



THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

Edinburgh Partnership Board
 Meeting Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2026
 Time: 1:30-4:00pm
 Venue: McDonald Road Fire Station

| | Item | Presenter/Lead | Time | Pages |
|---|---|--|-------------|-------|
| 1 | Welcome & Meeting Protocols | | | |
| | a. Intro by SFRS | | 13:30-13:45 | |
| 2 | Declarations of Interest | | | |
| | a. Declarations of interest | Chair: Jane Meagher | 13:45-13:50 | |
| 3 | Meeting Note | | | |
| | a. Note of the EPB of 3 Mar 2026 | Julie Dickson – Policy & Insight Officer, CEC | 13:50-13:55 | |
| 4 | Outstanding Actions | | | |
| | a. Outstanding Actions (EPB tracker) Recommendation to Close: 1.1 The board will take a strategic look at Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) support for parents, to enable them to work and learn 1.4 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. | April Harrison-Clark – CP Manager, CEC (CPST member) – Verbal update Flora Ogilvie – Consultant in Public Health, NHS Lothian | 13:55-14:05 | |
| 5 | New Business | | | |
| | a. The cost of living & winter preparedness | David Porteus - Strategy Manager (Insight), CEC | 14:05-14:25 | |
| | b. Decision: Recommendation to adopt the 2026-2029 Children's Services Plan | Colin Briggs - Director of Strategic Planning, NHS Lothian | 14:25-14:35 | |
| 6 | Workstream 1: Governance & Administration | | | |
| | a. Partnership Funds quarterly update Decision: Recommendation to adopt proposed budget for joint EP funds | April Harrison-Clark | 14:35-14:45 | |
| | b. Decision: Recommendation to approve and adopt the updated EP Governance Document | Sabina McDonald – Population Health Project Manager, NHS Lothian (CPST member) | 14:45-15:55 | |
| | c. Strategic (Thematic) Partnerships: Governance update | Gillie Severin – Head of Strategy, CEC | 14:55-15:10 | |
| 7 | Workstream 2: LOIP 2018-2028 | | | |
| | a. Decision: Recommendation to approve and adopt the 2026 refresh of the 2018-2028 Edinburgh Community Plan (Our Local Outcome Improvement Plan-LOIP) | April Harrison-Clark | 15:10-15:25 | |
| | b. Quarterly Reports Community Learning and Development Local Employability Partnership Strategic Place Partnership Net Zero Leadership Board Housing Partnership – No report | April Harrison-Clark – verbal update | 15:25-15:40 | |



THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

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| | Community Safety and Justice – No report Children’s Partnership – No report | | | |
| 8 | Workstream 3: The Road to LOIP 2028+ | | | |
| | a. Data & Intelligence timelines: Employment & Health JSNA for info, CSJ JSNA | Flora Ogilvie | 15:40-15:50 | |
| 9 | AOB | | | |
| | a. End Poverty Edinburgh has expressed an interest in joining the EP Board as a Community Body representing lived experience of poverty. | | | |

Future Meeting Dates:

| Date | Time | Location |
|-------------------|-------------|----------|
| September 3, 2026 | 2pm - 4pm | TBC |
| December 15, 2026 | 10am – 12pm | TBC |

Notes:

THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Wednesday 3 March 2026 – 2.00pm

Main Hall, SPACE @ Broomhouse Hub, 79-89 Broomhouse Crescent, Edinburgh,
EH11 3RH

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 |
| Douglas Tharby | Edinburgh Association of Community Councils |
| Harriet Mortimer | Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce |
| Councillor Claire Miller | City of Edinburgh Council |
| Councillor Vicky Nicolson | City of Edinburgh Council |
| Kathryn Fairfield | Police Scotland |
| Michael Melton | SESTRAN |
| Jean Gray | Affordable Housing Partnership |
| Lynn McMath | University of Edinburgh |
| Councillor Connor Savage | Edinburgh Integration Joint Board |
| Councillor Pauline Flannery | City of Edinburgh Council |
| Darah Zahran | Scottish Enterprise |

In attendance

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Gillie Severin | City of Edinburgh Council |
| Daniel Baigrie | City of Edinburgh Council |
| Flora Ogilvie | NHS Lothian |
| Sarah Finnegan | City of Edinburgh Council |
| April Harrison-Clark | City of Edinburgh Council |
| Laurene Edgar | LAYC |
| Chris Adams | City of Edinburgh Council |
| Paul Lawrence | City of Edinburgh Council |
| Derek McGowan | City of Edinburgh Council |
| Ruth White | City of Edinburgh Council |
| Kate Kelman | Capital City Partnership |

1. Welcome and Meeting Protocols

Councillor Meagher welcomed members to the meeting.

2. Declaration of interests

None.

3. Minute of the Edinburgh Partnership of 3 December 2025

The minute of the Edinburgh Partnership Board of 3 December 2025 was presented for approval as a correct record.

Decision

To agree the minute as a correct record subject to noting that Councillor Iain Whyte had been present.

4. Outstanding Actions

The Outstanding Actions were presented to the Edinburgh Partnership Board.

Decision

1) To agree to close the following actions:

- Action 3 - Community Safety and Justice Partnership Review



- Actions 4a, 4b, 4c, 4d, 4e, 4f - Next Steps and Role of Edinburgh Partnership Board
- Action 5 – Drug Related Deaths
- Action 7 – End Poverty in Edinburgh & Edinburgh Plan LOIP Annual Progress Report
- Action 8 – Any other Business (Public Diners)

2) To note the remaining outstanding actions.

5. Drug Harms Update & Alcohol and Drugs Partnership link to Edinburgh Partnership

An update was provided on the outstanding actions from the Edinburgh Partnership Board (EPB) Drug Harms Emergency Meeting in July 2025, in addition to the Drug Harms Emergency Meeting Background and Update paper that had been provided to the EPB in September.

Decision

- 1) To close the remaining actions relating to substance use harm in the EPB action log and take assurance that further work to reduce substance use harms will continue to be taken forward by the Edinburgh Alcohol and Drugs Partnership (EADP).
- 2) To agree that the EADP Lead Officer should be the first point of contact (rather than the EPB) for any future queries relating to the management of substance use harm in the city.
- 3) To agree that the EADP Lead Officer should be included in the membership of the EPB Community Safety and Justice Partnership, to allow non-acute issues relating to substance use (such as substance use related anti-social behaviour) to be discussed, and responded to, with escalation to the EPB where required.
- 4) To note that the EADP formally reports to the Edinburgh Chief Officer's Group (COG) for Public Protection as well as the Edinburgh Integrated Joint Board (EIJB), with the latter being the route of governance for strategic substance use decision making, such as in relation to Safer Drug Consumption Facilities in the city.
- 5) To agree that instances of increased drug harm in the city continue to be managed with relevant partners as per the agreed NHS Lothian Drug Harm Local Early Warning System Standard Operating Procedure.
- 6) To agree that the EADP Annual Report and Lothian Drug Related Deaths Annual Reports are circulated to the Edinburgh Partnership for information on an annual basis.

6. Incident in Sighthill, 2 March 2026

Councillor Meagher noted the impact of a recent incident in Sighthill which has impacted staff working across the partnership and residents. The importance of correct information being shared across all platforms during and after incident of note was emphasised. Broader work across partners to promote community cohesion was discussed.

Decision

- 1) To note the incident in Sighthill that had taken place on 2 March 2026. Work across agencies and in the community during and after the event was noted. The issue of social media use and potential for misinformation was discussed.
- 2) To note that the council communications team would work with partners regarding messaging and social media content.
- 3) To note the commitment to a partnership approach, regarding community cohesion and response to incidents.

7. Matters Arising

Councillor Miller raised concern regarding the Traveller Site at Granton, the proposed re-development of the area and associated welfare concerns for people living there.

Decision

- 1) To note concern raised by Councillor Miller, regarding the Traveller Site at Granton, the proposed re-development of the area and associated welfare concerns for people living there.
- 2) To note that council Officers in Housing and Homelessness and Planning were working to identify solutions and support the community living on the Traveller Site.

8. Edinburgh Partnership Financial Governance

An update provided a background to financial governance within the Edinburgh CPP. It considered the Edinburgh Partnership Board response to findings from Third Sector Review. It addressed Improvement Service self-assessment finding of lack of clarity over EPB use of joint resources.

Decision

- 1) To note the background info on current funds used for partnership work and agree to receive quarterly updates in relation to defined set of 'Partnership Funds'.
- 2) To agree that Fair Funding Principles should be applied, where possible, to new work funded with 'Partnership Funds'.



- 3) To agree for a more joined-up approach to be taken to the use of individual partner funds to deliver against partnership outcomes (e.g. welfare advice provision) in the remaining period of the current LOIP.
- 4) To agree for Community Planning Management Group (CPMG)/ Community Planning Support Team (CPST) to explore further options for joint commissioning / joint financial governance as part of LOIP 2028-2038.

9. Community Safety and Justice Review

The Service Director, Housing and Homelessness, City of Edinburgh Council provided a verbal update regarding the Community Safety and Justice Review.

Decision

- 1) To note the progress on the Community Safety & Justice Review which was considering the most appropriate governance and arrangements for chairing this group.
- 2) To note that there was potential for two groups to cover Community Safety and Justice separately in the future.
- 3) To note consideration would be given to the role thematic of sub-groups.
- 4) To note this work would continue and be reported to the Management Group and Edinburgh Partnership Board when appropriate.

10. Workshop on LOIP Refresh: Progress to date, review planned actions etc.

A workshop was undertaken by members and officers present which considered the best way that partners could work together towards an Edinburgh was a thriving, connected, inspired and fair city, where all forms of poverty and inequality are reduced.

Decision

- 1) To note that the workshop session took place.
- 2) To note that feedback would be collated by officers and would inform the refreshed LOIP.

