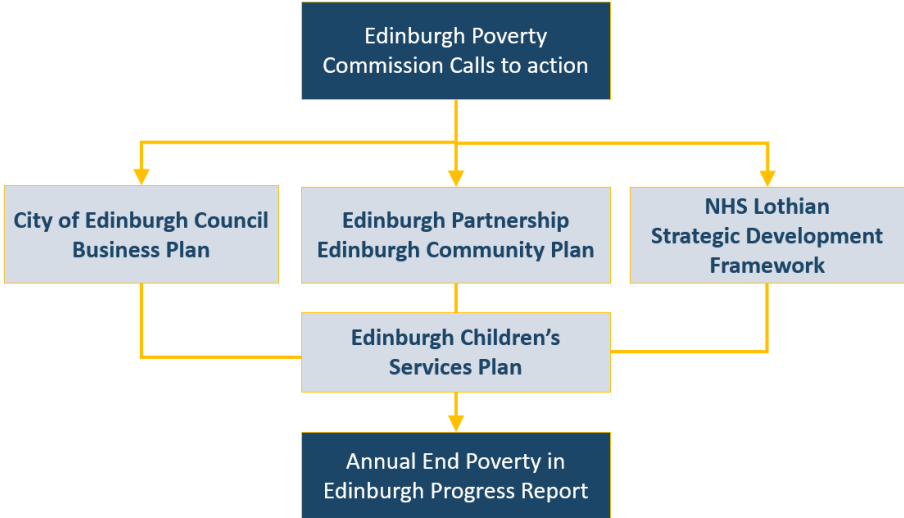
Strategic context

These local targets to end poverty and the actions needed to deliver them are embedded throughout the strategic plans and governance frameworks of the Edinburgh Partnership, the City of Edinburgh Council, and NHS Lothian. This report draws these end poverty actions together into a single plan, updated

every year. The report aims to provide a single, comprehensive view of the steps being taken across the city in response to the challenge and calls to action set by the Edinburgh Poverty Commission.

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

Before submission to Scottish Government, in line with the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act, the report is scrutinized by relevant committees of Edinburgh Partnership, City of Edinburgh Council, and NHS Lothian.



The **Edinburgh Partnership Community Plan for 2022-28** drives partnership-wide actions needed to end poverty, including actions to ensure people have enough money to live on, can access work, learning and training opportunities, and have a good place to live. This plan is currently being refreshed and will take account of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission’s 2025 findings.

The **Edinburgh Children's Services Plan for 2023-26**, provides a focus on tackling child poverty and ensuring that all of Edinburgh's children and young people enjoy their childhood and achieve their potential. The next iteration of the plan is under development. Priority areas will continue to include actions to end child poverty in the city.

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

The **NHS Lothian Strategic Development Framework** (LSDF) sets out the role the NHS plays as an Anchor Institution in the region as being "*central to our contribution towards improving population health and wellbeing and tackling poverty and inequalities*". The LSDF also includes a focus on children and young people with workstreams focusing on improving maternal health and tackling poverty; infant and child health and wellbeing; adolescent health and wellbeing; and The Promise for children, young people, and their families.

CASE STUDY: YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S WORK

Universal youth work settings provide a dignified, non-stigmatising approach to mitigating the impact of poverty. [A study of the impact of youth work on Edinburgh](#) found that it can be substantial, providing places "where they felt safe, valued and supported, made positive choices and were better able to deal with the stresses and challenges of life".

The [Edinburgh Youth and Children's Work Strategy](#), 2023-2028 sets out eight priorities to 2028, including reducing inequality, tackling the impact of poverty, and closing the attainment gap. Examples included in the strategy show the range of approaches and the scope of provision:

- [Wester Hailes Youth Agency | Challenging Poverty | Resources | Education Scotland](#) is a case study about universal youth work organisation using a dignified approach to supporting young people impacted by poverty.
- [Reducing barriers to learning to improve attendance and learning outcomes](#) is a good practice case study involving the Council, Lothian Association of Youth Clubs (LAYC) and YouthLink Scotland, which takes a rights based approach using Pupil Equity Fund spend and working with partners to best support young people and reduce barriers to learning. Feedback from young people and parents has highlighted the difference that youth work can make to young people's wellbeing and engagement in learning.

Next steps will include continuing to seek meaningful and effective ways of engaging with young people so that they can help to shape and inform provision.

Poverty in Edinburgh: What the data tells us

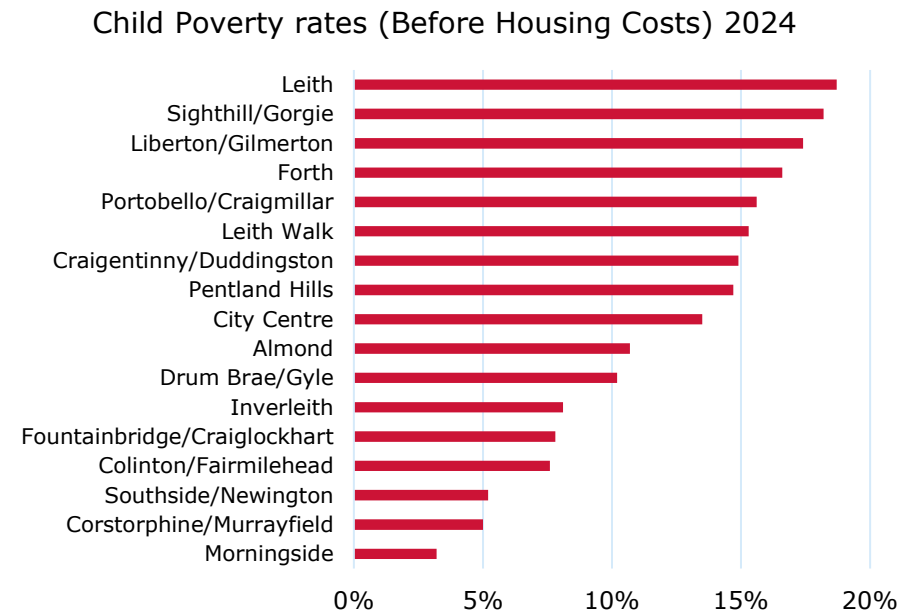
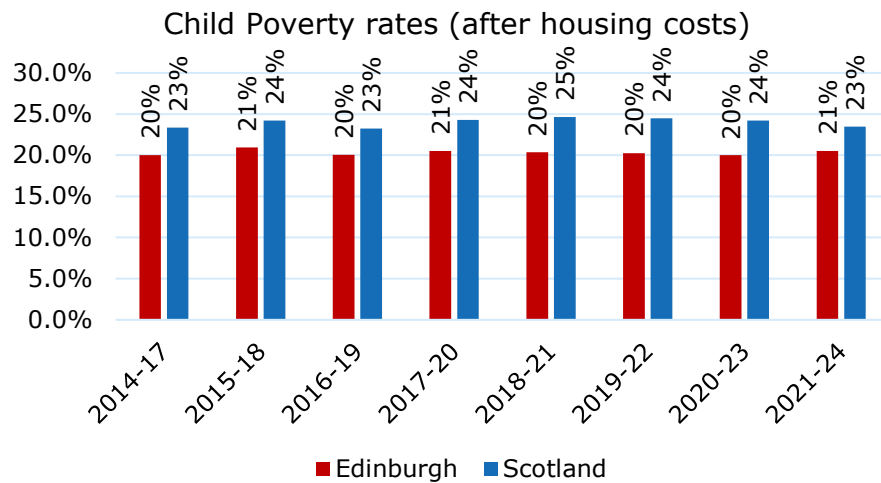
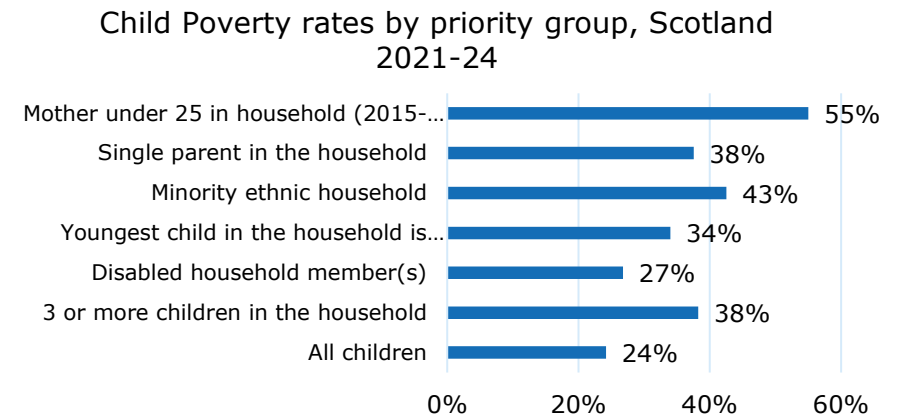
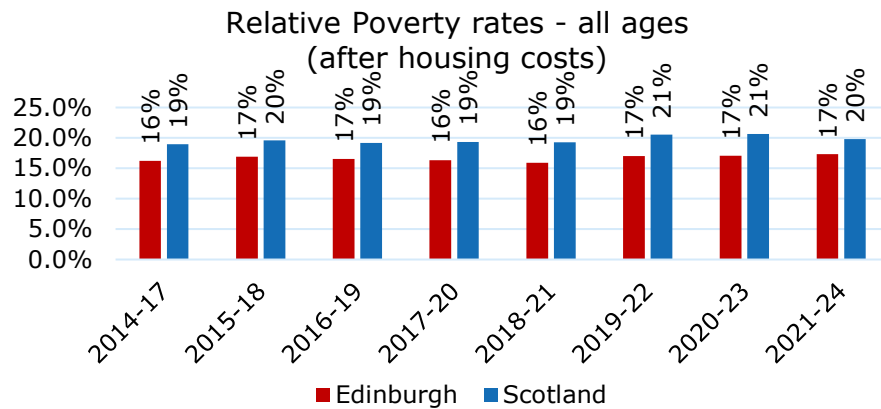
The Edinburgh Poverty Commission 2025 update provided a comprehensive data and literature review on current trends and evidence on poverty, its causes and drivers. Alongside this, The [Edinburgh Children's Services Plan 2023-26](#) includes an action to 'develop and enhance a data driven approach to child poverty action planning' with focus on the [six priority family types](#) at highest risk of child poverty.

This year, NHS Lothian have developed a base line data set with focus on children and young people most at risk of living with the effects of poverty, and have led work to complete a [Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for children and young people in Edinburgh](#) (JSNA). These will inform actions within the Children's Services Plan. Appendix 2b provides a detailed overview of child poverty in Edinburgh.

In summary, the data shows that:

- An estimated **17% of people** in Edinburgh were living in poverty in the period to spring 2024, accounting for over 89,000 individuals^v.
- These included over 18,000 children, **or 20% of all children in the city**.
- **At least 12%** of all residents had been living in poverty for **three of the past four years**.
- To meet the headline targets set by Scottish Government and the Edinburgh Poverty Commission, requires **36,000 people, including 8,600 children to be lifted out of poverty over the 7 years from 2023-30 in Edinburgh alone**.
- This comes within a challenging macro-economic and policy environment in which child poverty rates across the UK are projected to **rise by 3 percentage points in the period to 2030**^{vi}.

- Long term trends show an increase in the severity of poverty across the UK. Rates of **very deep poverty and destitution rose by 15%** in Edinburgh between 2019 and 2022^{vii}.
- The city is still feeling the long-term effects of the covid pandemic and the cost of living crisis. As at October **2025 food prices in the UK are 57% higher, and electricity prices 48% higher than they were in September 2020**^{viii}, while median wages in Edinburgh have grown by only 21%^{ix}.
- Households in key priority groups show a heightened risk of poverty and destitution. Two thirds of all people in destitution have a long term **chronic health condition or disability**, while around 40% of all **lone parent or minority ethnic households** are in poverty.
- Child poverty rates vary significantly across areas Edinburgh. Data on the Before Housing Costs measure (significantly lower than the headline After Housing Costs measure used throughout this report) shows **rates varying by 16 percentage points between the lowest rated area in Morningside, and the highest in Leith**.
- The number of **open homeless cases** in Edinburgh is now almost double the level it was in 2020, with a **40% increase** in the time taken for a case to be closed. At the same time, a **40% increase in construction costs** has led to a slow down in the rate of new house building, alongside a reduction in Scottish Government grant funding for new affordable homes in 2024/25.
- The proportion of people earning less than a real Living Wage having halved in the past five years. Despite this **61% of people living in poverty are in a household where at least one adult is working**^x.