11. Dates of Future Meetings

To note the forthcoming meeting date below:

- 10 June 2026 2.00 - 4.00pm McDonald Road Fire Station



THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

Edinburgh Partnership Welfare Advice Recommendation Update, June 2026

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This paper provides a further update on the outstanding action from the [Edinburgh Partnership Board \(EPB\) December 2023 Meeting agenda item 'Update – LOIP Priority 1 'Enough Money to Live On'](#). The update given in December 2023, included information in relation to the recommendations from the externally commissioned [Review of welfare rights and debt advice in Edinburgh](#), with the EPB asked *'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'*.
- 1.2 As part of the Edinburgh Community Planning Partnership Transformation and Improvement Programme, the EPB agreed that the work of the previous LOIP Priority 1 group, would move to sit within the Housing Partnership, given the close links between poverty, welfare advice and wider housing work. Updates on the current situation and proposed way forward for welfare advice in the city were discussed at the Edinburgh Housing Partnership in February and May 2025, with an update also provided to Edinburgh Partnership Management Group and Edinburgh Partnership Board in March 2025.
- 1.3 Over the past 12 months, City of Edinburgh Council have been progressing the re-commissioning of Welfare Advice Services for the city, with input from other partners, including NHS Lothian and the third sector to ensure that newly commissioned provision builds on the learning from and interfaces effectively with wider provision in the city, including the NHS Lothian-wide commissioned Welfare Advice Service within hospital settings. The new service is expected to be in place from April 2027.
- 1.4 Recommendations from the original Welfare Advice Review, alongside additional local intelligence and more recent national evidence are all being taken into consideration as part of the new commissioning process, and it is anticipated that the new commission will result in many of the recommendations being addressed. Once new services are in place there will be an opportunity to re-review outstanding recommendations and agree if they are still relevant in the new local context, and if so for these to be included in the Housing Partnership's work plan going forward.



THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

2. Recommendations

2.1 The Board is recommended to:

2.1.1 Close outstanding action from December 2023 *'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'*.

2.1.2 Note the updates against the Review recommendations in the table below.

2.1.3 Agree to receive an update from the Housing Partnership in June 2027, following the re-commissioning of Welfare Advice in the city, in relation to which actions from the original Review are still relevant and will be included in the Housing Partnership workplan going forward.

3. Main Report

Situation

3.1 Progress against some of the recommendations from the [Review of welfare rights and debt advice in Edinburgh](#) has been on hold while re-commissioning takes place, although the Recommendations, along with other insights and evidence are being used to inform the commissioning process, and it is anticipated that the new service being in place will address some of the outstanding recommendations. Others will need to be reviewed and re-committed to, where relevant, once the new service is in place in April 2027.

Background

3.2 Background was previously provided to the EPB in [Item 5.3 of the March 2025 EPB meeting](#).

Assessment

3.3 The table below provides an update in relation to the recommendations from the original review.

Table 1

| Recommendation | RAG Rating & comments as of May 2026 |
|---|---|
| Theme 1: Use data to measure need & impact & support earlier identification | |
| R12: Greater use of data across the city, drawn from providers, to understand need and demand with centralised analysis to inform design of services. | Is being used to inform service specification |



THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

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| R8: Setting targets and outcomes at an overall Edinburgh level to incentivise collaboration and referral across services. | Will be done as part of new service specification |
| R9: Shared targets across services and include other indicators to demonstrate collective impact of services. | Will be done as part of new service specification |
| R10: More coherent monitoring and evaluation would allow the Partnership to assess how priority groups were being supported. | Will be done as part of new service specification |
| R22: Identify opportunities for proactive and early intervention, taking a whole system and life course approach. | This is an action within the refreshed LOIP |
| R23 Identify data held in public systems which can act as an early warning system to allow people to be diverted into debt and welfare rights advice. | This is an action within the refreshed LOIP |
| Theme 2: Improve access, including through improved publicity | |
| R6: Advice services should be commissioned under a unified “advice for Edinburgh” brand. The details of the services and providers should be included on a portal accessible by both the general public seeking advice and professionals who are supporting people. | There will be a single point of contact but no current plans for single branding |
| R7: Explore option to provide a single number and access point for advice services in Edinburgh, through which clients could have a triage call with a generalised service before being connected into specialist advice. | Will be addressed as part of new service specification |
| R13: Design person-centred services which are holistic where possible, reduce the need for clients to re-tell their story and ensure seamless handovers between services. | Will be addressed as part of new service specification |
| R14: A mix of universal services, targeted outreach in communities and specialist services, with local services delivered within the 20-minute neighbourhood plan. | Will be addressed as part of new service specification |
| R18: There should be consistent access to translation and interpreters. | There is already a commitment to this |
| Theme 3: Improve Service Design and Commissioning | |
| R1: Creation of a strategic group of funders and providers who can learn from current examples of good practice and make decisions about funding. | This has happened on an informal basis – with NHS Lothian sharing learning from existing commissioning |
| R2: Develop an overall strategy, plan and theory of change for coordinated services. | This was developed & used to inform current commissioning |
| R3: Pool funding across the available streams to create an overall funding pot and commit to funding over the longer term, which can allow strategic planning of services to take place. | Both CEC and NHS Lothian have committed to longer-term funding. NHS Lothian service is Lothian-wide so funding has not been combined with CEC |
| R4: Take a flexible and long-term approach to commissioning that recognises changing needs and circumstances, and allows services to be adaptable. | This is being done as part of recommissioning |



THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

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| R11: Co-production and co-design of services with those who access them, and those who currently do not access them, to understand local need and barriers to access. | This is being done with service providers as part of recommissioning |
| R15: Commit to a test and learn approach of funding pilots (for example, provision in schools, financial capability workshops in communities, targeted support around transitions) with options for targeted roll-out if pilots are successful. | Learning from previous pilots is informing current commissioning |
| R16: Clients accessing any funded service should have the same standard of experience and access to high quality advice delivered through compassionate interactions which build trust and feelings of safety. | Will be addressed as part of new service specification |
| Theme 4: Improve Workforce Support and Service Quality | |
| R5: A network of services should be formalised which could share resources and training and provide benefits for non-publicly funded services to sign up to the network. | This is in now place |
| R17: A client-centred charter of quality standards should be co-designed with clients. The SNSIAP standards should form part of a wider set of standards and support smaller organisations to achieve these. | Alignment with existing standards is being addressed as part of recommissioning |
| R19: Set up centralised resources for welfare rights advisors and debt advisors in Edinburgh including shared training, information, and peer support and introduce a dedicated wellbeing initiative for welfare rights advisors and those who supervise them. | This will be addressed as part of recommissioning |
| R20: Build in time and resource to funding for staff terms and conditions, training and support. | This will be addressed as part of recommissioning |
| R21: Work with employability services to develop a client to welfare rights and debt adviser volunteering/employment pathway, valuing lived experience of accessing welfare rights. | This was piloted but was not shown to be effective so was not continued |
| R24: Develop a financial education and capability offer which can be provided as part of ongoing support to people who access services. | This is an action within the refreshed LOIP |

4. Contact

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



THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

APPENDIX ONE

Date: 10 June 2026

Title: The Cost of Living & Winter Preparedness in Edinburgh

Route to this meeting: Previously reviewed by Edinburgh Council's Prevention Board and Council Leadership Team.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This briefing note sets out likely and potential implications for Edinburgh through 2026/27 because of the current Iran conflict and associated disruption of access through the Strait of Hormuz, focusing on those impacts about which there is reasonably certainty and which will have particular impact over the winter of 2026/27.
- 1.2 Most of the issues highlighted in this briefing are exacerbations of existing circumstances – increased costs, increased hardship, more pressured resources. In general, partners have measures in place to substantially mitigate these under normal demand. Appendix One captures some of the key actions already in place. The challenge for partners will be managing new acute pressure after years of other novel acute pressures, including those caused by the pandemic and subsequent inflation.
- 1.3 Projected growth will be lower and inflation will be higher over the next year, with notable impacts on fuel and food prices and availability. Those most impacted are expected to be households on low incomes, especially those containing vulnerable people, older people and children. Increasing costs will impact all organisations, with smaller businesses and third sector organisations likely to be more pressured.
- 1.4 Rising inflation makes increased interest rates more likely, raising borrowing costs. Combined with lower growth, public sector organisations may find their funding constrained as overall government spending does not keep pace with inflation. This may coincide with increased demand for many services.
- 1.5 Actual cost increases, actual shortages, and concerns about future shortages may impact Edinburgh's international visitor numbers and is unlikely to be fully offset by the potential for increased domestic visitor numbers.
- 1.6 Severe weather during the winter of 2026/27 would make all impacts worse. There is no reliable weather forecast currently available for winter 2026/27.
- 1.7 Scottish Government (SG) provide a clear framework for health and social care winter preparedness, and there is an opportunity through Community Planning for us to take a holistic and preventative approach to jointly support people's

financial and physical health and wellbeing, with the aim of keeping individuals and communities well, in addition to mitigating against increasing service pressures.

1.8 SG Winter Preparedness Priorities for Local Systems:

1.8.1 Prioritise support for those who need it most

1.8.2 Utilise prevention, including increasing public awareness of available support

1.8.3 Ensure people receive the right support in the right place at the right time

1.8.4 Maximise system capacity and capability, including pathways between services

1.8.5 Support the health and wellbeing of the workforce, including unpaid carers

1.9 While the framework is written in the context of health and care services, the approach is equally applicable to the wider service-provision landscape. The following opportunities for coordinated local action in Edinburgh are suggested in response to the above national priorities.

2. Recommendations

2.1 It is recommended that the Partnership:

2.1.1 Progress ongoing analytical work to help identify individuals, geographical areas or other cohorts with greater need (e.g. benefit recipients, young families, those with disabilities and long-term conditions, older people, carers) and design pathways to target those groups with messages and / or interventions (including welfare advice, vaccinations and street gritting).

2.1.2 Agree key messages / actions in relation to locally available winter support (e.g. in relation to food, home warmth and wider financial wellbeing; preventative measures including smoking cessation and vaccinations; and pharmacy first and adverse weather advice) and design coordinated communications across partner organisations.

2.1.3 Create a single point of winter preparedness information that can be accessed by all partners to ensure consistent, correct advice and signposting.

2.1.4 Consider the use of online tools and artificial intelligence to expand access to relevant, local information for a large number of residents at low cost.

2.1.5 Review the provision of warm spaces and explore integration of a wider offer, for example vaccination, money advice, energy saving advice and community cohesion, into these spaces.