Actions to End Poverty in Edinburgh

“Against the odds, we have found enough determination in the city to believe that the original calls to action can still be achieved by 2030. Longer-term and flexible funding, true collaboration between sectors and new forms of accountability are required for these examples to achieve their real impact. This is a time for renewed commitment from those we elect at local, Scottish and UK levels, via investment in social housing, education, fair work, social security, equity in education, health and social care and a just transition. There is no sustainable route to ending poverty otherwise.”

Edinburgh Poverty Commission 2025 update

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

- **Calls to action for UK and Scottish Governments, and**
- **A framework for local action**

Calls to action for national governments

The Edinburgh Poverty Commission 2025 update demonstrated the powerful impact that national governments can have on poverty levels in the city.

The Commission found that:

- 38% of people exiting poverty do so while experiencing a rise in the benefits payments they were able to access
- Poverty rates in Scotland dropped by 1 percentage point in the most recent year, compared to no change across the UK – with this diversion corresponding with the introduction of the Scottish Child Payment (SCP)

- Policies implemented by Social Security Scotland through the roll out of SCP and the Adult Disability Payment, have been welcomed for treating people with dignity and respect, and for their commitment to embedding support for applicants in local communities, and
- Government investment in employability programmes provide a vital route of poverty for thousands of people in Edinburgh. 16-27% of people who lift out of poverty do so due to an increase in the number of workers in their household, or an increase in the number of people moving from part time to full time work

It is for these reasons that the Commission noted that:

- *“The response to poverty in Edinburgh needs to come from a strong and refreshed collaboration between governments - which hold the levers needed to tackle ... macro issues – and the local public sector bodies, employers, and third sector organisations – which hold the relationships needed to make an impact on the lives of individual people in poverty.”*

In particular, the Commission called for UK and Scottish Governments to:

- Provide the **funding stability and flexibility** local partners need to plan and deliver actions to end poverty in Edinburgh
- Provide the additional **investment needed to deliver at least Edinburgh’s planned pipeline of new homes** over the next five years, without which there is no pathway to meeting the Scottish Government’s child poverty targets
- Provide a social security system designed around a **minimum income guarantee** that allows everyone to live a dignified quality of life
- Deliver on commitments to strengthen **employment rights** and end exploitative zero hours contracts

- Provide sustained **investment in the employability and skills** support needed to help people stay in and return to work
- Deliver a **Scottish Childcare Guarantee** which make childcare affordable and accessible for everyone who needs it, and
- Expand **concessionary travel** to under 25s, unpaid carers and people on low-income and disability benefits

A framework for local delivery

“To end poverty in the city, the pre-condition and the single biggest transformation Edinburgh could achieve would be to make the experience of seeking help less painful and confusing more humane, and more compassionate.” **Edinburgh Poverty Commission 2025 update**

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

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

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

4. **Make it easier to find help** - this includes local actions to:

- Deliver integrated, ‘no wrong door’ approaches to service delivery and prevention of poverty
- Provide the support people need, in the places they live and work, and
- Deliver poverty awareness training programmes that addresses stigma and supports public sector workers to put prevention of poverty at the heart of everything they do.



The next chapter in this report provides an overview of progress against delivery of actions in this framework during the 12 months to the end of September 2025.

End Poverty in Edinburgh Delivery Plan: Progress during 2025

End Poverty in Edinburgh Delivery Plan

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

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

**Maximise
support from
social safety
nets**

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

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

**Reduce the cost
of living**

**Make it easier to
find help**

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

A: Increasing incomes from work and opportunities to progress

Action	Progress in 2025 and priorities for 2026
A1. Promoting fair work that provides dignity and security Supports LOIP 2	<p>Fair work that provides dignity and security was one of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission's calls to action following its 2025 interim review. While in-work poverty levels remain too high in Edinburgh, secure, well-paid work remains the best and most sustainable route out of poverty for most people.</p> <p>Progress during the last year</p> <p>1. Fair Work</p> <p>The Edinburgh Fair Work Action Group continued their work to raise the profile of Fair Work and increase take up of the Living Wage accreditation among Edinburgh employers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As of September 2025, there were 787 Living Wage employers in Edinburgh, collectively employing 219,373 workers and uplifting 13,405 workers onto the real Living Wage. So far, in the financial year 25-26 there have been 46 new Living Wage employers collectively employing 1,172 workers and uplifting 279 of those to the real Living Wage. There are now 18 Living Hours employers in Edinburgh, the second largest proportion for a local authority in Scotland. <p>2. Living Wage Employers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The City of Edinburgh Council is itself accredited with 93% of its regulated suppliers paying a real Living Wage and 34% being accredited Living Wage employers; we continue to highlight the benefits of being accredited to new and existing suppliers (procurement-annual-report-2025); and have undertaken further stakeholder engagement to support a new Edinburgh Fair Work Charter to provide guidance and support for employers and policy makers in the city. NHS Lothian is an accredited Living Wage Employer and all of the contracts it awarded during 2024-25 were with suppliers that are Real Living Wage Accredited or working towards this. <p>3. Supporting the community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council is working on its Community Wealth Building Plan for Edinburgh, which includes actions to further promote fair work and just labour markets. Scran Academy and Space@Broomhouse operate cafés in hospital sites as part of our NHS Lothian Anchor Institution hospital café programme, recognising the value a social enterprise can offer for patients, visitors and staff while supporting people to gain a foothold in the labour market. The Edinburgh and South East Scotland Community Benefits Portal has made 114 matches between suppliers and community-based projects, ensuring that locally-delivered projects and receiving benefit of large scale investment.

Action	Progress in 2025 and priorities for 2026
	<p>Priorities for 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish the Council's Community Wealth Building Plan and begin implementation • Continue work to investigate options for provision of catering in NHS Lothian sites in partnership with social enterprises.
<p>A2. Helping people to access and progress in work</p> <p>Supports LOIP 2</p>	<p>Edinburgh has a strong labour market, but many people struggle to find suitable employment or their work does not lift them out of poverty. Therefore, our focus has been not only supporting people into employment but supporting them into well-paid employment and to progress in employment. We also work alongside employers to ensure roles are inclusive, well-paid and fair.</p> <p>Progress during the last year</p> <p>1. General support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Edinburgh Guarantee continued to support people to access and progress in fair work, training or further education. • Council-funded programmes provided employability and skills support for 5,099 people, including 1,638 young people • A further 1,486 people were supported by UK government funded, Shared Prosperity Fund • We continued our support for people who are preparing to leave prison, along with the voluntary sector and Scottish Prison Service • We continued to support people who experience barriers to employment by delivering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Employer Recruitment Incentive: supporting employers to recruit 42 people (13 were parents in a priority family group) by giving up to 52 weeks of support for each person and employer to embed and sustain their employment b. The Job Creation Scheme which gave 42 people 6 months paid work experience within the council, 70% securing employment afterwards. c. The NHS Gateway Programme – 6 month supported and paid work placements for 15 people across NHS Lothian <p>2. Holistic support for parents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We increased the Council's Parental Employment Support (PES) team from 3 to 8 officers and continue to build partnerships with providers so that we can help people to overcome all of their barriers to employment e.g. family support and ESOL • We re-commissioned our support for families who need employability support, making sure that these new projects can support all their needs (e.g. money advice, immigration, trauma-informed practice, domestic abuse, flexible working and childcare) • We continue to offer a discretionary transition fund to support parents from the six priority family groups with costs of training, short-term childcare, PVGs, digital equipment, driving lessons and creche facilities; granting £55k for 66 applications • We promoted the support available to parents by hosting an event in North-East Edinburgh, attended by around 150 parents and children. We plan to replicate this in another part of the city in February 2026. <p>3. Support for families from ethnically diverse backgrounds</p>

Action	Progress in 2025 and priorities for 2026																																																	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Whole Family Equality Project supported 320 parents from ethnically diverse backgrounds and many received support around their immigration and work status as well as a total of over £104k in financial gains.We set up a new ‘Skilled Voices’ panel to better understand the barriers that qualified workers from ethnic minorities face in securing work in their chosen field. The panel will report back to employers about adjustments that would help meet their needsRecognising the language barriers faced by recent migrants to the City, specifically the issues this creates in gaining work, Capital City Partnership led work to commission a new ‘ESOL for Employability’ programme which will begin in October 2025. <p>A summary of the volume and outcomes for parents in Council-funded employability projects is shown in the table below</p> <table><tr><th>Priority family group</th><th>2023/24 Engagements</th><th>2024/25 Engagements</th><th>2023/24 Job Outcomes</th><th>24/25 Job Outcomes</th><th>2023/24 Education Outcomes</th><th>24/25 Education outcomes</th></tr><tr><td>Lone Parents</td><td>1,206</td><td>1,377</td><td>112</td><td>131</td><td>63</td><td>52</td></tr><tr><td>Parents under 25</td><td>138</td><td>117</td><td>14</td><td>17</td><td>8</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>Families with a child under one</td><td>69</td><td>91</td><td>7</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>6</td></tr><tr><td>Large families (3+children)</td><td>269</td><td>362</td><td>22</td><td>34</td><td>20</td><td>15</td></tr><tr><td><i>Families where there is a disabled adult or child*</i></td><td>1,520</td><td>479*</td><td>177</td><td>56</td><td>95</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td><i>Minority ethnic families**</i></td><td>1,931</td><td>722**</td><td>264</td><td>99</td><td>128</td><td>45</td></tr></table> <p>*Disability figures are now captured differently from 2024/25 with the figure now representing only those for whom their health condition is a <i>barrier</i> to work</p> <p>**lower figure this year reflects the more intensive engagement programme in 23/24</p> <p>4. Support for People with Long-Term Health Conditions or Disabilities</p>	Priority family group	2023/24 Engagements	2024/25 Engagements	2023/24 Job Outcomes	24/25 Job Outcomes	2023/24 Education Outcomes	24/25 Education outcomes	Lone Parents	1,206	1,377	112	131	63	52	Parents under 25	138	117	14	17	8	2	Families with a child under one	69	91	7	7	8	6	Large families (3+children)	269	362	22	34	20	15	<i>Families where there is a disabled adult or child*</i>	1,520	479*	177	56	95	5	<i>Minority ethnic families**</i>	1,931	722**	264	99	128	45
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Action	Progress in 2025 and priorities for 2026
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All in Edinburgh continues to support 900 people with long-term health conditions and disability each year with 140 moving into work last year and 36 retaining their employment, alongside £629,952 in financial gains • The Health and Social Care Partnership's refreshed strategic plan acknowledges the place that employment has in preventing ill health. In June 2025 the Local Employability Partnership bringing together academics and partners to support strategic ambitions in the area of work and health. <p>Support for young people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,604 people started a modern apprenticeship in 2024/25. As Anchor Institutions the Council (80) and NHS (66) support frameworks relating to Clinical Support Workers, Procurement, Call Handlers, and Apprenticeships for Pre-Registration Pharmacy Technicians • Youth providers through No One Left Behind and UK Shared Prosperity Fund supported young people to gain 146 jobs, 155 progressions to education and 590 other progressions including volunteering, training and work placements. • The Moving Forward and Moving Forward for Parents Programme support young people from households facing intergenerational poverty, with a combined offer to young people and their carers, recognising the interdependence of their employment journeys; last year we supported 255 people aged under 25; we have extended and increased this approach for Young People who have additional support needs, with our BEmpowered project reaching 20 young people per year. • The Local Employability partnership contributed to a Transition Toolkit for care-experienced young people leaving school supporting and inspiring them to get in, stay in and return to college and university <p>Poverty Prevention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills Development Scotland now provide community-based career advice, offering information and guidance in a range of local venues including schools, college campuses and voluntary sector venues. <p>Priorities for 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore potential for further placements and apprenticeships for parents • Launch the new ESOL for Employability programme for job seekers for whom English is not a first language • Work with industry to make sure that people have the expertise to apply for new higher skilled jobs in data and the green economy, aiming to introduce a framework for higher level skills that will lift people entirely out of benefits. • Work with the Scottish Health Equity Research Unit to better understand and develop and implement solutions for people with long term health conditions and disabilities, through the Local Employability Partnership and the Health and Social Care Partnership • Strengthen the employability provider network (Network of Employability Support and Training), focusing on organisations supporting priority families so that providers are connected, resourced, and equipped to respond to emerging labour market challenges. • Share learning from five years of whole-family support delivery of the Intensive Family Support (IFS) to inform future employability and family support policy at local and regional levels. • Improve integration across advice, employability, health, and family support services including closer alignment between the Edinburgh Advice Network (EAN) and Joined Up for Jobs (JUfJ) to strengthen pathways out of poverty. • Support positive destinations for the hardest to reach young people by working with education and intervening earlier • NHS Lothian leading on the development of a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) for employability and health