- 2.1.6 Review current opportunities for direct food provision and consider where cash-first approaches can be used to support building a Good Food Nation, where people from every walk of life take pride and pleasure in, and benefit from, the food they produce, buy, cook, serve, and eat each day.
 - 2.1.7 Ensure appropriate coverage of warm spaces which are integrated with health, vaccination, money, food and community support.
 - 2.1.8 Review opportunities to increase community resilience, including supporting unpaid carers and community staff to maintain their own health and wellbeing, with a focus on preventing illness and avoidable hospital admissions and supporting safe-discharges back to the community.
 - 2.1.9 Refresh organisation-level plans for working from home, including opportunities for temporary colocation of office-based and public-facing staff from third sector organisations with partners – e.g. Community Hub buildings. Plan early and engage with services, management committees and building managers on which buildings would close against energy price / weather indicators.
 - 2.1.10 Work with Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce and Federation of Small Business to provide relevant guidance to businesses about how to mitigate impacts from price rises for a range of inputs and signpost to further free support.
 - 2.1.11 Work with Scottish and UK government to identify opportunities to avoid and mitigate impacts, while seeking additional targeted support for vulnerable people through winter 2026/27.
 - 2.1.12 Consider opportunities for longer term community planning work, including focus joint system working and addressing the impacts of climate change, to increase the resilience of the city to winter pressures over the longer term.
- 2.2 The UK is not experiencing a short-term cost of living pressure but a permanent, ongoing crisis. Discussions must address both necessary incremental policies as well as long-term systemic changes.

3. Background

- 3.1 Since 28 February 2026, the United States and Israel have been engaged in a war with Iran and its regional allies. The conflict began when the US and Israel launched airstrikes on Iran, targeting military and government sites and assassinating several Iranian officials, including Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei.
- 3.2 The conflict has resulted in, amongst other things, trade disruption to global supplies of oil and petrochemical products, liquid natural gas and derivatives, and



urea. All of these goods have inelastic supply and inelastic demand – meaning that even small restrictions in supply cause large increases in price as it is difficult to create more and consequential to use less. Prices of all these goods have both direct and indirect effects on everyday life for people in Edinburgh.

- 3.3 This conflict is an ongoing, dynamic issue subject to radical change. An immediate end to the conflict would not meaningfully change the six-month outlook, but could meaningfully improve the twelve-month outlook. This briefing note therefore generally concentrates on foreseeable issues through the winter of 2026/27.
- 3.4 Prior to the conflict, cost of living pressures in the UK were expected to ease in 2026, with projected inflation returning to target, increases in minimum wage, and removal of the two-child benefit limit. Average incomes were projected to grow by 4% in real terms for the poorest half of the population.
- 3.5 In addition to these new pressures, there are existing annual pressures on people's health and wellbeing during winter. These in turn have impacts on the friends, families and communities who provide informal support, and on the wider third and public sector services, including emergency food provision, welfare advice and housing; as well as community, primary, and secondary health and social care services.

4. Main Report

Inflation, interest rates and growth

- 4.1 Inflation will increase and remain above target through the rest of 2026/27. A Bank of England worst case scenario has inflation measured by the Consumer Price Index reaching almost 6% this year and remaining above target through 2029. The implications for specific goods and services are discussed in more detail.
- 4.2 Generally, inflation will reduce standard of living as household budgets are worth less, and any changes in household income will lag increases in prices. This will be especially acute for households on low incomes who have already normalised “heat or eat” decision-making.
- 4.3 As a response to higher inflation, central banks will experience pressure to maintain or raise interest rates, where interest rates prior to the Iran conflict had been expected to fall. The Bank of England expects interest rates will increase in the second half of 2026, and their worst case scenario has the Bank of England base rate rising to 5.5%. This will increase borrowing costs for all consumers, increase mortgage costs, and reduce the availability of financing generally.
- 4.4 Growth will be lower than expected in 2026-28 which has implications for all public spending, public wellbeing, and local government funding settlements.



This will likely mean tougher labour market conditions, making it more difficult for people to work additional hours to meet their increased living costs. The UK is not currently expected to enter a recession.

- 4.5 An acute combination of these factors is referred to as “stagflation” – stagnation and inflation, and both government and central bank policy responses against stagflation are limited.
- 4.6 Increased construction costs and suppressed demand may lead to lower overall home completions in Edinburgh – and will constrain supply nationally. This could reduce the effectiveness of all policy interventions to address the city’s housing crisis.
- 4.7 Public services may have little discretion in whether to buy some supplies, such as drugs and dressings, and will be exposed to higher prices that are difficult to manage in the short-term.
- 4.8 Public sector contractors may request uplift in contract value to meet higher transport and other costs, but especially in the care sector where transport is a significant component of cost.

Transport

- 4.9 Petrol and diesel prices will remain high, caused by global pricing, medium-term disruption to extraction, and long supply chains. As the UK produces petrol, our worst-case scenario for petrol is high prices and rationing under a UK National Emergency Plan for Fuel which would prioritise essential services over private use.
- 4.10 In the UK since 2015, AdBlue has been used in all new diesel engines to reduce nitrous oxide emissions. AdBlue is produced from urea, and the UK has no domestic production of urea. This elevates the risk that there will be shortages which reduce the capacity of freight haulage and waste collection, and disruption to agriculture, construction and transport which rely on diesel engines.
- 4.11 The impact of higher petrol prices is already being felt. As high prices continue, this will be felt disproportionately by care workers, shift workers, and people with disabilities who rely on private transport and have no mechanism to pass on or defer higher costs. NHS workers generally change shift at times when public transport or active travel options are available. Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership staff have already reported that the current reimbursement rate does not cover full cost of transport, as a result staff are subsidising their work. Sole traders and small businesses may have more discretion to defray these costs by passing on some or all the increase to their customers.
- 4.12 Higher fuel costs create pressure to raise public transport pricing, or to provide public subsidy to prevent this rise.



- 4.13 In the event of fuel shortages, disruption to non-priority services (e.g. community events, library vans, parks maintenance) may increase isolation for vulnerable people.
- 4.14 Cost of road works will increase as many process inputs are oil-based. This may impact local and national road quality and will be exacerbated by severe winter weather.
- 4.15 Rising fuel costs and potential shortages and increased costs of materials for all infrastructure projects in the city will likely increase costs passed on by contractors. For the Council, internal funding and Transport Scotland grants are fixed and this will impact on delivery. However, materials are only a component of these costs and already agreed individual projects may be relatively insulated.
- 4.16 Partners often have schemes in place to defray costs of seasonal travel passes and bikes for staff. Partners often promote active travel and public transport as a means of travelling to work and to different locations during work time.

Utilities

- 4.17 Residential fuel prices carry a substantial lag because of the Ofgem Price Cap. This Price Cap is updated quarterly, with the next update expected 1 July 2026. At this point, energy bills will begin to rise for customers, and this will continue through the year as more customers are exposed to higher tariffs, and a further rise in the Price Cap is likely later in the year. An estimated 29% of Scottish Households were in fuel poverty prior to the Iran conflict. There will be additional fuel debt incurred by households as a result of price increases.
- 4.18 While only a small number of properties in Edinburgh are oil-heated, it should be noted that oil is not protected by the Ofgem Price Cap. Transport and heating costs may combine to have greater impact in more rural areas of the city.
- 4.19 Regardless of how a home is heated (gas, electricity, oil), the per unit heating costs will be higher this winter than last. Those most impacted by heating costs are elderly people, those with illnesses, and those with disabilities. Young children in low-income households may also be significantly impacted. Where properties have existing conditions such as damp or mould, these will become worse, with subsequent health impacts. Impacts from this will begin to appear around the normal cold and flu season and may increase pressure on all health services. Some patients may not be suitable for discharge into cold or damp homes, increasing bed blocking.
- 4.20 Warm spaces are not always practical for people who have personal care needs. Warm spaces must be appropriately ventilated and non-crowded to avoid accelerating the spread of seasonal illnesses. Expansion of warm spaces needs to be accompanied by promotion of vaccinations, distancing and hand hygiene.
- 4.21 Energy prices paid by businesses and other organisations are not protected by the Ofgem Price Cap and many will incur sharper price rises if their supplies are



not secured long-term. There are more than 13,000 businesses in Edinburgh with fewer than five employees – those businesses are less likely to have continuity plans and forward supply contracts. Where energy prices are a major component of operating costs, this may have an impact on employment. Facilities run by third sector organisations may especially struggle to maintain opening hours.

- 4.22 In Edinburgh, support with domestic energy saving and affordability advice, retrofit and funding is available through Changeworks. This service may be more pressured around the time of energy price cap changes. For businesses, Business Energy Scotland provides free advice.

Food

- 4.23 The UK is not an importer of fertiliser from the Middle East, however fertiliser and fertiliser inputs are traded globally, and UK fertiliser prices will increase, which will translate through into higher food prices. Food price inflation will be uneven across specific food items. Some discussion of impacts on individual food types is included in this section, but overall food price inflation in 2026 in the UK may be 6%.
- 4.24 The UK will be substantially insulated from 2026 spring/summer growing season impacts, but a very long disruption of fertiliser supplies into 2027 may have significant consequences for crop yields, further driving up costs.
- 4.25 The UK is a domestic producer of many staple foods in which it meets its own local demand – potatoes, carrots, oats, onions, brassicas, peas. The UK is also a major producer of grains, milk, eggs and meat products. Real shortages of any of these items are unlikely, however all foods are generally fungible, and most are traded internationally, therefore shortages of any foodstuffs anywhere will translate through to higher costs even if local supply is not impacted and food items do not have direct fertiliser inputs (e.g. milk).
- 4.26 As transport costs increase, both import and export costs will increase. For domestic producers, this may make some exported products (e.g. seafood for which there is low UK consumption) unviable. For imported products, prices will increase. For perishable products, availability may decrease, as supermarkets seek to control the cost of waste and respond to consumer price sensitivity, even if total global supply is unchanged.
- 4.27 Major costs in the provision of short-life foods are heating (British tomatoes, cucumbers and peppers), refrigeration (meat, fish, and dairy), and CO2 for fresh food packaging. Transport refrigeration is generally diesel-powered. While meat, fish and dairy can be psychologically more difficult to substitute from a diet, British salad vegetables are not, and export will also be very expensive. Short-term hardship for these industries is likely and disruption to our year-round supply of salad vegetables is possible.



- 4.28 Overall pressure on supply chains may make supermarkets reduce number of lines carried to maintain profitability. Smaller retailers will be worse impacted as they rely on a further link in supply chains, incurring more distribution costs than major retailers, however most of Edinburgh's population is close to a major retailer even in areas of concentrated deprivation.
- 4.29 Demand and need for food bank support will increase, including amongst those who have no previous experience of seeking food bank support. Food banks may struggle to meet demand from known users while at the same time potential users with equal need will struggle to access timely support. However, donations to food banks are likely to decrease.
- 4.30 Access to food banks is usually by referral, which is available from support workers actively working with individuals and families, and from the Scottish Welfare Fund support line. The Edinburgh Food Project also offers a money advice service. Food banks, pantries, food parcels and community kitchens operate across the city, and an online map of these resources is available on the Council website.

Locally delivered support services

- 4.31 Demand for debt and money advice services will increase, and those reporting problems may be in worse circumstances on average than previously. Third sector organisations providing much of this support will be significantly pressured by rising costs and may respond by reducing staff numbers and service offer.
- 4.32 The Council has some scope to adjust eligibility criteria for financial support through schemes such as the Scottish Welfare Fund and Discretionary Housing Payments. However ringfenced budgets need to last for the full year and are fully deployed against existing priorities. The Council also has flexibility to meet individual circumstances for deferred or delayed payments.
- 4.33 In the last 12 months many claimants have moved to Universal Credit, many with health issues, which afforded them some transitional protection. However, this is now being eroded by rises in rents and prices, the additional costs having to be met from existing benefit awards.
- 4.34 Rising costs may prompt some higher demand for school clothing vouchers from households that were already eligible but did not claim, however eligibility criteria will not be updated in time to reflect actual hardship, and many impacts will be felt most acutely in autumn/winter after the school year had begun.
- 4.35 Health and care services will expect their usual winter pressures, including the need to plan and deliver annual winter vaccinations to residents and staff, as well as increased in admissions from conditions associated with colder weather (respiratory and cardiovascular disease and falls). Pressure on health and care services may be compounded by reduced access to the building blocks of health



(including nutritious food and warm homes) as well as by poor mental wellbeing as a result of additional financial pressures.

- 4.36 As financial difficulty and stress are a major cause of family breakdown, this may result in higher demand for homelessness services, family support, and young people requiring residential accommodation.
- 4.37 Increased financial pressures on staff for all organisations in Edinburgh increases the likelihood of fraud and theft. Global financial pressures will likely increase incidence of cyber-crime targeting organisations. ICT costs and delays are likely to increase for all organisations.
- 4.38 These pressures will also make staff less robust at a time when demands on them will increase. For many staff whose role permits them to work from home, doing so will result in increased financial hardship.
- 4.39 Partners generally have advice including confidential advice services for staff which cover a broad range of support needs.

Local economic implications

- 4.40 Cost of construction materials will increase, particularly energy intensive materials such as steel and cement, alongside higher delivery costs. In times of high uncertainty, fixed price contracts inevitably become more expensive, and even within a fixed price contract there is higher risk of supplier and contractor failure.
- 4.41 Increased costs for the construction industry may translate through to delayed repairs, resulting in marginal differences to property damage, long-term maintenance costs, and public safety.
- 4.42 The tourism implications remain overall unclear. Actual shortages of jet fuel, concern about shortages, and generally higher transport costs may result in overall lower tourism to Edinburgh from abroad. Most high value foreign trips to Edinburgh during peak season are likely already booked and would only be severely impacted by real global shortages of jet fuel. European bookings are more subject to short-term conditions. 2027 conference bookings remain positive as fewer international conferences are choosing USA as a venue.
- 4.43 Domestic (UK) tourism to Edinburgh could benefit from increased costs of international travel and concern about international travel as people choose to holiday closer to home. Domestic visitors spend less per capita than international visitors and have shorter stays on average. Domestic tourism is also more responsive, so rising costs and unusual weather may reduce overall leisure spend in Edinburgh in winter 2026/27.
- 4.44 The visitor economy will have higher supply costs, and visitor spend will likely be lower per capita and overall, resulting in reduced profitability for the sector.



- 4.45 Any significant change in occupation of visitor accommodation in Edinburgh would have a meaningful effect on funds raised through Edinburgh’s Visitor Levy, which comes into effect in July 2026.

5. Next steps

- 5.1 Subject to approval of the Edinburgh Partnership Board, create a short-life working group to take forward agreed action areas.
- 5.2 Partners to refer report to appropriate management or committee structures.

6. LOIP/Locality Plan alignment

- 6.1 Circumstances outlined in this briefing materially and negatively impact all three priority areas of the 2018-28 Community Plan. Specifically, more households will not have enough money to live on, access to work will reduce, and the compounding effect of these will make places where people live and work worse.

7. Background reading/external references

- 7.1 [“Monetary Policy Report, April 2026”](#): Bank of England
- 7.2 [“Energy Statistics for Scotland”](#): Scottish Government
- 7.3 [“Scottish House Condition Survey, 2024”](#): Scottish Government
- 7.4 [“Mapping of Emergency and Community Food Provision”](#): The Diffley Partnership
- 7.5 [“Healthy Eating in Schools”](#): Scottish Government
- 7.6 [“Energy Price Cap and Standing Charges Explained”](#): Ofgem
- 7.7 [“Higher energy prices could leave typical British households £480 worse off this year”](#): Resolution Foundation
- 7.8 [“Wholesale Energy Costs and Your Bills”](#): Ofgem
- 7.9 [“National Emergency Plan for Fuel”](#): UK Government
- 7.10 [“Action to Break Influence of Gas on Electricity Prices”](#): UK Government
- 7.11 [“Cost of the Fossil Fuel Crisis – Scotland”](#): Energy & Climate Intelligence Unit
- 7.12 [“Responding to Fuel Supply Disruption: Supporting the Social Care Sector”](#): LGA
- 7.13 [UK Fertiliser Prices](#): AHDB
- 7.14 [Middle East Conflict Briefing](#): National Farmers Union, Wales
- 7.15 [Diesel Exhaust Fluid AdBlue](#): ACEA
- 7.16 [Local Outcome Improvement Plan for Edinburgh 2018-28](#): Edinburgh Partnership



8. Appendices

Appendix One – Current / planned actions.

9. Contact

David Porteous

Strategy Manager (Insight), Chief Executive Office, The City of Edinburgh Council
david.porteous@edinburgh.gov.uk



THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

APPENDIX ONE

| Theme | Current / Planned Action | Area of Concern |
|------------------------------|---|---|
| Good Food Nation | <p>A network of food banks and food pantries operate across Edinburgh, run by voluntary sector, community and faith-based organisations. Access to most food provision depends on referral vouchers. Facilities are mapped and exist on both major transport routes and in areas of deprivation. Information about how to obtain a voucher is available online.</p> <p>Voluntary sector organisations in Edinburgh provide integrated food, support and advice services, as well as basic food skills development, including Edinburgh Food Project and the organisations which make up NESSie (North Edinburgh Support Service).</p> | Concern that supermarket, etc. donations to food banks may reduce in the event of any real shortages. |
| Income / debt / fuel poverty | <p>A range of partners provide money / debt advice online, by phone, and at locations across the city, including The Advice Shop, Citizens Advice, CHAI (Community Help and Advice Initiative), and the Salvation Army.</p> <p>Household Support and Advice are recruiting to vacant posts across the service and will use data from Revenues & Benefits to target individuals likely to be missing out on certain</p> | Discretionary Housing Payment budget is under significant pressure and additional demand could see fewer people helped or the help being limited. |

| | | |
|-------------|--|---|
| | <p>benefit entitlements. This targeted work will be with families with children.</p> <p>Looking to extend the Lightning Reach resource to enable households to access grants and other financial support to help manage short-term crises.</p> | |
| Warm spaces | <p>Across Edinburgh there are welcoming, warm spaces in libraries, community centres, churches and other accessible buildings. These locations are mapped online, and their existence is promoted during winter. These locations provide social activity and connection as well as physical warmth.</p> <p>Warm spaces may also provide advice and information about money, food and health issues.</p> | <p>Not all warm spaces are connected into advice and support provision around money, vaccination, etc.</p> <p>Raising awareness of warm spaces and encouraging their use remains an ongoing challenge.</p> |
| Health | <p>Vaccination is the most effective intervention to prevent influenza, covid and pneumonia, all of which are considered potentially preventable winter admissions.</p> <p>Falls prevention approaches, including intensive exercise programmes and home safety interventions, are effective in reducing rates of falls, severity of injury and subsequent demand on services, particularly in winter when there are increased cold weather risks.</p> | <p>Over the 5 winters 2018/19-2022/23, between 3000 and 6000 emergency admissions each winter (December to February) were categorised as potentially preventable. In winter 2022/23 this represented 8.3% of total admissions. Upper respiratory tract infections accounted for the majority of the potentially preventable admissions, followed by tonsillitis and cellulitis.</p> |



| | | |
|----------------|---|---|
| | <p>Supporting access to the building blocks of health – including enough money to live on and secure housing – are essential to allow people to engage in health-promoting behaviours as well as to uptake wider preventative interventions.</p> <p>Supporting health literacy has also been shown to positively impact on people’s ability to engage in effective relationships with health and care providers, as well as to engage in self-management, including appropriate use of medications and relevant health and care services.</p> <p>Supporting people’s confidence to self-manage long-term conditions has also been shown to reduce use of healthcare, including emergency admissions.</p> <p>Screening for cancer is an important year-round preventative intervention that can help people get diagnosed and treated earlier, improving outcome and reducing the chances of winter complications.</p> | <p>The mean length of hospital stay for potentially preventable conditions was shown to have increased since the pandemic. While there can be a range of reasons for an increased length of stay, including complexity of condition, challenges in arranging for care needs to be met on discharge can also be a cause of longer hospital stay.</p> <p>The majority of the potentially preventable conditions identified are known to be impacted by health behaviours – including diet, physical activity levels, alcohol consumption and tobacco use. Supporting people to engage in healthier behaviours all year round, in particular to reduce alcohol intake and stop smoking (which in addition to support health, can also lead to improved financial wellbeing), are important measures to reduce winter illness rates, and corresponding demand on health and social care services.</p> |
| Climate change | Expert energy, funding and retrofit advice is available in Edinburgh via Changeworks, who offer free advice and services to renters and owners. | Proactive approaches to retrofit and energy supply changes are most difficult and expensive when their benefits are most needed. |



| | | |
|------------------------------|--|--|
| | | Funding support through national schemes is expected to become more pressured. |
| Home working / shared spaces | <p>Partners generally operate with flexibility for a portion of their staff who can work from home or from other locations as needed.</p> <p>Buildings have previously been closed to reduce energy costs during periods of low occupancy, such as the Christmas to New Year week.</p> | <p>Provision of shared spaces is complex for ICT and security reasons.</p> <p>Most staff of Edinburgh Partners cannot work from home or change location because of the service they provide.</p> |



THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

Date: 19th May 2026

Title: Edinburgh Children's Services Plan 2026-2029

Route to this meeting: *The Children's Services Plan has been approved by the Children's Partnership on 28/04/26 and at the time of writing, is scheduled for approval at Management Group on 20/05/26 and NHS Children Young People and Maternal Health Programme board on 01/06/26 and scrutiny by City of Edinburgh Council Children and Families Committee on 09/06/26.*

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The local authority and relevant health board are required under Part 3 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 to jointly produce a Children's Services Plan every 3 years.
- 1.2 A thorough process of consultation and engagement with local authority, NHS and voluntary sector stakeholders has taken place alongside consultation with children and young people to produce the draft plan presented.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Board is recommended to:
 - i. Note the process taken in the development of the plan
 - ii. Adopt the plan

3. Background

- 3.1 The local authority and relevant health board are required under Part 3 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 to jointly produce a Children's Services Plan every 3 years.
- 3.2 The purpose of this plan, as per Children's Planning Guidance, is to articulate how various services will work together to best safeguard, support and promote the wellbeing of all children in Edinburgh; have a local workforce that is trauma-informed; ensure that any action to meet needs is taken at the earliest appropriate time and that, where appropriate, action is taken to prevent needs arising; be most integrated from the point of view of recipients; and constitute the best use of available resources.

4. Main Report

- 4.1 In order to inform the Children’s Services Plan 2026-2029 with a robust evidence base, work began in 2024 to carry out a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for Children and Young People and was published in June 2025. An online consultation on the priorities for the plan was carried out in November 2025. This was open to all stakeholders and received 99 responses. The results of this were presented at an engagement event on 27th November, where attendees furthered the development of the priorities in facilitated workshops. A small working group was then formed with representatives from CEC, NHS and the voluntary sector, to contribute to the development of the final priorities, the draft plan and the ECRIA (Equalities and Children’s Rights Impact Assessment). A briefing is scheduled to take place on Monday 18th May 2026 to provide opportunity for Elected Members to engage with the plan and a submission of the plan for ministerial review will be sent to the children’s service planning department at the Scottish Government, for which written feedback may be given.
- 4.2 Ten groups of children and young people representing a diverse range of backgrounds, ethnicities, identities and ages from 0-25 years were also approached for consultation. They were engaged in structured small group discussions, offering the opportunity to reflect on their lived experiences and share their knowledge. To support ‘hearing’ the voice of infants, skilled practitioners worked alongside parents to capture the needs of our youngest citizens. Themes emerging from consultation with children and young people were integrated into the plan.

5. [Next steps](#)

- 5.1 The ECRIA is currently being progressed by the working group and will take advisement from the Children’s Rights and Participation sub-group of the Children’s Partnership with regard to any actions identified. It is expected to be published in July 2026.

6. [LOIP/Locality Plan alignment](#)

6.1

7. [Background reading/external references](#)

7.1 [Children’s Planning Guidance](#)

7.2 [Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for Children and Young People](#)

8. [Appendices](#)



9. Contact

Colin Briggs - Director of Strategic Planning, NHS Lothian
Colin.briggs@nhs.scot



THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

CHILDREN'S SERVICES PLAN

2026-29



Contents

| | | |
|----|---|----|
| 1 | Introduction | 2 |
| 2 | Consultation with Children and Young People | 5 |
| 3 | What the data tells us about children and young people in Edinburgh | 9 |
| 4 | Performance Indicators..... | 12 |
| 5 | Our Plan: Principles and Approaches | 14 |
| 6 | Our Plan: Priorities..... | 18 |
| 7 | Children’s Strategic Planning Partnership Structure | 25 |
| 8 | Our Plan: Actions..... | 26 |
| 9 | Joint Commissioning..... | 32 |
| 10 | The Promise..... | 34 |
| 11 | Membership | 35 |
| 12 | Acknowledgement and Thanks..... | 36 |

1 Introduction

Welcome to the Children’s Services Plan 2026-2029 for the City of Edinburgh. This plan sets out our shared vision, ambitions and commitments to making a meaningful difference in improving the lives of Edinburgh’s children, young people and their families.

This plan takes account of the achievements and progress made over the last 3 years under the [Edinburgh Children’s Services Plan 2023-2026](#), a summary of which is available in the [Edinburgh Children’s Partnership Annual Report 2025-2026](#). It is intended to build on that progress and identify new and emerging priorities through consultation.

The Edinburgh Children’s Partnership (the Partnership/ECP) is the statutory partnership, as outlined in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, which sets out how services are provided locally. This requires councils and NHS Health Boards, along with other key partner agencies, to work together to plan, provide and deliver services for children and their families.

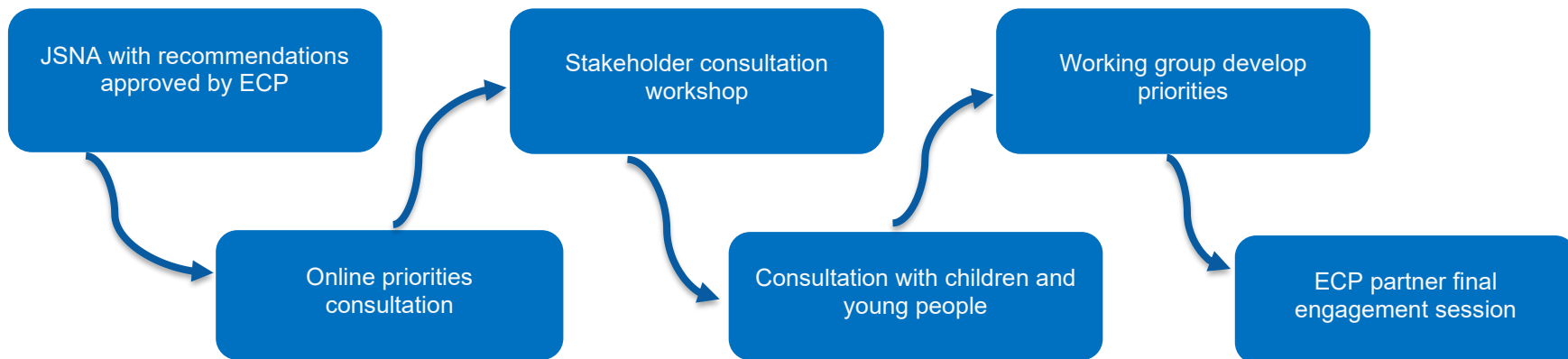


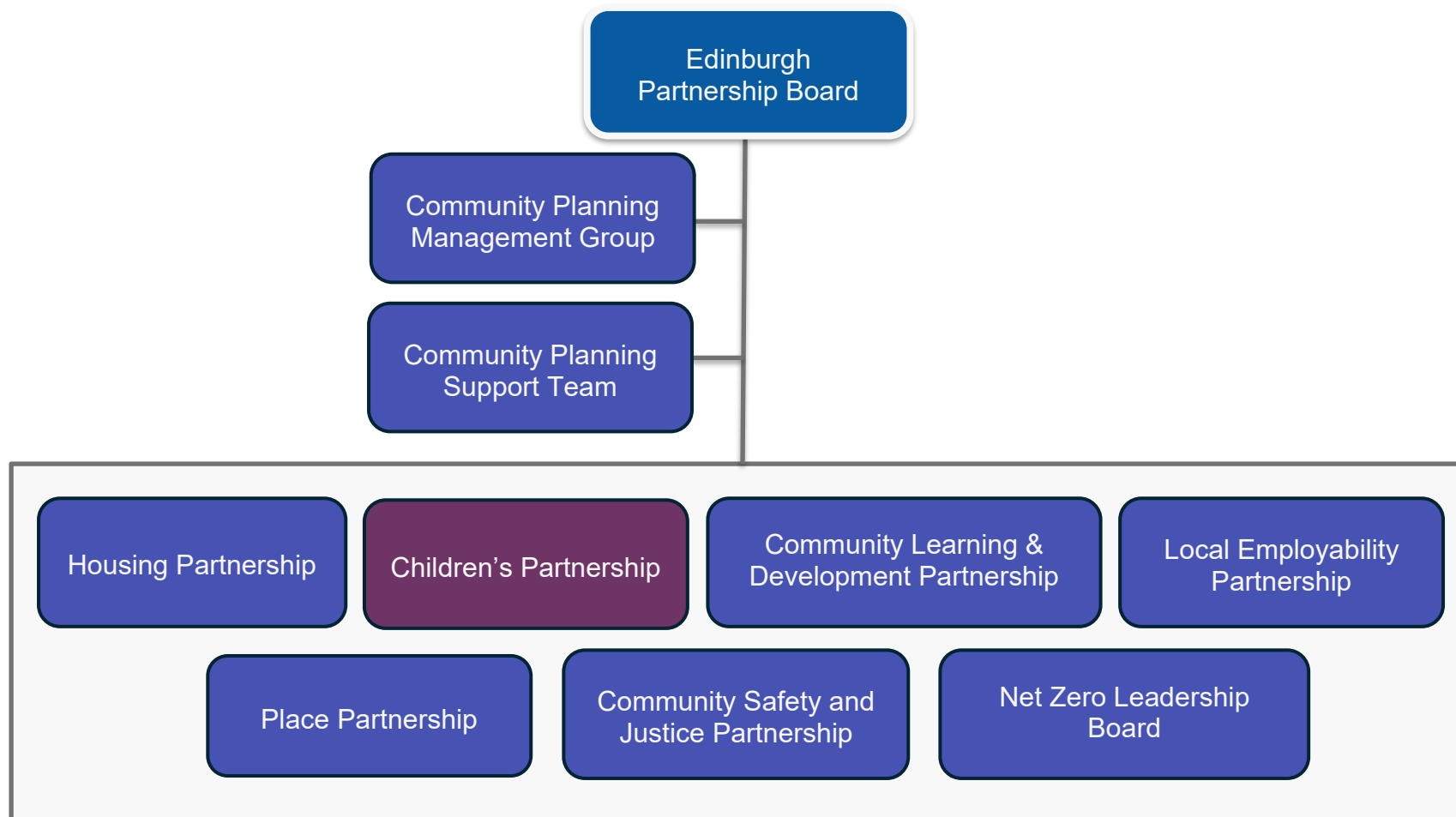
Figure 1 - Plan development process

Our partnership organisations represent local government, health, social care, education, government organisations and third sector community and voluntary organisations. Edinburgh Children's Partnership reports into the Edinburgh Partnership Board and directs the strategic planning, development and delivery of children and young people's services on behalf of the Edinburgh Partnership to ensure all of the different people who work with our babies, children and young people do so in a joined-up way.