Action	Progress in 2025 and priorities for 2026
<p>A3. Improve attainment, achievement, and positive destinations for young people who grow up in poverty</p> <p>Supports LOIP 2</p>	<p>We remain focused on raising attainment and improving outcomes for all children and young people and we track pupils' achievements throughout their school years. Children from our most deprived communities were affected most by the impact of COVID-19 restrictions and we remain committed to ensuring inclusive education for all.</p> <p>Key achievements over the last year</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Early Years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We monitor services for children under school age, and whether parents and carers get their preferred model (e.g. forest kindergarten, childminder, full year or term time settings) as this can affect their own employment; we use this information to review capacity requirements; our latest figures showed that 91% (November 2023 survey) of parents said that they received their first-choice of preferred model, an increase of around 15% from the previous survey November 2021. We have responded to parent feedback on the Early Years service by increasing the flexibility of places offered (e.g. term time of across the year) and how funding is accessed and from August 2024, we introduced the option for purchasing additional hours Our additional Early Years Practitioner is now well established and supports all primary schools with their approaches to supporting young learners as they transition from Early Learning and Childcare to Primary 1. Attainment and attendance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attainment against national benchmarks has improved across most measures. The proportion of learners gaining 1,3, or 5 at SCQF levels 5 and 6 has increased for both the least and the most advantaged learners in 2024 with the improvement being greater for the least advantaged group. However, the attainment gap is biggest for learners in receipt of free school meals and care experienced learners and actions are in place including identifying and sharing effective practice and professional training to accelerate the learning among these young people. We opened the Corporate Parent Hub for care experienced learners disengaged from education to deliver national qualifications in partnership with schools; and the We Matter Team has provided 1:1 input in our residential placements to improve attainment for care experienced identified young people. Overall attendance in 2024-25 is above the national average; we continue to support improvement through early intervention, regular rigorous tracking, communication with families and a focus on support to address barriers Edinburgh schools continue to provide a widening range of pathways through vocational qualifications and awards. Schools ensure that these pathways are personalised to the learner and have parity of esteem with other qualifications. Vocational courses are mainly delivered through National Progression Awards (SCQF levels 3-6) and the number of passes has increased from 941 in 2023 to 1,944 in 2025, an increase of over 100%. Edinburgh's Annual Participation Measure which shows the percentage of 16-19 year-olds participating in education, employment or training, was 94%, the highest since 2016. For young people in the least advantaged group the level is 90% compared with 97% for the most advantaged. However, the gap has reduced over the year and is the second lowest on record. Upskilling teachers and early years practitioners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High-quality learning and teaching is essential for children and young people from disadvantaged backgrounds and those with protected characteristics:

Action	Progress in 2025 and priorities for 2026
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have development of the Support Workers Charter and Early Years Practitioners Charter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 900 teachers participated in the Teachers' Charter professional learning 65% of our senior leaders in schools have completed our Leadership for Equity programme, developed to help close the poverty related attainment gap <p>4. Actions to prevent or tackle the effects of poverty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving equity and reducing stigma and the cost of the school day e.g. by revising the Making Education Equal for All good practice guide Using the Pupil Equity Fund to support closing the attainment gap, with support from the Education Scotland attainment advisor and officers Taking a place-based approach to allocating Strategic Equity Funding (SEF) with our Learning Communities bidding for funds to continue their Team around the Community (TAC) approach to improving attendance and closing the poverty-related attainment gap Using SEF to fund a cloud-based pupil tracking system, increased capacity in data analysis, a raising attendance strategy and a pathways team, developing a range of place based vocational courses <p>5. The Whole Family Wellbeing Fund This Scottish Government initiative is intended to address some of the disadvantages and challenges which can limit opportunities for people. Examples of services funded in Edinburgh span support for families with disabilities or neurodivergence, parent-led childcare and support for young people's mental health, delivered through a collaboration of five youth work organisations.</p> <p>6. Connected Communities Edinburgh 2024-27 This a 3-year grants programme supports third sector umbrella organisations as well as local, grassroot organisations delivering direct services to children, young people and families across Edinburgh; there are three funding strands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learning outcomes for disadvantaged children, young people and families in Edinburgh Health and wellbeing outcomes for children, young people and families in Edinburgh Youth and children's work in Edinburgh <p>The funding process built in reporting on the priority family groups (for poverty) as part of the monitoring of use of funds issued to the successful bids.</p> <p>7. The Council's Wider Achievement and Lifelong Learning Service priorities include tackling poverty and inequality and addressing barriers associated with poverty with actions over the past year as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult and Family Learning Team deliver a wide range of learning opportunities to adult learners, with pathways onto further learning and into employment. Courses are free, apart from the Auld Education programme (which offers concessions to around 50% of participants) and include Multiply (adult numeracy), adult literacies, courses for Deaf and Hard of Hearing adults and Outlook which enables people who access mental health services to take up a variety of opportunities. Parent and Carer Support, Wellbeing and Child Poverty The team develop and deliver learning, training and support for parents and carers, children and young people, staff and partners that aim to address child poverty and other inequalities. These include accredited parenting courses which develop parenting skills, improve

Action	Progress in 2025 and priorities for 2026
	<p>health and wellbeing and reduce social isolation. Programmes such as Discover and Chill n Chat directly support parents and families living in poverty, with over 600 families attending the Discover holiday programme. The team also makes links with schools and families living in temporary homeless accommodation and has continued to promote and develop the Support for Families Website.</p> <p>Priorities for 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Edinburgh Community Learning and Development Partnership has set up a working group, to understand financial literacy work support for children and young people, aiming to identify current provision, gaps and options to support improvements. • An increased focus on improved outcomes for young people who are care-experienced and/or in receipt of free school meals. • Share actions taken over the last 10 years of 1 in 5 Raising Awareness of Child Poverty and set aims for the next 10 years

CASE STUDY: EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT FOR ETHNIC MINORITIES

Poverty rates in Scotland are disproportionately high for some ethnic group, including 43% for 'Asian or Asian British' and 50% for 'Mixed, Black or Black British, and Other' groups between 2019-24 ([Scottish Government, 2025](#)). The poverty rate amongst the 'White - Other' group was 20% and that of the 'White - British' group was 18%.

Employment is one of the most powerful levers we have, to build a more inclusive and equitable society. However, in Scotland, the employment gap between white and minority ethnic groups was 13.8% in 2023 ([Scottish Government, 2024](#)). Data for Edinburgh show that ethnically diverse groups' meaningful employment outcomes remain disproportionately low ([CCP, 2023](#)).

Migrants face major adaptation challenges, including navigating UK systems, securing housing, and adjusting to workplace norms. Culture shock, mental health pressures, and prolonged unemployment can reduce confidence and skills.

Edinburgh now has a number of projects which support people from ethnically diverse communities to access and sustain employment and in 2024/25 began a project of engaging with employers to ensure that their workplaces were accessible and inclusive to the graduates from these services. The team at Capital City Partnership has now delivered a number of events and workshops with employers on topics such as immigration and sponsorship, how to evaluate and improve their equality and diversity policies, retaining an ethnically diverse workforce and recognition of qualifications gained abroad. Overall the project has engaged with 50 employers and have reported that being brought together with people with lived experience has been 'illuminating' for them.

CASE STUDY: CHILDCARE

Accessing childcare is a challenge across the city, with some providers ceasing operating. Providers are experiencing the same recruitment and retention challenges as the wider Health and Social Care sector.

The Whole Family Wellbeing Fund's Parent-led Childcare project aims to reduce and prevent the inequities across the city of school-age childcare provision. Key activities are:

- The co-production of new parent led out of school care in the Craigmillar area. This parent-led childcare model ensures a level of affordability and is led by needs of the local community.
- Delivery of a programme of activities to address current challenges for existing providers around governance, business development and fundraising.

Challenges for parent-led childcare include accessing enough space to meet the demand, and many clubs are running a waiting list. The Council provides support these not for profit childcare providers with a free let, so that funds are redistributed back into service provision.

The continued increase in children with additional support needs poses a challenge/opportunity ensuring that the environments are suitable for them.

Next steps: the Parent-Led Childcare Collaborative will continue until 2027 and the focus will be to support providers to strengthen services to help prevent further closures; and to build on learning to date around establishing new provision in areas of need.

B: Maximising support from social safety nets

Action	Progress in 2025 and priorities for 2026
B1. Maximise uptake of benefits entitlements and other income support Supports LOIP 1	<p>Welfare benefits advice is delivered by a range of organisations across the statutory and third sectors and future funding is uncertain. Demand for welfare benefits advice remains high and cases are becoming more complex. An estimate of the level of need for welfare rights and debt advice¹ suggest that there is a considerable gap in provision, with up to 50,000 people not receiving the support that they might need.</p> <p>During the last year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Around 26,500 citizens received advice, gaining £26m across the city. <p>The Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Made a £1m investment in funding to support the continuation of critical income maximisation services provided by the third sector during 2025/26, and began to develop a commissioning approach for future years. • Updated its webpages to provide online support tools including a benefits calculator to help the people find out what benefits they could claim; and <u>Lightning Reach</u> which is a free online portal that allows people to find and apply for financial support from multiple providers, quickly and easily. • Launched a targeted campaign in March to promote its Cost of Living webpages, and the newly integrated Entitled To benefits calculator tool and Lightning Reach. The campaign was designed in collaboration with the End Poverty Edinburgh citizens group. It tested the use of digital marketing techniques to target families with children, as well as the more traditional print resources such as lamppost wraps and use of social media. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sessions on the Council website's cost of living landing page surged during the generic campaign with 22,313 visits (95% of total sessions) attributed to people clicking through from campaign ads. • 61% of people clicking through to use the benefits calculator (an increase of almost 160% during the campaign) • The daily average of people completing the Entitled Tool increased during the campaign period by from 20 to 38 • Data from the benefits calculator showed an unclaimed benefits value of £170,500 (claimable per week) over the course of the campaign, with Universal Credit being the most unclaimed benefit. • Single parent families have the highest total value of unclaimed benefit (£43,000) followed by families where someone in the home is disabled (£32,000). • On average, per family, large families have the largest unclaimed benefit (£244) followed by young parents (£156). • Delivered a Pension Credit uptake campaign, enabled by a data sharing agreement with DWP, and using housing benefit and council tax reduction data to identify 206 people who might be entitled. This delivered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £697,612 to 132 individuals (an average of over £5k per person) so far, with a further 43 waiting to hear the outcome of their claim

¹ Welfare Rights and Debt Advice Services – Needs Assessment for Edinburgh, NHS Lothian Public Health, 2024

Action	Progress in 2025 and priorities for 2026
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> other entitlements to be identified including 128 Pension Age Winter Heating Payment / Winter Heating / Warm Home Discount etc claims and a number of Council Tax Reduction, Housing Benefit and disability benefit claims; and 31 TV License exemptions. <p>The NHS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progressed of a more joined up approach to income maximisation in NHS settings, including a shared pathway for health visiting, family nurse partnership and midwifery services and established a dedicated city wide Family Nurse Practitioners income max and welfare advice pathway As part of the Scottish Government's Cash First funded project, looked into infant food insecurity, surveying key staff and setting up a short life working group to map current provision, identify gaps and develop recommendations to respond to these. Citizens Advice Edinburgh and CHAI continued to deliver welfare advice services in the Edinburgh acute hospitals, making access easier for families who may struggle to engage with community based services, or who may find they are experiencing financial difficulties as a result of their child's illness or hospital stay. The advisers also offer advice and support a range of issues in addition to benefits, including finance, immigration, employment, housing and debt. These services are funded until the end of September 2026. <p>The <u>Edinburgh Advice Network (EAN)</u> has continued to help build knowledge, skills and awareness among providers through events spanning the cost of living crisis, homelessness, advisor wellbeing and immigration support as well as skills development sessions including Confident Conversations: Child Maintenance training with Fife Gingerbread and Trauma-Informed Practice. They have launched their new website: www.edinburghadvicenetwork.org providing Network News, updates on policy changes, funding, and best practices and Weekly/Bi-weekly bulletins for practitioners.</p> <p>Priorities for 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-design a commissioning specification for income maximisation services provided by third sector Continue to work towards greater parity between the statutory and third sector – pay, security via longer term funding, pensions supported by job evaluation; and introduce Advisor and Support Worker roles to maximise use of limited pool of trained staff. Stabilise long term funding for accredited income maximisation service providers Making sure that income maximisation is integrated at local level including within the Neighbourhood Prevention Partnership, Team Around the Community and Whole Family Wellbeing fund initiatives Build on learning from the targeted campaign to promote the Cost of Living website e.g. those groups found to have the highest total values of unclaimed benefit could inform future targeted campaigns Support benefits uptake – further work is planned to contact all individuals who are in receipt of Housing Benefit or Council Tax Reduction who will reach pension age in 2025, to reduce the risk of poverty as people on from working age benefits; and we will consider taking a similar approach to maximising income for households with children. Continue to support the Scottish Illegal Money Lending Unit's Stop Loan Sharks Scotland Charter Mark by promoting their illegal money lending training for front line staff and their annual awareness raising campaigns.