This Plan has been developed in collaboration with public sector bodies and third sector organisations and is informed by both the voice and testimony of children, young people and families and the needs of our communities as detailed through our [Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for Children and Young People in Edinburgh \(2025\)](#). This Plan articulates how partners work together to provide services which are organised, equipped to deliver high-quality, joined-up, trauma-informed, whole family support to children and families.

Community Planning Structure



2 Consultation with Children and Young People

As part of the development of this plan, it was essential to consult with professionals and organisations that work with children, young people and families as well as capture the voice of children and young people (CYP) themselves. One way we did this was through an online consultation with professionals. This was developed from reports which held significant levels of data, research and the voice of children and young people.

We also held specific engagement groups with children and young people across the city. The groups were supported by trusted adults who created safe and enabled spaces for the voices of children and young people to be heard. The consultation themes were adapted into accessible language, delivering these through the most appropriate setting / tool for the collection of the children and young people's expressions.

In total, ten groups of children and young people representing a diverse range of backgrounds, ethnicities, identities and ages from 0-25 years were approached. They were engaged in structured small group discussions, offering the opportunity to reflect on their lived experiences and share their knowledge. To support 'hearing' the voice of infants, skilled practitioners worked alongside parents to capture the needs of our youngest citizens.

Whilst findings from this consultation have strengthened and enhanced the priorities and actions within the plan, it emerged that themes relating to children and young people who identify as LGBT+ did not come through in consultation and may have been missing or 'unheard' from this process. Furthermore, whilst demographic data for Edinburgh is available from Scotland's Census 2022 and this data can be broken down by some equality characteristics such as race, religion, sex and disability, data is not available for sexual orientation or gender reassignment for under 16s.

In order to address this gap, national research such as that published by LGBT Youth Scotland will be used as part of our Equality and Children's Rights Impact Assessment and the voice of children and young people in Edinburgh who identify as LGBT+ will be explored further within the Children's Rights Plan 2026-2029.

Common themes:

- **Safe spaces, in community settings and within schools:** Identifying the need for spaces which felt sensory aware, there was a clear call from the children and young people who took part in the consultation for time and space for peer interaction in safe places.
- **Opportunity for play and experiences across the age ranges:** For babies and infants, this included play, which was low-cost and supported development. For school-aged and older children, this was about clubs, arts, leisure and new experiences as well as access to spaces and physical exercise. They asked for more opportunities to be outdoors, both for enjoyment and to have breathing space.
- **Family support:** Recognising that families (parents/carers) are often juggling demands of

work, money and supporting their child / young person with mental health or social needs.

- **Importance of trusted adults:** Described as adults who 'know you', take issues seriously, who both ask and listen and when needed can bridge communication with parents or other services.
- **Informed and involved:** Children and young people asked that services and support be advertised both as posters around schools and youth clubs, as well as on the online platforms they use. Information and understanding for parents were raised in relation to mental health and wellbeing. Specifically, being informed about how to access services and clear expectations around waiting lists and what can be provided.

Three 'big issues' emerged which had not been identified within the professional stakeholder consultation:

- **Social media and smartphones:** Children and young people repeatedly commented that social media and smart phones are a challenge. Links were made with poor mental health and wellbeing, the feeling that children and young people are not fully equipped to navigate digital life was expressed and that a level of support/control around the digital environment would be welcomed.
- **Misogyny:** Descriptions of misogyny, labelled 'sexism', emerged. There was a sharing of early experiences of feeling uncomfortable with some of the behaviour from peers and a call for more respect and education on this subject.
- **Racism:** Young people discussed the impact of experiencing and witnessing incidents of racist bullying, with a call for clearer guidance on what to do if they experience or see racist bullying, alongside more education for young people about racism to prevent and support in the future.

These priorities are included within the plan, sitting within the actions for subgroups to explore further and take action.

The Children's Partnership has also been working on developing approaches to furthering children's rights, including the right to have their voices heard, in all work undertaken.

Learning from the consultation process will be taken forward within the plan. We are committed to continuing to build on children's rights and participation in the new plan.



3 What the data tells us about children and young people in Edinburgh

This Children's Services Plan is informed by a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), completed in 2025. The JSNA brings together data and evidence as well as views and perceptions, to build a shared understanding of the needs of children, young people and families across Edinburgh. It provides the evidence base for this plan and helps ensure that priorities are shaped by what the data tells us about children's lives across the city. For access to more information, a link to the full report is provided: [JSNA Edinburgh CYP](#).

Edinburgh is home to a culturally diverse population of 514,543 people, including 57,376 children and young people aged 0–17 and is, on average, a less deprived area than Scotland as a whole.

Almost a third of households (30.9%) live in areas of the city that are considered the least deprived areas in Scotland, while only 4% live in areas of the city that are in the 20% most deprived areas in Scotland. However, these overall figures can hide real differences across the city.

Around 11% of people across Lothian, just over 100,000 residents, live in neighborhoods that are among the 20% most deprived in Scotland, and most of these communities are in Edinburgh.

Levels of deprivation vary widely between different parts of the city. Northeast Edinburgh has the highest proportion of people living in the most deprived areas, while more than half of residents in the Northwest and Southeast live in the least deprived areas nationally. Neighbourhoods such as Craigmillar, Niddrie, Liberton, Gilmerton, Westerhailes, Pilton and Granton experience the greatest levels of deprivation. In these communities, families with children make up a much larger share of households (43.8%) than elsewhere, illustrating how children and families are more likely to be affected by poverty.

While Edinburgh does better than the national average on some maternal and infant health measures, inequalities remain.

Around 7% of pregnant women are recorded as smokers at their first appointment, compared to 11% nationally, however rates vary significantly across the

city with rates as high as 36.4% in some areas. Breastfeeding rates are relatively high, with 84.9% of babies ever breastfed, but fewer than four in ten are exclusively breastfed at 6–8 weeks and drop-off rates are higher in more deprived areas. In schools, the proportion of pupils with additional support needs has risen from 25.7% in 2017 to 45.9% in 2023.

Less than half of pregnant women are a healthy weight at booking and around one in five are classified as obese, which can affect both maternal and child health.

Poverty continues to have a major impact on children's lives. Around one in five children in Edinburgh are living in poverty, affecting their health, wellbeing, learning and future opportunities. Housing insecurity is a particular concern; in September 2025, nearly 5,000 households in the city were [living](#) in temporary accommodation, including over 3600 children and young people.

During 2024/25, 96 young people aged 16 and 17 [presented](#) as homeless, highlighting the risks faced by young people during key stages of transition.

Overall, the data shows that while many children and young people in Edinburgh are doing well, too many continue to face disadvantages. These findings reinforce the importance of partners working together to focus on prevention and early support, so that inequalities are reduced and all children and young people have the best possible start in life.

At the 27–30-month child health review, children living in the most deprived communities are around 10% more likely to show developmental concerns than those in the least deprived areas, and this gap has changed little in recent years.

57, 376 children under 18 years of age live in Edinburgh

4,463 births in 2024

6.3% of children were born at low birth weight in 2024/25

Registration of eligible 3- and 4-year-olds with the free early learning and childcare scheme dropped to 96% Sept 2025

27% (41,890) aged 0-24 have a disability or long-term physical or mental health condition

21% (18,000) of children in poverty

30,058 primary school attendees

23,150 secondary school attendees

686 special school attendees

Young Carers:
897 aged 3-15
2,940 aged 16-24

Primary, secondary and special school pupil ethnicity:

32,306 White British

7,060 White other

14,018 Minority ethnic group

Children who speak a language other than English as their main language:

5,621 aged 3-15

11,847 aged 16-24

45.9% of school children with additional support needs* in 2023

*see JSNA for definition of additional support needs

The rate of looked after (care-experienced) children in Edinburgh is 10.2 per 1,000 0-17 population and 1.4 per 1,000 children aged 0-15 are on the child protection register

4 Performance Indicators

In October 2023, the Edinburgh Children's Partnership agreed on 10 outcome indicators to track our progress over time. These indicators were chosen to represent things the Partnership aimed to achieve as part of its collective vision and because they are both available nationally and regularly updated to ensure we can make comparisons with other local authorities and over time. Some serve as proxy indicators where direct measures are not available or not routinely collected. For example, there is not currently a suitable indicator for mental wellbeing, however evidence suggests children and young people with poorer mental wellbeing are more likely to miss school, therefore the Partnership includes Secondary School Attendance as one method of tracking how well services are meeting the mental wellbeing needs of Edinburgh's children and young people.

All 10 indicators provide valuable insights into the overall, long-term health and wellbeing of the population of children and young people, allowing the Partnership to track the impact of its work and make policy decisions.

However, these 10 indicators tell us about population-level outcomes, rather than the health and wellbeing of specific groups or individuals, nor do they take into account the lived experience of children, young people and families accessing services.

Therefore, the sub-groups of the Partnership will also use other indicators and forms of data to track the impact of specific programmes of work, including process, output and outcome indicators, considering equity of impacts wherever data availability allows.

Child Poverty

Percentage of children living in households with below 60% median income in the local area, after housing costs

P1 Healthy Weight

% of P1 children whose BMI is between 5-95% of reference range for their age and sex

Looked After Children

The rate of children per 1000 who are looked after by the local authority

P1 Literacy

% P1 children in each SIMD achieving expected Curriculum of Excellence literacy levels

Smoking in Pregnancy

% women in each SIMD who are current smokers at the antenatal booking appointment

Secondary School Attendance

% young people in each SIMD attending secondary school

Breastfeeding

% of babies in each SIMD reported by parents to be exclusively breastfed at the 6–8-week review

School Leavers Positive Destinations

% school leavers, aged 16-19, in positive destinations at 9-month follow-up

Developmental Concerns

% children in each SIMD with developmental concerns noted at 27–30-month review (% not meeting level of no concerns across all domains)

Care-experienced School Leaver Destinations Positive

% looked after school leavers, aged 16-19, in positive destinations at 9-month follow-up

5 Our Plan: Principles and Approaches

This plan is built around a set of core principles and approaches that guide everything we do together. The objectives and implementation plan will be guided by and adhere to these principles and approaches to ensure we, as a partnership, deliver the maximum benefit for our children and young people.