Action	Progress in 2025 and priorities for 2026
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Edinburgh Advice Partnership (EAP) will hold a session to consider evidence of need and demand as well as their reach and outcomes; this will include a detailed consideration of the scale and extent of debt to support prevention and mitigation The EAP/ EAN to continue to support any raising awareness work in relation to gambling i.e. resources, training etc.
<p>B2. Deliver well targeted cash first and local crisis support programmes</p> <p>Supports all LOIP priorities</p>	<p>The Council delivers direct cash and crisis support to low-income families in need in a range of ways and administers one-off funding from the Government to support people through the cost of living crisis.</p> <p>Progress during the last year</p> <p>The Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided over 9,000 free school meal payments and just over 8,500 clothing grants Delivered £168.5m in housing benefit, £27.4m in Council Tax Reduction and £6.8m in Discretionary Housing Payment funding to low income families in Edinburgh Administered the Scottish Welfare Fund in Edinburgh, including 29,500 Crisis Grant applications to a total value of £2.399m, and 7,876 Community Care Grants, to a value of £1.784m <p>Partners working together:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Cash First approach to food and fuel poverty, provides immediate relief alongside a discussion about the underlying causes of the crisis and help to access other supports, for example, the Scottish Welfare Fund, The Advice Line (the Council's Income Maximisation Service), referral for debt support, energy advice, access to GP and health services. Following a successful test in two areas, it has been extended across the city, including 'pop up' drop-in sessions at 2 local libraries, a food bank and a primary school (see case study). The Menu for All network, led by Edinburgh Community Food, continued to implement the <u>Ending Poverty-Related Hunger in Edinburgh strategy</u>, and progress has been made in developing a network of emergency and community food provision, which aims to support co-ordination and share learning and good practice as well as challenges. <p>Priorities for 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building on the Cash First tests, continue to develop ways to engage with people at risk of poverty and provide support at an early stage Develop a way to ensure that accurate, up to date information on sources of support are readily available to staff, volunteers and citizens Continue to implement Menu for All including the ongoing development and embedding of a network of Emergency and Community Food Providers

Action	Progress in 2025 and priorities for 2026
B3. Help people to prevent homelessness and other crises Supports LOIP 1	<p>Homelessness and access to affordable housing continues to be the biggest and most visible driver of poverty in Edinburgh in 2024, as illustrated by the Council's declaration of a Housing Emergency in 2023. The Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan has been incorporated into our new Local Housing Strategy with the strategic objectives around homelessness remaining; prevent homelessness in the first place, where temporary accommodation is required it meets the needs of the household, support people to access settled accommodation as quickly as possible and reduce rough sleeping.</p> <p>Progress during the last year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Published a strategy to change the mix of temporary accommodation agreed by Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee in February 2025. Prevented homelessness for 1,735 households, supported 579 households to move on from temporary accommodation, answered 4,529 Advice Line calls and delivered 66 homelessness prevention training sessions. Continued to develop the Early Intervention Team, which began in December 2023, to reach out to all households who contact homelessness services who are not immediately roofless, offering an interview to identify opportunities to prevent homelessness. As part of the development of the team, officers have worked on a new Housing Options Checker which all Edindex applicants can access. The tool allows officers to receive notifications when users have identified some emerging housing issues, which the applicant themselves may not recognise at being 'at risk' of homelessness, but can allow officers to intervene at an earlier stage. Continued to change the mix of temporary accommodation stock to meet the needs of the household, including an additional 64 beds in homeless accommodation with support; and increasing the number of households accessing homeshare accommodation. In line with the Housing Emergency Action Plan, increased the number of homes let to homeless households and reduced the number of void properties. Allocation levels for social rent to homelessness households in 2025/25 were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 792 (74%) of Council homes 592 (66%) of RSL social rented homes Continued to support people experiencing homelessness to access employment: an Encompass employability advisor started in February 2024 and is now currently supporting 13 people regularly, focusing on creating and updating CVs, exploring different industries and education options and looking at community activities people can do to increase their confidence, employability and wellbeing. Continued to provide a hospital in-reach service to support inpatients identified as being homeless to register with primary care, engage with the housing system, and gain help with income maximisation <p>Priorities for 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that the Council and partners in the city are prepared for the forthcoming homelessness prevention duties including the duty on public sector bodies such as health and social care and the police to 'ask and act' in relation to someone's housing and homeless situation , including carrying out and learning from the Scottish Government funded Ask and Act pilot in Westerhailes.

Action	Progress in 2025 and priorities for 2026
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scope out all potential options to maximise homelessness prevention activity and build on successes of teams, including utilising data led projects such as Smart Data Foundry and DataLoch. • Continue development of the Youth Housing Hub proposal. • Continue to implement the medium to long term strategy to change the mix of temporary accommodation. • Embed the recommendations from the Children and Young People's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment into the next iteration of the Children's Services Plan. This includes a focus on the needs of children living in temporary accommodation across the city

CASE STUDY: PENSION CREDIT TAKE UP

This initiative has been made possible through a data sharing agreement between the City of Edinburgh Council and DWP.

Responding to the cuts to winter fuel assistance and the rise in cold related deaths, the City of Edinburgh Council identified people who might be entitled to Pension Credit by using Housing Benefit (HB) and Council Tax Reduction (CTR) data.

The Council's Transactions team provided the Advice Shop with a list of around 900 individuals to be screened for entitlement to Pension Credit and allocated a welfare rights adviser to contact them. From this, 206 people were identified as likely to be entitled and made an application, resulting in:

- 132 people gaining £697,612, an average of £5,285 additional annual income per person; a further 43 people are still waiting on the outcome of their claim
- 128 Pension Age Winter Heating Payment / Winter Heating / Warm Home Discount etc claims and a number of Council Tax Reduction, Housing Benefit and disability benefit claims.
- 31 TV License exemptions.

Key learning has been to use a variety of ways to verify that Council advisers are legitimate (needed because there had been a number of recent scams) and to use different approaches to making claims (e.g. home visits, paper forms, office-based assistance etc).

We now have a list of everyone getting HB and/or CTR who have or will reach State Pension age in 2025. This will allow us to offer early intervention and reduce the number of people who leave working age benefits but who do not move into PC Guaranteed Credit.

The next steps will be to consider how we could implement a similar approach to maximising income for households with children.

C: Reducing the Cost of Living

Action	Progress in 2025 and priorities for 2026
C1. Deliver decent homes that people can afford to live in Supports LOIP 3	<p>The Council is the largest affordable housing developer in the city. Our Local Housing Strategy sets out a vision <i>that everyone in Edinburgh can access and live in a home that is warm, safe, high quality, meets their needs and that they can afford. Everyone can access the right support, at the right time, to allow them to be part of a thriving community.</i> Our refreshed Housing Emergency Action Plan focuses on two themes; housing supply and demand for housing.</p> <p>Progress during the last year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Housing Strategy (LHS): Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee approved Edinburgh's Local Housing Strategy 2025 – 2030 on 13 June 2025. This sets out the vision for delivery of housing and related services for at least the next five years. It covers all housing tenures and is the over arching parent strategy across housing and homelessness. The LHS has 12 strategic objectives, with an action plan to support delivery of the strategy. Annual updates on the LHS will be reported to Committee and Scottish Government each summer. • Housing Emergency Action Plan (HEAP): Following approval of the HEAP – Annual update in February 2025 officers undertook a series of stakeholder events to inform a refreshed HEAP. The refreshed HEAP has 2 themes, 6 strategic outcomes and 36 actions. Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee approved the refreshed HEAP and governance model on 13 June 2025 and approved the programme plan, KPIs and an update to the governance model on 23 September 2025. Updates to the HEAP will be reported to Committee every six months; the first update is due in February 2026. • Housing Partnership: A strategic housing partnership has been established with the first meeting held on 12 November 2025. A key remit of this partnership is to provide strategic oversight of the HEAP, bringing together key city stakeholders to develop strategic responses to the city's housing emergency. • Increasing affordable housing: working towards a 25,000 target - since 2016, around 10,900 new affordable homes have been approved (658 in 2024/25) and around 10,100 completed (1,135 in 2024/25); challenges include increasing costs and grant funding increases not matching these. The Affordable Housing Supply Programme core budget has returned to levels awarded in 2023/24, this has led to a projected programme of 1,022 approvals and 1,368 completions in 2025/26 • Funding for Affordable Homes: with the support of the £14.882m of National Acquisition Fund monies allocated to Edinburgh for 2024/25, the purchase of 175 homes was possible. This was targeted to alleviate temporary accommodation pressures. As part of this, £4m of the National Acquisition Fund was also used to support bringing 565 long-term void properties back into use. • Housing Bill: The Scottish Government passed the Housing Bill on 30 September 2025 and it is expected that the Bill will receive Royal Assent in December 2025. The Bill includes provision for the introduction of rent controls and introducing 'Ask and Act' homelessness prevention activities. <p>Priorities for 2026</p>

Action	Progress in 2025 and priorities for 2026
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver actions set out in the HEAP, an update on which will be presented to Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee in February 2026, including a review of the housing allocations policy and actions to increase the number of larger social rented homes in the city. • Deliver actions set out in the LHS, an update on which will be presented to Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee in summer 2026, including bringing more empty homes back into use, anchored by a new Empty Homes Strategy and continuing to implement the WHR programme • Continue dialogue with the Scottish Government about the need for additional funding.
C2. Provide targeted support for rising energy costs Supports LOIP 1	<p>Rising energy costs in recent years have increased the urgency of additional support to help households on low incomes in Edinburgh avoid having to face the choice of whether to heat their homes or feed their families. In the short term this has meant providing support with fuel costs. Over the longer term it means taking the steps needed to make properties more fuel efficient.</p> <p>Progress during the last year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication of the Council's Local Housing Strategy which includes an objective to reduce fuel poverty and ensure every household has a warm home they can afford to heat and sets out its actions to tackle fuel poverty are set out in the which was published in June 2025. • These actions include using estimates and data from a range of sources to identify areas of the city with the highest probability of experiencing fuel poverty and commissioned Changeworks to offer in depth energy advice to Council tenants in these areas. • The Council commissioned Energy Advice Service for Council tenants supported 1,621 tenants in 2024/25 (February 2024 to January 2025), resulting in around £305,000 of financial savings to tenants, and provides: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on how to use energy systems and storage heaters efficiently; how 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 and to correct billing errors • The Council is working to support communal heating charges for residents in mixed tenure developments in a number of ways including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacing faulty system meters to make sure that residents and tenants have access to clear and reliable information regarding their energy costs • Transferring energy supplies to operate heating systems to the Council's commercial energy provider to ensure that the lowest wholesale energy costs are secured, which will minimise any increases in energy that may be passed onto owners • Working with owners and landlords to repair and improve mixed tenure including enhancing insulation; owners are able to access grants from the Scottish Government to cover the costs of energy efficiency related works. • Council venues such as libraries, community centres, museums and galleries, alongside partner and community spaces, continue to have free activities for a variety of age groups and provide a spaces where people feel safe, warm, and at ease. In certain spaces residents are able to access information to help alleviate food and fuel poverty and other support available to them.

Action	Progress in 2025 and priorities for 2026
	<p>Priorities for 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress the actions to address fuel poverty which are set out in the Local Housing Strategy <p>Continue to offer warm, safe spaces</p>
<p>C3. Improve access to affordable childcare</p> <p>Supports LOIP 2</p>	<p>Access to affordable childcare can be key to families being able to escape from poverty particularly for women and lone parents, who want to work. However, the cost of childcare is rising and there are waiting lists for places.</p> <p>Progress during the last year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued delivery of the Council's Early Years Expansion Plan, working towards ensuring that support is flexible enough to meet the needs of families, and that there are enough places across providers to meet the demand. Continue to embed and develop Edinburgh's Affordable Childcare for Working Parents service in areas of deprivation. Four childcare providers are contracted to allow the Council to subsidise places for working parents experiencing poverty or where the cost of childcare pushes them into poverty. Parental Employability Support (PES) officers work with parents to assess their eligibility for the subsidy, offer support around a range of barriers that they may be facing, and link them in with the Council's Advice Shop to ensure they are accessing all financial support available to them. Using the Scottish Government's Tackling Child Poverty allocation to increase funding to One Parent Families Scotland to deliver the Childcare Connector project. This assists single parents to identify childcare options and information about financial support. By having the right childcare, parents can reach their goals, achieve financial independence and take an equal part in the community. Funding provision of creche places for parents engaged in training for employment. Continuing to work in partnership with the Scottish Childminding Association to recruit new childminders in Edinburgh. The aim in 2025/26 is to recruit a further 20 childminders. Continuing the Parent-Led Childcare Collaborative, funded through the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund. The Collaborative is focused on strengthening the existing network of parent-led School Age Childcare providers through a needs-led capacity building programme, while also supporting the creation of a new provision in an area with a long-term gap. Development of a multi-disciplinary Childcare Working Group to analyse the landscape and issues around childcare in Edinburgh. The aim of this group is to assess the real issues in the city and identify any actions that can be addressed collaboratively at a local level through the Edinburgh Partnership. <p>Priorities for 2026</p> <p>Continue capacity building element of the Whole Family Wellbeing parent-led childcare pilot to ensure resilience in the childcare sector and continue to work with the identified childcare partner to develop new provision in an under-served part of the city</p>

Action	Progress in 2025 and priorities for 2026
<p>C4. Improve digital inclusion and access to affordable transport</p> <p>Supports LOIP 3</p>	<p>A lack of digital skills and access can have a huge negative impact on a person's life, affecting their ability to learn, apply for jobs, access training opportunities, and engage with many public services. The Council and partners offer a range of supports for people to get access and to develop the skills needed.</p> <p>Progress during the last year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued delivery of actions in the Council's Digital and Smart City Strategy on digital skills and inclusion – achievements include improving citywide connectivity to make internet access inclusive; a focus on improving digital literacy, equipping people with skills to participate in online activities and gain employment Edinburgh's Future Libraries Strategy 2025–2030 has been introduced and includes actions to support people to develop their digital skills and confidence; support improved access to the internet and online information and explore opportunities to provide access to digital learning and virtual reality to combat digital exclusion and encourage participation The Edinburgh Partnership has set up a short-life working group to look at digital inclusion across the city, assess where the gaps and to develop a workplan to address these. Through the Empowered learning Programme we have rolled out personal digital devices for every school pupil from P6 to S6 with 27,500 new iPads issued to pupils/teachers, refreshed iPads for up to 12,000 pupils/teachers and expanded connectivity through additional wireless access points in schools. Providing the citywide Get Online Digital Skills Programme with volunteers supporting people to improve their digital skills on a 1-2-1 basis at their local library <p>The cost and ease of transport across the city can also be a barrier to people's ability to hold down jobs and access educational opportunities. The Council continues to implement actions through the City Mobility Plan (CMP) 2021-2030 which aims to create a safer, more sustainable, and inclusive transport system by shifting away from car use towards public transport, walking, and cycling. Key public transport initiatives include expanding the tram network to Newhaven, reviewing the bus network as part of a regional rapid transit system, and improving overall integration with active travel routes through new and existing "mobility hubs".</p> <p>Priorities for 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue implementation of these strategies

D: Making it easier to find help

Action	Progress in 2025 and priorities for 2026
<p>D1. Deliver integrated, ‘no wrong door’ approaches to service delivery and prevention of poverty</p> <p>Supports all LOIP priorities</p>	<p>A key call to action from the Edinburgh Poverty Commission was for <i>“the design and delivery of a new operating model for all public services so that all public workers are focused and empowered to put prevention of poverty at the heart of everything they do.”</i></p> <p>Progress over the last year</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. System reform <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have started long term work to fundamentally change services and supports in Edinburgh to embed prevention, early intervention and mitigation across the city. The aim is to make it easier for people in need to get the support they need before reaching a crisis, improving the experience of finding and getting help, and also reduce demand for public services Starting with five sites across the city, we are setting up neighbourhood-based partnership prevention teams and services which provide universal, targeted and specialist supports provided by Council, third sector, and other statutory sector partners, physically co-located in the communities they serve The Council has received £279,000 from the Government’s Fairer Futures Partnership to kick start a programme of delivery. Recognising the vital role that the third sector plays in delivering services in this way, we are developing a different relationship and funding arrangements with the third sector Details of the approach are given in Prevention, Early Intervention and Mitigation in Edinburgh – Getting it right through local partnership working. 2. Whole Family Wellbeing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects delivered through the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund continue to support a shift towards prevention and early intervention, spanning early years, early and preventative help in local communities, supporting families with a child or young person with a disability, young people’s mental health and well-being, and parent-led affordable out of school childcare Responding to feedback from professionals that it is challenging to find out what supports are available for families and from parents who say that they are not receiving the right support for their family, the WFW team have developed an interactive session for practitioners where they will learn where to access information on the range of supports available in Edinburgh and how to access them 3. Using data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are developing our use of external and our own data to support early intervention and targeted action to prevent poverty. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A collaboration with Smart Data Foundry (a subsidiary of University of Edinburgh) to combine council held and proprietary datasets to provide bespoke local dashboards to target and monitor anti-poverty and cost of living initiatives Development of a homelessness risk prevention toolkit to help services in the early identification and support of citizens at risk of homelessness

Action	Progress in 2025 and priorities for 2026
	<p>4. Service delivery changes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council has brought advice and family support services together at local level so that people can get access to all of these services more easily Collaborative Approach to Supporting Families with Complex Needs: a subgroup of the Children's Partnership joined a short-life working group to supporting families with complex needs to address the significant barriers to accessing help faced by a number of families, specifically for those No Recourse to Public Funds or complex immigration status. By bringing together statutory and third sector partners, the group aims to strengthen communication, share expertise, and build a more consistent and collaborative response. <p>Priorities for 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue the actions above to drive significant public sector reform in Edinburgh to support early identification of families in need of support, and effective interventions that prevent harm and support improved outcomes for people and services. Support the development of the Neighbourhood Prevention Partnerships as a way of modelling this no wrong door/early intervention and prevention model
<p>D2. Provide the support people need, in the places they live and work</p> <p>Supports all LOIP priorities</p>	<p>Actions have continued in 2025 towards building a city in which people in all parts of Edinburgh can access the supports they need.</p> <p>Progress over the last year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work is underway to develop a digital front door - an effective, user friendly way for people to find information and options to self-serve, on services and supports that are available in the city, addressing a long recognised challenge that information is hard to find and often out of date; this work is being informed by citizens, staff and people with lived experience of poverty and other challenges The Team Around the Community approach aims to identify young people at an early stage of needs and challenges that they or their family might be experiencing. Implementation continues in the Liberton area of the South East of the city with valuable learning on to engage with professionals and support learning across the multi-disciplinary team; the approach will be introduced in the Craigroyston area, in the North West of the city, recognising that the approach needed in that part of the city will need to respond to local circumstances. The new Macmillan Hub, developed in partnership with North Edinburgh Arts, was completed in early 2025. The shared building accommodates Pennywell Early Learning and Childcare centre for up to 185 children, a new Muirhouse Library, the Skills Hub (delivered by CCP, and nominated for a SURF award) additional space for North Edinburgh Arts and six flats for social rent. The hub is a key part of one of the most significant urban regeneration projects in Scotland, helping tackling poverty and inequality in the area. The Team Around the Community approach which is being introduced in the NW will focus on how to support the coordination of early support to families, making best use around the shared space at that McMillan provides.

Action	Progress in 2025 and priorities for 2026
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test site work has continued in Craigmillar via the Edinburgh Children's Partnership 'healthy places' subgroup where the focus for work is on the co-delivery with local children and young people of an art installation and a 'welcoming space' for teenagers. <p>Priorities for 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress the recommendations from the Children and Young People's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment focused on delivery of strong universal services in places where children and young people stay and play Team Around the Community (TAC): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> continue and enhance links to relevant health services, in particular health visiting and school nurse services. Ensure TAC staff receive appropriate information and guidance on health issues and are aware of pathways for signposting Develop the model in the NW using the McMillan Hub and collaboration between services based within and around the Hub, including education settings, to provide prevention and early intervention support for families. Continue work in Pilton work, using the Place Standard Tool with a focus on community safety to identify priority areas and actions, as highlighted by community members. This work will support the development of the Neighbourhood Prevention Partnership as it develops in the area
<p>D3. Deliver poverty awareness training programmes that addresses stigma, and supports public sector workers public to put prevention of poverty at the heart of everything they do</p> <p>Supports all LOIP priorities</p>	<p>The Edinburgh Poverty Commission said that to end poverty in the city, the single biggest transformation Edinburgh could achieve would be to make the experience of seeking help less painful, less complex, more humane, and more compassionate. They called on City of Edinburgh Council to lead in the design and delivery of a new relationship based way of working for all public services in Edinburgh.</p> <p>Progress during the last year</p> <p>1. Training and awareness raising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building on the successful 1 in 5 child poverty awareness programme developed in Edinburgh schools, and the Money Counts training for Council and partner agencies, work this year has continued to review, aligning and update the range of poverty and prevention-related training offered to staff, including homelessness prevention and Money Counts Training for Council and partner agencies. Training delivered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Around 200 people have attended the Money Counts training 150 people across the Council and third sector received training on 1 in 5 70 sessions reaching 679 people on homeless awareness and prevention <p>2. Developing tools and training to tackle stigma</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capital City Partnership have continued to work with The City of Edinburgh Council, the Making it Work for Families Project, and End Poverty Edinburgh to develop resources to support Change the Story which has been designed to tackle to stigma of poverty. This year

Action	Progress in 2025 and priorities for 2026
	<p>we have been working with people with lived experience to better understand the issues and support them to formulate content for the toolkit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council is leading work to develop a series of ten short, animated videos to raise awareness of poverty and the stigma around it. The content of the videos was informed by people with lived experience of poverty, through a series of workshops facilitated by The Poverty Alliance. The first was launched in October 2025, during Challenge Poverty Week, and will be made available to other organisations. The second video in the series can be viewed here. Discussion is underway with Police Scotland about using the videos. This work is funded by the Scottish Government (CPAF round 2). <p>Priorities for 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Health is working with colleagues in NHS Lothian to develop a TRUST passport for clinical staff as part of their CPD programme. Information will be included on training and awareness raising opportunities available to staff Identify training needed to support the culture change needed to embed a preventative approach across the Edinburgh Partnership Continue to roll out the series of videos to tackle stigma and evaluate impact. Promote the Change the Story Commitment across Edinburgh and the wider city region, creating a unified and visible approach to tackling poverty stigma through consistent, dignity-based practice.

CASE STUDY: CASH FIRST APPROACH

This approach uses cash payments as part of a toolkit of providing an immediate response to a financial crisis while exploring the underlying challenges that the person or household is facing, and providing support to address these. Building a trusting relationship is key to the approach.

Following a successful Scottish Government-funded test of change, **Cash First** has been extended to all the locality offices in the city, including 'Pop Up' drop-in sessions at 2 local libraries, a food bank and a primary school.

Immediate support for people presenting with food or fuel poverty could include a Cash Payment (originally £30, but increased to £50 after feedback from people with lived experience and from staff) a £59 Fuel voucher (with funding from the Fuel Bank Foundation), support to access Scottish Welfare Fund, referral to The Advice Line (the Council's Income Maximisation Service) for a same or next-day benefits check and access to the [Lightning Reach](#) financial support portal (currently being tested by the Council).

Further supports available include referrals for income maximisation, debt support, energy advice, access to GP and health services, education, community-based services, housing repairs team, children and families support and food pantries. Ongoing visiting support from the Council's Household Support and Advice Team where required.

Everyone is offered a follow-up appointment within 7 days and another at 4 weeks with the same team member, if possible. People needing more support can be assigned a keyworker for ongoing support.

CASE STUDY: ESOL FOR EMPLOYABILITY

In 2024/25 38% of people engaging with employability services funded by the City of Edinburgh Council were from ethnically diverse communities. Many of our voluntary sector partners were reporting that people were finding it hard to apply and interview for jobs because they didn't have sufficient proficiency in English.

Responding to this, Capital City Partnership set up an ESOL Strategy Group with representatives from Community Education, Edinburgh College, Department of Work and Pensions and the Voluntary Sector. The group spoke to people from ethnically diverse communities, particularly those who have come to Scotland recently, as well as teachers, tutors and employers.