Principles

1. **Prevention and Early Intervention.** As a partnership, we will prioritise actions which prevent issues or harms from occurring in the first place. When an issue or harm does occur, we will work together with the right services and organisations to develop strategic actions that seek to tackle them at the earliest stage possible.
2. **Ambitious, Creative and Trusting Multi-agency Collaboration.** We will maximise the collective strength and influence of our partnership to address complex social challenges through coordinated, multi-agency action. All objectives and priority programmes will be delivered collaboratively, drawing on the expertise of more than one agency. We will continue to demonstrate ambition for children and young people in Edinburgh, applying creative and innovative approaches to achieve positive outcomes.
3. **Voice of Infants, Children and Young People.** We will develop actions and services that are informed and shaped by people with lived experience and place the voice of infants, children, young people and families at the heart of service improvement. We commit to clear actions that further their voice and the integration of robust reporting mechanisms. Children, young people and their families are best placed to determine what they need to live healthy and happy lives. We will empower

children, young people and their families to contribute to how we support their communities and design solutions to address any issues.

4. **Reducing Inequalities.** Our partnership is committed to reducing inequalities and ensuring that all children, young people and families can access the support they need, when they need it. We will work collaboratively across services to address structural barriers, target disadvantage and promote equitable outcomes for those most at risk of poorer life chances.

Approaches

- **Equality, diversity and inclusion.** The Children's Partnership will work collaboratively and purposefully to embed equality and diversity within the plan and associated actions. This approach will be seen through workforce development that expands knowledge and understanding of the needs of infants, children, young people and their families and in turn supports further inclusive planning. This will also be a key element in our approach to children's rights and participation, by improving how we meaningfully engage with children and young people to ensure they feel enabled and empowered. The partnership will also explore approaches that are proven to demonstrably increase participation amongst children and young people furthest from their rights.
- **Trauma-informed.** The Edinburgh Children's Partnership shares the Scottish Government and COSLA's ambition to have a trauma-informed workforce and services, capable of recognising where people are affected by trauma and adversity, that are able to respond in ways that prevent further harm and support recovery and can address inequalities and improve life chances. We will continually promote the integration of the five core principles: safety, trust, choice, collaboration and empowerment into all strands of work across policies, practice, systems and organisational culture.

Acknowledging the central importance of relationships to make a positive difference to anyone who has been impacted by psychological trauma and adversity, improving wellbeing, reducing emotional difficulties for children and young people and having a positive impact on families and caregivers.

- **Whole Family Support.** Whole Family Support (WFS) is a holistic, preventative approach designed to strengthen families, improve child wellbeing and reduce poverty by addressing needs collectively rather than focusing on individuals in isolation. WFS has 10 core principles, which came from [The Promise](#), which should be embedded through the work of the Children's Partnership.

Strategic approach to allocation and delivery of the Whole Family Wellbeing funding:

The approach to delivering family support through Whole Family Wellbeing Funding was designed to ensure that investment strengthened whole family working in areas identified as a priority by the Edinburgh Children's Partnership. A cross-sector working group was established to shape the strategic direction of the fund and agree on how funding should be allocated. The group also identified learning to inform future commissioning and strategic oversight, which has been applied in the development of this Children's Services Plan. Funding was designated based on a collaborative model of service delivery, co-designed by at least one statutory and Third Sector partner, with all partners operating on an equal footing. Each collaboration was required to:

- ✓ Align work to at least one priority area within the Children's Services Plan (2023-2025), which was in turn aligned to the National Principles of Holistic Whole Family Support.
- ✓ Clearly explain how their proposed approach was transformational.
- ✓ Demonstrate evidence of need through baseline data.
- ✓ Evidence of experience of working with the priority family groups they intended to support.
- ✓ Deliver city-wide support, ensuring access was not restricted based on postcode.
- ✓ Demonstrate understanding that the fund was intended to drive transformational change rather than create long-term funded services and outline plans for sustainability.

Proposals were assessed against these criteria by a cross-sector panel and six collaborations were funded:

1. **The Family Hub:** Provides appropriate holistic, family-centred support at the universal and enhanced level at the earliest stage possible for families with a child under 5 years.
2. **Umbrella Hubs:** Provides early, community-based support to families with a range of support needs.
3. **Time to Talk:** Supports and improves the mental health of young people, as well as their families. This includes Youth work in a hospital A&E setting.
4. **Edinburgh Parent-led Childcare Collaborative:** Developing a package of support to aid the set-up and sustainability of affordable, parent-led after-school clubs in primary schools.
5. **Parent Infant Partnership:** Create a seamless, multi-disciplinary pathway that provides meaningful and equitable support to the most vulnerable expectant parents and their babies.
6. **EDAN Hub:** Provide collaborative, whole family support to families with a child or young person with a disability, including children who are neurodivergent (Pre-school to adult transition).

In addition to the collaborative funds, a central team within the Edinburgh Council provides core support to strengthen whole family working across the system. This includes:

- Locality co-ordinators who support workforce development around the National Principles, co-delivery programmes such as PEEP and Mellow for Young People, lead test of change activities and contribute to the development of the Single Point of Access.
- Trauma coordinators who deliver cross-sector training and a reflective practice calendar, assess workforce need and develop an enhanced trauma-informed pathway for the Third Sector.
- A systemic family psychotherapist who builds practice across the workforce and provides structured case consultation spaces for practitioners working across families experiencing complex or 'stuck' situations.

6 Our Plan: Priorities

Reducing Child Poverty and Inequality

Outcome: Families experience improved financial stability, wellbeing and inclusion, reducing poverty and deprivation-related inequalities and improving long-term outcomes for children and young people.

Indicators: Child poverty; Smoking in pregnancy; Looked After Children

In line with the [Edinburgh Partnership Community Plan 2018–2028](#) priority *Enough Money to Live On* and the [Edinburgh Poverty Commission’s call to action to end poverty in Edinburgh by 2030](#), the Edinburgh Children’s Partnership will continue to prioritise actions that contribute to reducing child poverty. Financial stability has a profound impact on the health, wellbeing and life chances of children and young people. When families experience improved financial security, inequalities in health, education and wellbeing are reduced across the life course. For children, whose development is particularly sensitive to early experiences, poverty can have long-lasting impacts on physical health, emotional wellbeing and educational attainment.

Reducing child poverty therefore represents not only a priority in its own right, but also a **foundation for progress across all other priorities within this plan.**

Data from the Edinburgh Poverty Commission 2025 Calls to Action estimates that around 18,000 children in Edinburgh currently live in poverty. The Commission highlights that:

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

While the **Child Poverty and Inequality Sub-Group** will lead actions to reduce levels of child poverty, achieving this transformation requires a whole-system approach. All ECP sub-groups and partners have a role in improving the experience of seeking support for children, young people and families.

The approaches set out in this plan, including commitments to **equality, diversity and inclusion, whole-family support and trauma-informed practice**, aim to ensure that services are accessible, non-stigmatising and responsive to the needs of families.

Of the Partnership's ten long-term outcome indicators, child poverty levels will be tracked directly under this priority. Smoking in pregnancy is also monitored as this indicator is strongly associated with socioeconomic deprivation. Work under this priority may also contribute to reducing the number of children becoming looked after, as recognised in [The Promise](#), which highlights poverty as both a contributing factor to children entering care and a common experience among care-experienced children.

Best Start in Life: Pregnancy, Infancy and Early Development

Outcome: Babies and young children are supported from pregnancy onwards to develop strong relationships, healthy development and early learning foundations.

Indicators: Breastfeeding; Developmental concerns; P1 healthy weight; P1 literacy

A consistent theme emerging from consultation during the development of this plan was the importance of **prevention and early intervention**. While these principles underpin the work of the Edinburgh Children's

Evidence consistently demonstrates that experiences in the pre-birth to age three period have a profound influence on lifelong health, wellbeing and learning outcomes

Partnership as a whole, the *Best Start in Life* priority represents a particularly important focus for preventative action.

Scotland's [Population Health Framework 2025–2035](#) emphasises this, stating:

“A focus on early years is crucial to the future health and wellbeing of our population and the evidence suggests more can be done to improve outcomes in the pre-birth to age three period.”

The indicators tracked under this priority (breastfeeding rates, developmental concerns, P1 healthy weight and P1 literacy) reflect key aspects of early childhood health, development and readiness for learning. For example, breastfeeding is associated with well-established short- and long-term health benefits for both infants and mothers. However, breastfeeding rates are often lower in more deprived communities, reflecting wider inequalities in support and access to services. The Best Start in Life Sub-Group will lead actions to increase breastfeeding rates and support early development across the city. Improvements in all these indicators, particularly within areas of greatest deprivation, will reflect progress in ensuring that services effectively support families and address the theme emerging from consultation with children and young people relating to safe space and access to play opportunities.

Wellbeing and Mental Health

Outcome: Children and young people have timely access to preventative and community-based mental health support, enabling them to engage in learning and enjoy a healthy childhood.

Indicators: Secondary school attendance; School leavers' positive destinations

Mental health and wellbeing emerged as a clear priority during consultation with partners, children and young people in the development of this plan.

Stakeholders highlighted a range of challenges, including long waiting times for specialist services, a need for greater access to community-based support and the importance of trauma-informed and relationship-based approaches. Participants also emphasised the importance of holistic and preventative supports, including safe spaces, youth work, trusted adults and community-based provision that can help children and young people build resilience and maintain good mental wellbeing.

This priority, therefore, focuses on strengthening preventative and community-based supports that enable children and young people to maintain good mental health and remain engaged in education.

At present, there is no single robust population-level indicator of mental wellbeing for children and young people in Edinburgh. As a result, proxy indicators have been identified. Secondary school attendance and school leavers' positive destinations provide an indication of whether children and young people are sufficiently supported in their wellbeing to participate in learning and progress into further education, training or employment.