Using the information from these discussions, the Local Employability Partnership commissioned a pilot programme of specific language support for people on an employability journey, helping to break down barriers to employment and reducing poverty in ethnically diverse communities, many of whom who have no recourse to public funds.

The new programme of ESOL for Employability will be delivered by six community-based organisations who are close to their communities and can meet their needs holistically – supporting with job preparation, cultural awareness and language in a single programme.

CASE STUDY: CYRENIANS FOOD PROJECT

FareShare Central and South-East Scotland, run by Cyrenians, addresses food poverty and climate change by redistributing fresh and in-date food industry surplus to people who need it most.

Via our network of charities across seven local authority areas, Cyrenians FareShare helps feed around 15,000 people a week, 27% aged under 18. We work directly with our community food members (including schools, breakfast clubs, youth groups, homelessness organisations and community pantries) to ensure that fresh, nutritious food benefits people. The value of the food we distribute annually exceeds £2M and around 28% is fruit and veg.

Our **Community Pantries** in Edinburgh provide food from FareShare directly to people and helps build community whilst offering a gateway to other services. We currently operate six pantries based in some of the most deprived communities in the city. Run from community buildings, they are welcoming and easy to access and offer hot drinks and snacks with two pantries run alongside a hot meal provision. Through community engagement and volunteering opportunities we promote dignity, connection, and wellbeing. The pantries have been used 5,628 times over the past 12 months.

Our **Cook School** offers cooking classes, workshops and accredited skills development opportunities including REHIS Food Hygiene and Elementary Cooking Skills qualifications. The Cook School organises community meals and lunch clubs and produces meals for distribution via FareShare. It supports around 400 individuals a year who are referred to us via a network of over 20 organisations and agencies. Our aim is to embed the school in the heart of a community (it is currently sited next to our old FareShare depot) where it will become a hub whilst also offering classes and courses across other sites in Edinburgh and the Lothians. Feedback from those who have taken our classes indicates a direct correlation between being able to cook and budget and maintaining a tenancy.

Appendix 1: Key Progress Measures

Table A1 Progress against headline Edinburgh Poverty Commission and Scottish Government Targets			
Edinburgh Poverty Commission Targets ^{xi}	Baseline	Latest data	Change
1. Fewer than one in ten children and fewer than one in ten adults are living in relative poverty at any given time	2017-20 16% (all ages); 21% (children)	2021-24 17% (all ages); 20% (children)	+1% (all ages) -1% (children)
2. No one has to go without the basic essentials they need to eat, keep clean and safe, and stay warm and dry	2019 9,900 individuals	2022 12,200 individuals	+23%
3. No-one lives in persistent poverty.	2016-20 (Scotland data only) 11% (all ages) 13% (children)	2019-23 (Scotland data only) 14% (all ages) 23% (children)	+3% (all ages) +10% (children)
4. No one feels stigmatised, abandoned, or treated with less respect by the city as a result of their income.	No data yet available	No data yet available	No data yet available
Scottish Government Child Poverty 2030 Targets ^{xii}			
Fewer than 5% of children should live in absolute poverty	2017-20 21% (Scotland data only)	2020-23 21% (Scotland data only)	Stable
Fewer than 5% of children should live in combined low income and material deprivation	2016-20 13% (Scotland data only)	2020-23 10% (Scotland data only)	-3%

Table A2. Edinburgh Poverty Commission Actions to End Poverty in Edinburgh Update: Markers of Success	Indicator	Baseline 2025	Intended trajectory
1. A sustained reduction in the number of people being assessed as homeless	Number of households assessed as homeless (at 31 March)	3,463 <i>Timeseries included in table 2</i>	Sustained reduction
2. A sustained reduction in the number of people in temporary accommodation, and where no one is left without suitable accommodation	2.1 Number of homeless households who are in temporary accommodation (at 31 March)	4,358 <i>Timeseries included in table 2 section B</i>	Sustained reduction
	2.2 Number of homeless who are in unsuitable accommodation (at 31 March)	879 <i>Timeseries included in table 2</i>	Sustained reduction
3. A reduction in the proportion of people in work but relying on Universal Credit	Proportion of people in work but relying on Universal Credit	15,194	Reduction
4. An increase in Scottish Child Payment take-up rates to at least the Scotland wide average	Scottish Child Payment take-up rate (estimated by SG)	92% <i>Scotland-wide estimate has not been provided</i>	Increase to at least the Scotland-wide average
5. A drop in the proportion of people citing poor mental health as a barrier to employment	Proportion of working age people citing mental health as a barrier to work Source: CCP for Edinburgh and South East Scotland (includes the Lothians, Fife and Scottish Borders)	0.9% (8,002 individuals)	Reduction
6. A sustained reduction in the poverty related attainment gap in Edinburgh	DRAFT: Attainment of secondary school leavers - % achieving one or more qualification at SCQF level 6 – difference between % for all pupils	2023-24 20.1%	Sustained reduction

	and those from the lowest SIMD Quintile	<i>Range of measures in table 2, section D</i>	
7. A sustained reduction in low school attendance rates	Low attendance: % of Primary pupils whose attendance is less than 85%	8.1% <i>Timeseries included in table 2</i>	Sustained reduction
	Low attendance: % of Secondary students whose attendance is less than 85%	18.4% <i>Timeseries included in table 2</i>	Sustained reduction

Table A3: Progress measures by EPC call to action^{xiii}

A Fair Work that provides enough to live on		2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
1	Unemployed Edinburgh citizens ^{xiv}	6,900	12,500	9,000	7,100	11,300	8,100
2	Universal Credit claimants ^{xv}	14,425	37,935	32,423	34,538	39,314	32,604
3	No. Living wage accredited employers in Edinburgh ^{xvi}	334	422	526	640	720	790
4	Edinburgh Employers Recruitment Incentive – uptake of places (all ages)	28	43	89	104	56	42
5	No One Left Behind Funding: number of young people who were supported	168	161	266	903	1,284	1,638
6	Number of people supported by City of Edinburgh Council funded employability programme	3,719	3,761	3,842	4,148	4,948	5,099
7	% of Council suppliers of new regulated tendered contracts that are committed to paying real living wage in delivering Council services	70%	79%	87%	82%	96%	93%
B A decent home we can afford to live in		2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
8	Total number of applicants on EdIndex register	23,998	20,564	21,013	23,550	25,226	26,825

9	Demand for social housing – number of active bidders	7,099	7,213	6,339	11,150	12,303	8,865
10	Average bid per property	203	201	140	185	242	291
11	Number of affordable homes approved	1,930	1,285	1,251	734	668	658
12	Number of affordable homes completed	1,443	1,087	1,041	1,215	934	1,135
13	Homes for social rent completed – total	648	252	247	451	385	580
14	Homes for social rent completed – local authority	208	92	70	54	177	281
15	Number of households assessed as homeless (EPC)	3,355	1,929	2,399	3,287	3,434	3,463
16	Number of households who seek housing advice who do not go on to present as homeless	1,708	1,521	1,288	1,143	1,546	1,564
17	The total number of HOMELESS households in temporary accommodation (EPC)	2,010	2,824	3,316	3,560	3,817	4,358
18	The number of homeless households who are in unsuitable accommodation (EPC)	644	733	807	1,022	1,132	879
19	Percentage of households in unsuitable temporary accommodation (as at 31 March)	32.0%	26.0%	24.3%	28.7%	29.7%	20.2%

C	Income security that provides a real lifeline	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
20	Council Advice Shop – number of individual welfare rights clients in year	3,800	5,752	7,265	3,075	3,709	4,366
21	Council Advice Shop - total financial gain	£ 11.5m	£ 8.5m	£ 6.97m	£ 6.7m	£ 7.6m	£10.2m
22	Council tax reduction scheme – average caseload per year	32,467	35,282	32,946	31,327	31,080	30,434
23	Council tax reduction scheme – amount of funding provided	£26.7M	£28.9m	£27.1m	28.8m	£28.6m	£27.4m
24	Discretionary housing payments - number of claims	7,427	8,205	7,806	7,766	7,682	8,307
25	Discretionary housing – total value of payments made (£)	£6.1m	£6.5m	£6.7m	£6.8m	£6.9m	£6.8m
26	Number of free school meals payments in school year	5,950	8,828	8,994	9,576	9,064	9,065
27	Number of clothing grant awards in school year	5,337	8,301	9,773	9,013	8,371	8,508
28	Scottish Welfare Fund – no. applications for Crisis Grants	16,367	35,923	32,616	31,647	29,500	26,013
29	Scottish Welfare Fund Crisis Grants – amount of funding provided					£2.399m	£1.601m
30	SWF – no. applications for Community Care Grants	5,377	8,320	8,503	8,450	7,876	7,034

31	SWF Community Care Grants – amount of funding provided					£1.784m	£1.171m
D	Opportunities that drive justice and boost prospects^{xvii}	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
32	% parents receiving funded Early Learning and Childcare through their preferred model of delivery.	-	-	74.1%	-	91.2%	-
33	Low attendance: % of Primary pupils whose attendance is less than 85%	-	10.6%	14.0%	11.2%	9.6%	8.1%
34	Low attendance: % of Secondary students whose attendance is less than 85%	-	17.2%	19.1%	20.2%	19.7%	18.4%
35	Literacy (all pupils) - The % of pupils in Primaries 1, 4 & 7 who achieve their expected Curriculum for Excellence level	-	73.8%	77.0%	77.3%	78.2%	80.4%
36	Literacy (Lowest SIMD Quintile) - The % of pupils in Primaries 1, 4 & 7 who achieve their expected Curriculum for Excellence level	-	57.3%	62.5%	64.4%	65%	71.8%
37	Numeracy (all pupils) - The % of pupils in Primaries 1, 4 & 7 who achieve their expected Curriculum for Excellence level	-	80.4%	83.0%	83.7%	84.1%	84.2%
38	Numeracy (Lowest SIMD Quintile) - The % of pupils in Primaries 1, 4 &	-	65.1%	71.4%	72.3%	73.0%	75.6%

	7 who achieve their expected Curriculum for Excellence level						
39	Attainment (all pupils) - The % of secondary school leavers achieving one or more qualifications at SCQF level 6 (Higher or equivalent)	71.1%	72.6%	68.4%	68.2%	70.8%	
40	Attainment (Lowest SIMD Quintile) - The % of secondary school leavers achieving one or more qualifications at SCQF level 6 (Higher or equivalent)	51.1%	50.6%	44.9%	44.9%	50.7%	
41	Positive destinations for school leavers - all pupils	92.5%	95.1%	96.1%	95.3%	95.6%	
42	Positive destinations for school leavers - Lowest SIMD Quintile	88.9%	91.7%	94.7%	93.8%	94.0%	
E	Connections in a city that belongs to us	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
43	Proportion of people living in areas with low levels of public transport ^{xviii}	10%	-	-	-	13%	12%
44	No. CEC homes connected to fibre-to-the-property (FTTP) infrastructure ^{xix}	1,515 (7.7%)	8,917 (45%)	15,449 (83%)	-	19,880 (80%)	NA

Appendix 2: Child Poverty Indicators

Child Poverty in Edinburgh



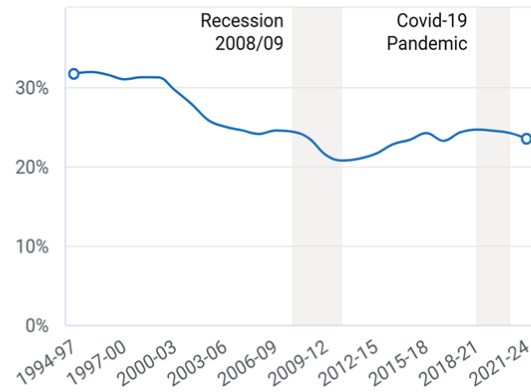
The following infographics visualise data (where available, at local level), on indicators for children and young people living with the effects of poverty, particularly those belonging to child poverty priority family types and most at risk.

What does the data tell us about children living in relative poverty after housing costs?¹

- Child poverty rates after housing in Scotland have remained **largely stable** over the last decade.
- Policy targets for relative poverty after housing costs are **18% for the interim in 2024 and 10% in 2030**.

Child poverty rates have remained broadly stable in over time in Scotland

Proportion of children in relative poverty, Scotland

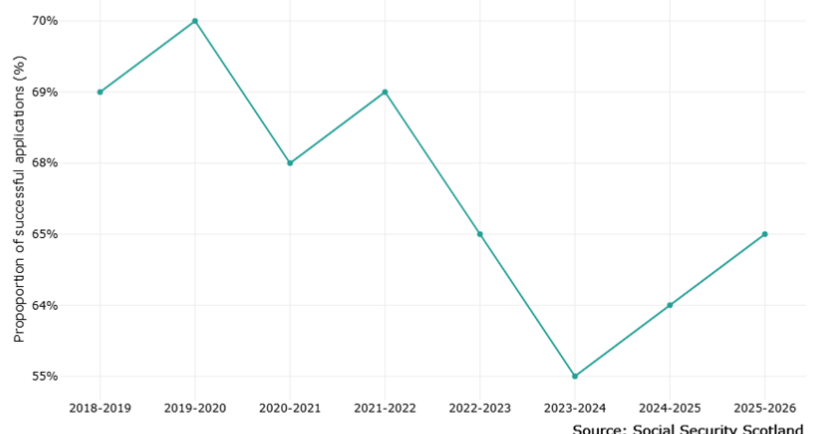


Source: Family Resources Survey

Best Start Grants and Best Start Food²

- **Best Start Grants** and **Best Start Foods** are payments that help towards the costs of being pregnant or looking after a child if you are on low income.
- People with **no recourse to public funds** may still be eligible for **Best Start Foods**.
- They are provided by Social Security Scotland, and the graph shows the proportions of successful applications.
- There was a steady decline in successful applications until 23/24 followed by a 10% increase in recent years.
- Social Security Scotland took over the Best Start programme in Feb 2024 with new eligibility criteria and payment methods all of which will contribute to new trends in successful applications since.
- There is no data on eligibility for the benefits vs uptake and it is therefore difficult to link this directly to need and whether families are receiving what they are entitled to.

Successful Best Start and Best Start Food Grant applications, City of Edinburgh, 2018-2025

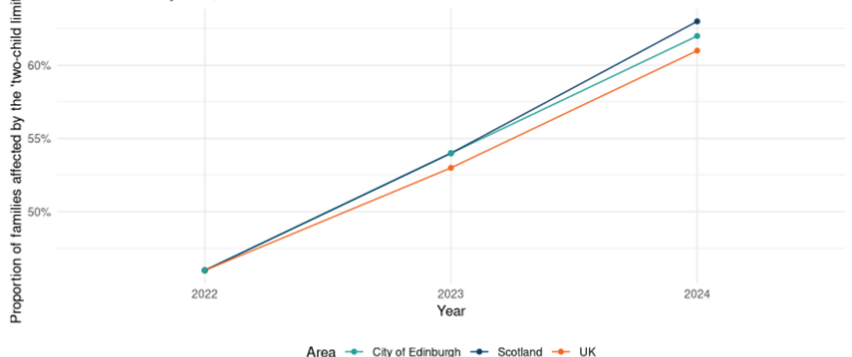


Source: Social Security Scotland

Universal Credit, Child Tax Credit and Two-Child Limit³

- The proportion of families with three or more children in the household affected by the **two-child limit policy**.
- Families affected don't receive a child element/amount for at least one child, for **Universal Credit and Working Tax Credit**.
- This is also used as an indicator of the proportion of **large families, one of the child poverty priority family types**.
- The policy has been a driver of child poverty across the UK.

Large families (three or more children) in receipt of Universal Credit and Child Tax Credits who are affected by the 'two-child limit' by area, 2022-2024



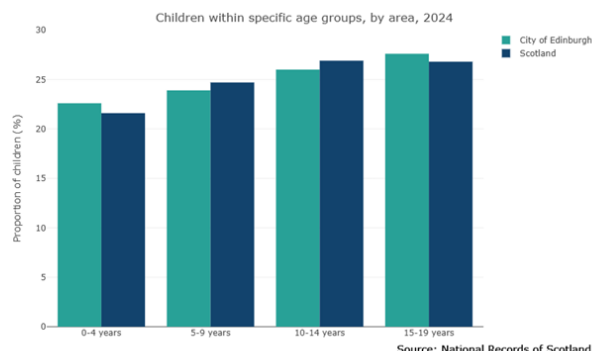
Source: Department for Work and Pensions

¹UK encompasses all local authorities situated within Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Large families (three or more children) should be interpreted as households who do not receive Universal Credit or Child Tax Credit for at least one child.

Child Poverty Priority Groups in Edinburgh

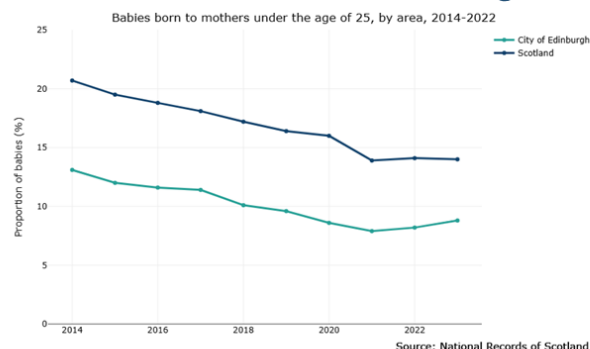
Lone parent families, minority ethnic families, families with a disabled adult or child, families with a younger mother (under 25), families with a child under 1, and larger families (3+ children).

Breakdown of Child Age Bands⁴



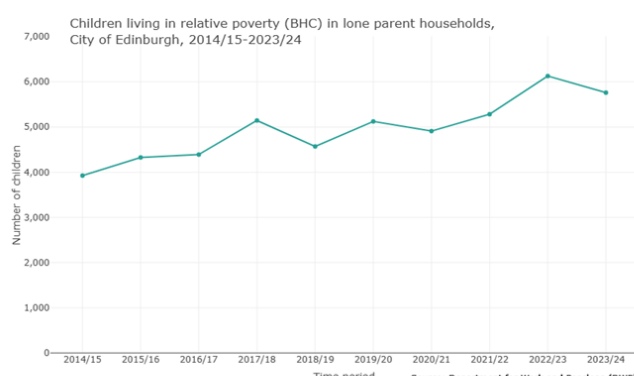
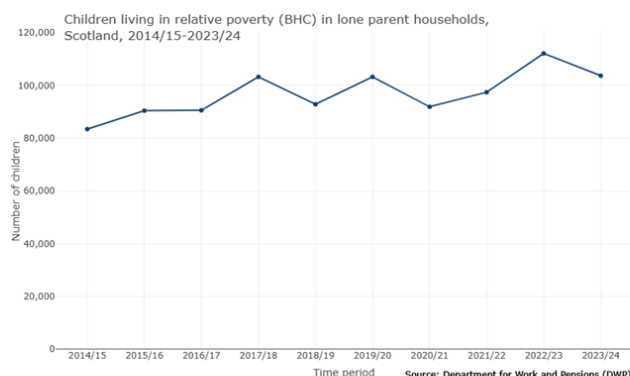
- The age band of children and young people in Edinburgh is slightly weighted towards the younger (0-4) and older (15-19) years.
- In terms of under ones as a priority family type, there are **4304⁴ infants under one** in Edinburgh.
- The **unique nutritional needs** of infants under one make families living in poverty particularly vulnerable to the effects of **infant food insecurity**.

Babies born to mothers under the age of 25⁵



- There was a steady decline in the **overall rate of babies being born to mums under 25** until 2021.
- Proportion of babies born to mums under 25 is **lower** in Edinburgh than in the rest of Scotland.
- Since 2021 numbers have levelled nationally but have seen an increase in Edinburgh.
- Important consideration in **funding and design of services** to support the **needs of these families**.

Children living in relative poverty in lone parent families before housing costs (BHC)⁶

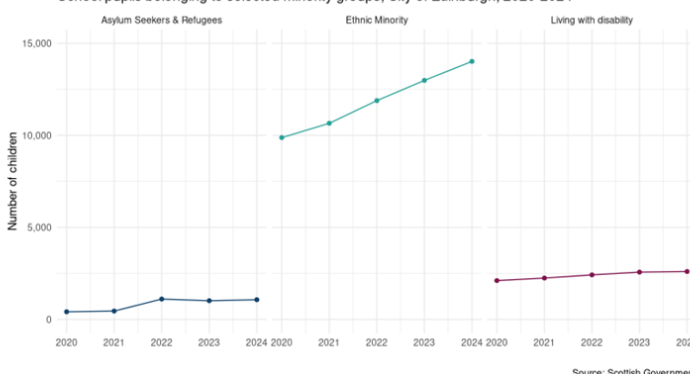


- Overall, there is an **upward trend** of the number of children living in relative poverty in a **lone family** in Edinburgh which is also **reflected in the national picture**.
- The period 2023/24 shows a **decline**, **future numbers will reveal any ongoing trends** and **links to policies** to support these families.

Minority Ethnic Families and Families with a Disabled Adult or Child⁷

- Available data looks at school age pupils over the last 5 years
- There has been a small increase of children **living with a disability**
- There has been a sharp increase in children from **minority ethnic families**.
- Asylum seekers and refugees** contribute a relatively small proportion to the minority ethnic families and have seen a small rise in numbers.

School pupils belonging to selected minority groups, City of Edinburgh, 2020-2024

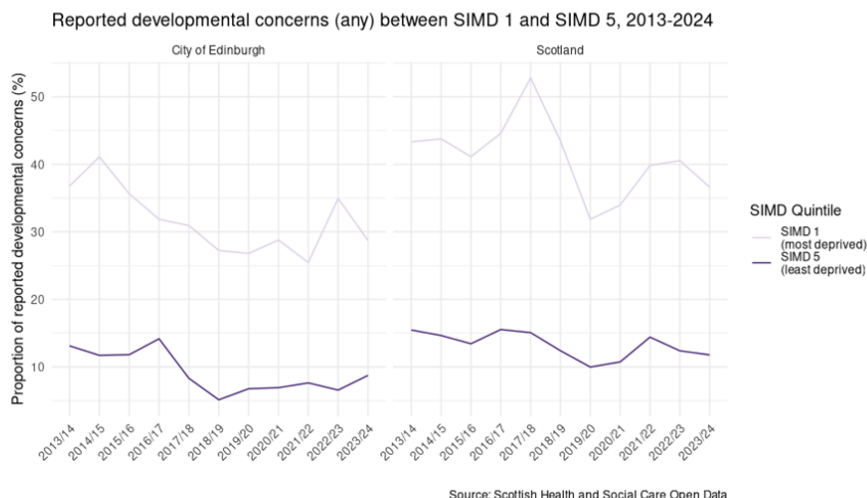


Child Health and Wellbeing in Edinburgh

Living in poverty affects current and future health and wellbeing in children at all life stages and in turn negatively impacts their and future generations' life chances. Children in Edinburgh and elsewhere in Scotland experience unjust and avoidable inequalities in health and wellbeing linked to deprivation. Due to the relative wealth in Edinburgh these inequalities are often hidden when considering city wide numbers only to compare to national data. This highlights the requirement for more localised data in identifying need to enable prevention and early intervention.

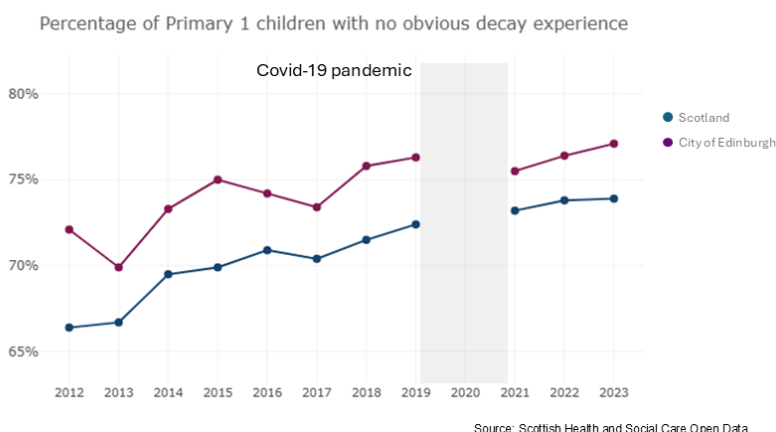
Developmental Concerns⁸

- Developmental concerns are recorded as part of the child health reviews across a range of developmental domains such as: speech, language, communication, hearing, social skills, and emotional wellbeing.
- A consistent trend exists where developmental concerns are **more likely** to be reported for children living in deprived areas at 27–30-month reviews.
- Problems with early child development can lead to **poor health outcomes** later in life, which is why identifying these trends is important to inform **early intervention**.



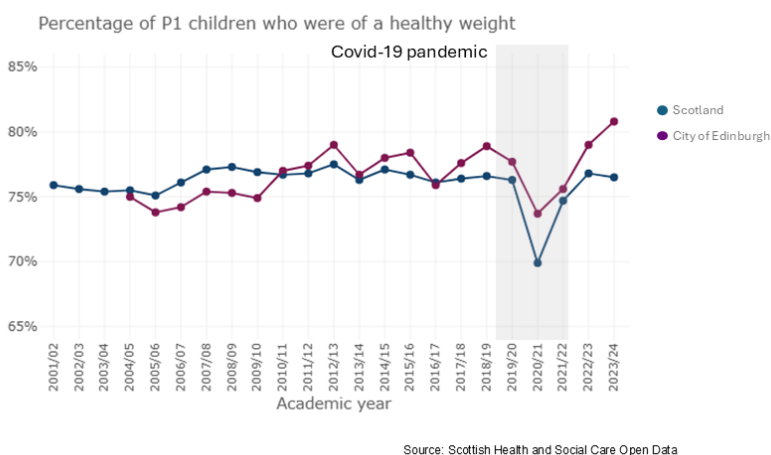
Dental Health⁹

- Poor dental health can worsen the effects of poverty and vice versa.
- Children from low-income families face more **barriers to access to dental care** and are more exposed to **harms linked to the commercial determinants of health** with regards to food and drinks.
- Edinburgh has a higher number of P1 children with no obvious tooth decay than national averages.
- Since the pandemic, these numbers are continuing to rise again.



Healthy Weight¹⁰

- Maintaining a healthy weight is linked to many **health benefits**.
- Following a sharp decline during the pandemic, rates have been rising again, with **numbers in Edinburgh higher and increasing from pre-pandemic levels**.
- Child healthy weight is linked to **inequalities**
- Many complex whole system factors contribute to healthy weight, starting pre-conception.**



8. [27-30 Month Developmental Review by Deprivation Statistics, Scottish Health and Social Care Open Data](#)
9. [National Dental Inspection Programme 2023, Public Health Scotland](#)
10. [Primary 1 Healthy Body Mass Index \(BMI\) Statistics, Scottish Health and Social Care Open Data](#)

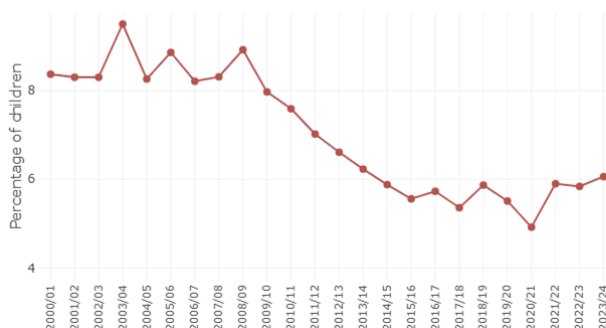
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Low Birthweight¹¹

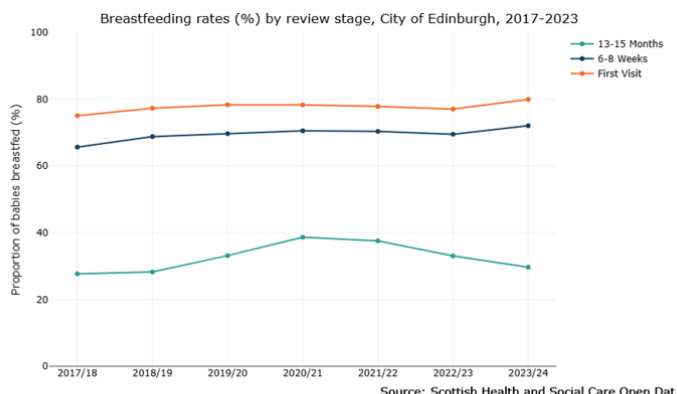
- Low birthweight is linked to **adverse short and long-term health outcomes** for the child.
- Low birthweight is the leading cause of **infant mortality** in the UK.
- Low birthweight is **linked to deprivation**.
- In Edinburgh there was a **downward trend** in babies being born of low birth weight prior to the pandemic.
- There has been a **rising trend** since the pandemic.

Percentage of children born in City of Edinburgh that are of low birth weight



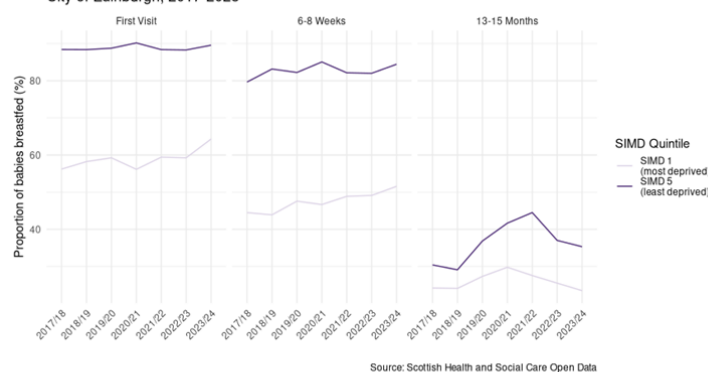
Source: Scottish Health and Social Care Open Data

Breastfeeding¹²



- Breastfeeding is **free** and brings many **short and long-term health benefits** to mothers and babies.
- The longer breastfeeding continues the greater the benefits.**
- Lower breastfeeding rates are linked to **deprivation**.

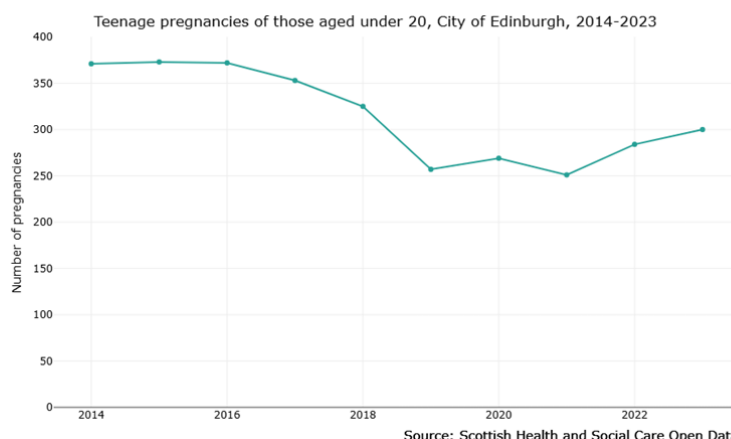
Breastfeeding rates (%) by review stage between SIMD 1 and SIMD 5, City of Edinburgh, 2017-2023



- In Edinburgh there has been a **slight increase** in breastfeeding rates in the **early stages** of babies' lives but a **drop across the board** in rates at **13-15 months**.
- Support** is required to establish and maintain breastfeeding.

Teenage Pregnancy¹³

- Teenage pregnancy is linked to **poorer outcomes for young parents and their children**.
- In Edinburgh there was steady **decline in teenage pregnancies** prior to the pandemic with a **rising trend** since.
- Teenage pregnancy is **linked to deprivation**.



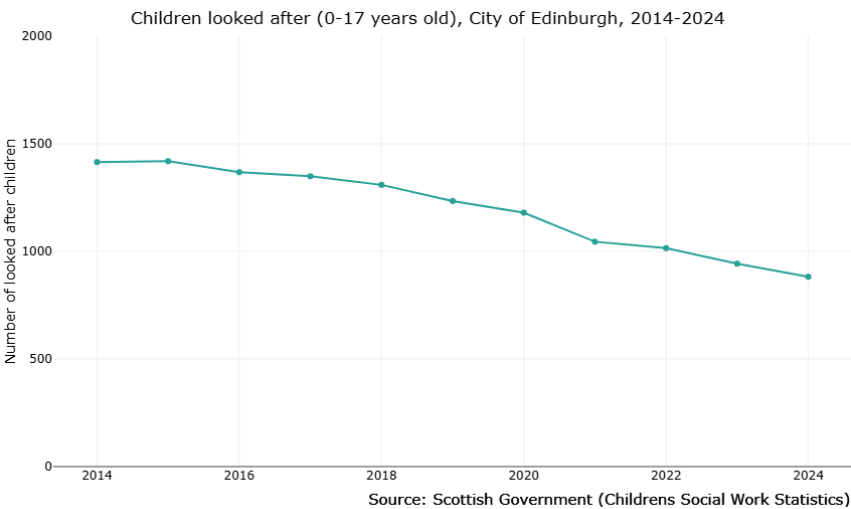
Data Caveats and Interpretation

- The data sources for each indicator presented in these infographics were selected on their strength in providing a descriptive snapshot of child poverty and associated sociodemographic factors within the City of Edinburgh.
- The data sources are generally of good data quality, accessible, sustainable, and updated regularly. These are linked in the footnotes of each infographic and are denoted by a superscript¹. Several indicators have been selected from the **Public Health Scotland (PHS) child poverty data source repository**¹⁴.
- Please note that some indicators are comprised of *indirect* measures (known as ‘proxy’ measures). These are helpful to provide wider contextual information about child poverty. Notable examples of these include social welfare and benefits data.
- Efforts have been made to source comparative data for Scotland and the UK where possible, especially in cases where rates are presented. However, not all charts will display comparative data due to unavailability and/or methodological issues that restrict methodologically sound comparison e.g., where calculations may differ by country/region. To compensate for this proportions and numbers have been provided where appropriate.
- Some charts have a grey ‘highlight’ bar superimposed onto the chart area. This is to draw your attention to any noticeable change in trends that can be explained by wider factors e.g., introduction of policy, recessions, and the Covid-19 pandemic. Specific information on these changes can be found by navigating to the relevant data source reference.
- In some cases, chart axes may not start from 0. This format can have the benefit of ‘zooming’ into a specific range of values. However, please be mindful of where this occurs as this may make trends appear more extreme than they are.
- Slight changes in chart colour schemes may be apparent as a small number of charts have been extracted from existing reports to minimise duplication of effort where necessary. Where this is the case, it will be stated in the chart title what locations the data points relate to.
- Chart colour palettes have been made colour-blind friendly (when viewed in greyscale mode) where possible.
- Supplementary charts can be found in the Appendices.

Feedback

- These infographics were produced in collaboration with the NHS Lothian Public Health Intelligence Team. Feedback is welcomed on the statistical content presented in the infographics in addition to their structure, design and accessibility features to inform future improvements.
- Please send any feedback you have to the Public Health Intelligence Team inbox loth.phintelligence@nhs.scot.

Appendix A: Looked after children¹⁵



15. Looked after children by local authority, Scottish Government (via ScotPHO Profiles Tool)

ⁱ City of Edinburgh Council estimates, derived from Scottish Government [data sets](#)

ⁱⁱ Birt, C., Cebula, C., Evans, J., Hay, D. and McKenzie, A. (2025) Poverty in Scotland 2025. York: Joseph Rowntree Foundation

ⁱⁱⁱ Fitzgerald, S, et al. (2023) Destitution in UK 2023. York: Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

^{iv} 'A Just Capital – Actions to End Poverty in Edinburgh' Edinburgh Poverty Commission, September 2020

^v Estimates of all age and child poverty in Edinburgh are derived from datasets published by End Child Poverty Coalition - [Child Poverty Statistics - End Child Poverty](#) – and the Scottish Government - <https://data.gov.scot/poverty/> For a full analysis of methodology used to produce Edinburgh level poverty estimates, please see https://edinburghpovertycommission.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/20200930_Poverty_in_Edinburgh-Data_and_evidence.pdf

^{vi} [The Living Standards Outlook 2025 • Resolution Foundation](#)

^{vii} https://researchportal.hw.ac.uk/files/103278482/Technical_Report_Destitution_in_the_UK_2023_ProofedFinal2.pdf

^{viii} Consumer Price Inflation - August 2025, Office for National Statistics

^{ix} Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics

^x DWP data downloaded from StatXplore

^{xi} Data relates to target 1) % of adults and children living in relative poverty after housing costs; 2) % of individuals in Edinburgh who are destitute; 3) % of individuals who have been living in relative poverty after housing costs for at least 3 years. For a full analysis of methodology used to produce Edinburgh level poverty estimates, please see https://edinburghpovertycommission.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/20200930_Poverty_in_Edinburgh-Data_and_evidence.pdf

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

^{xiii} All data from All data from City of Edinburgh Council records unless listed below

^{xiv} Unemployment levels are from ONS Annual Population Survey, via [NOMIS](#)

^{xv} Universal Credit claimant numbers (as at June) via [DWP](#)

^{xvi} Data presented are as at March each year. Data in main document provides an update as at September 2023 when total accredited employers in Edinburgh had risen to 677.

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

^{xviii} Figure for 2019-20 revised to use new methodology

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