During consultation, children and young people themselves also highlighted concerns about the impact of social media and smartphone use on their wellbeing. Given the emerging evidence linking excessive digital use with negative mental health outcomes, the Mental Health and Wellbeing Sub-Group will work with partners across the city to align with existing initiatives and develop a coordinated approach to addressing these concerns.

Youth Work, Inclusion and Engagement

Outcome: Children and young people experience inclusive, accessible learning and community environments, including youth work, particularly for those facing barriers or disadvantages.

Indicators: Child poverty; P1 healthy weight; P1 literacy; Secondary school attendance; School leavers positive destinations; Looked After school leavers positive destinations.

The **Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)** explored Edinburgh's *Universal Offer* - the services, opportunities and supports that all children and young people should be able to access across the city. Equitable access to informal learning, play, leisure, culture and youth work opportunities play a key role in preventing inequalities in health, wellbeing and educational outcomes from emerging.

Youth work contributes to physical and mental wellbeing, supports the development of skills and trusted relationships and can strengthen engagement in learning and pathways towards positive destinations.

This priority reflects the Partnership's commitment to prevention and early intervention by focusing on key [building blocks of health](#) and wellbeing identified in the JSNA, including: education and skills, family, friends and community and our surroundings. Strengthening these foundations can improve wellbeing across the whole population of children and young people while also reducing inequalities for those who experience barriers or disadvantages. Because the impacts of work in this area are wide-ranging, a broad set of indicators has been identified to monitor progress across childhood and into early adulthood.

The Youth Work, Inclusion and Engagement sub-group will lead actions to progress the [Edinburgh Youth and Children's Work Strategy 2023-2028](#), and the priorities identified in the [Strategy Reconnector Report](#) and develop a Play Strategy for the city, bringing together partners to deliver a coordinated, multi-agency response to this priority.

Children, Young People and Families' Meaningful Participation

Outcome: Children, young people and families are meaningfully involved in shaping services, with their rights, voices and lived experiences informing decisions and contributing to reduced inequalities and improved outcomes.

Indicators: All indicators

The **Joint Strategic Needs Assessment** identified *Children's Voice* as a key cross-cutting theme and concluded that:

“The collection and consideration of children’s voice is not systematically embedded effectively within all services.”

This finding was echoed through consultation with stakeholders and partners during the development of this plan. As a result, strengthening meaningful participation has been identified as a priority.

This work builds on the progress made by the Partnership’s **UNCRC Sub-Group**, which has led work over the past three years to embed children’s rights within policy and practice. A new **Children’s Rights and Participation Sub-Group** will now take forward this agenda with a particular focus on **Article 12** of the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child \(UNCRC\)](#), which states that:

“Children who are capable of forming their own views have the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting them, and those views should be given due weight.”

The group will bring together partners from the **Edinburgh Children’s Partnership** and the **Edinburgh Community Learning and Development Partnership**, reflecting the shared responsibility across community planning partnerships to uphold children’s and young people’s rights and strengthen participatory practice. By working collaboratively, the group will help ensure a more joined-up approach across partnerships while avoiding duplication. The group will also lead on the publication of the three-yearly Children’s Rights Report in relation to partnership activity.

A System That Delivers: Workforce, Data and Partnerships

Outcome: A confident, skilled workforce and a well-connected system use shared data, learning and partnership working to deliver consistent, effective and measurable improvements in outcomes for children and young people.

Indicators: All indicators

The [Edinburgh Partnership Board Work Programme 2025–26](#) includes a workstream to strengthen governance, structures, reporting and communication across community planning partnerships.

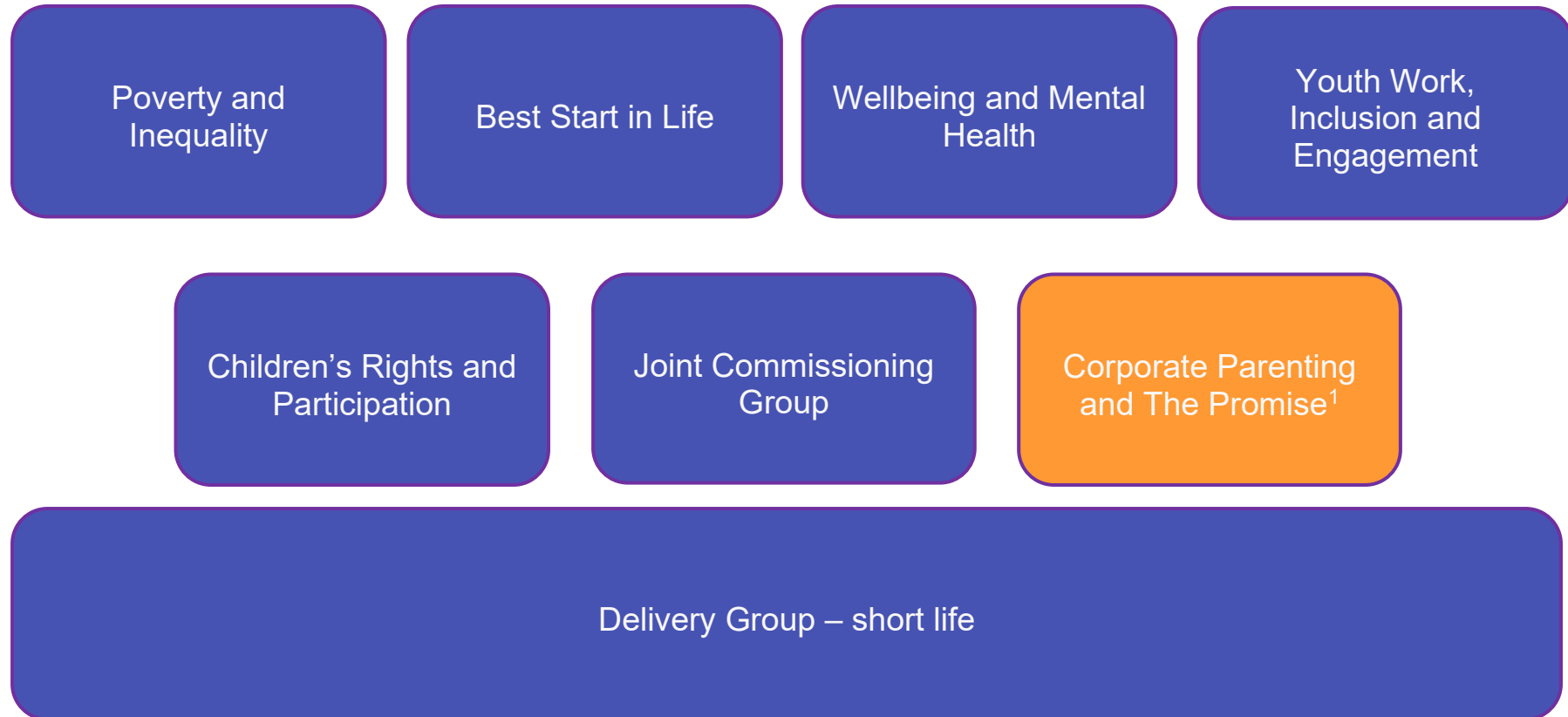
In alignment with this work, the Edinburgh Children’s Partnership will establish a **short-life Delivery Sub-Group** to review the Partnership’s current systems, governance and ways of working. The group will identify opportunities to strengthen collaboration, improve the use of shared data and ensure that partnership activity is effectively aligned with strategic priorities, both within the Children’s Partnership and with the wider Community Planning Partnership and Local Outcome Improvement Plan.

Initial consultation with partners has already identified a number of areas for development. These include strengthening collaboration between sub-groups and improving links with other strategic partnerships across the community planning system.

Strengthening these systems will help ensure that work is not duplicated across partnerships, collective resources are used effectively, and actions across different partnerships contribute to shared outcomes for children and young people.

Ultimately, this work aims to support a more coordinated, efficient and outcome-focused community planning system for children and families in Edinburgh.

7 Children's Strategic Planning Partnership Structure



¹ Actions associated with Corporate Parenting and The Promise are detailed within the Corporate Parenting Plan and are governed under the Corporate Parenting Board. Regular updates will be provided to Edinburgh Children's Partnership to ensure work is joined up and collaborative.

8 Our Plan: Actions

| Priority | How will we make it happen? | When will it happen? | Who will make it happen? |
|---|---|----------------------|--|
| 1. Reducing child poverty and inequality Families experience improved financial stability, wellbeing and inclusion, reducing child poverty and deprivation-related inequalities and improving long-term outcomes for children and young people. | Develop, facilitate uptake of and evaluate child poverty learning content to support staff with routine money worries enquiries, with particular focus on child poverty priority family types and the impact of poverty on experiences of the care system | Year 1-3 | Child Poverty and inequality sub-group |
| | Develop data-driven opportunities to proactively identify and support individuals or households who are most likely to be financially insecure, including those at risk of homelessness | Year 1-3 | |
| | Identify the financial costs associated with accessing the health and care system and promote targeted and universal mitigation opportunities with partners | Year 1-2 | |
| | Monitor and evaluate the accessibility, uptake and impact of welfare rights advice and infant food insecurity pathways across early years and wider family services, supporting their ongoing development and improvement in collaboration with the Best Start in Life sub-group. | Year 1-2 | |

| | | | |
|--|---|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| <p>2. Best start in life: pregnancy, infancy and early development</p> <p>Babies, young children and families are supported from pregnancy onwards to develop strong relationships, healthy development and early learning foundations.</p> | <p>Take a whole family support approach to inclusion by embedding the principles of inclusive fathers from the start within children’s services</p> | <p>Year 1</p> | <p>Best Start in Life sub-group</p> |
| | <p>Reduce barriers to breastfeeding by promoting support groups and raising the profile of breastfeeding through accreditation with Breastfeeding Friendly Scotland Scheme within Early Years settings, and other Partnership services such as Neighbourhood Prevention Hubs.</p> | <p>Year 1</p> | |
| | <p>Develop a coordinated pathway for pre-birth access to holistic multi-agency services, maintaining strong links with welfare rights advice pathways and supporting advancement of this work where appropriate</p> | <p>Year 1-3</p> | |
| | <p>Development of coordinated communications and workforce development plan for responsive caregiving, including the importance of physical play messages which support parent–infant relationships, early brain, speech and language development and infant mental health, including increasing uptake of library registration at birth.</p> | <p>Year 1-3</p> | |
| | <p>Codesign and pilot a unified framework that supports improved transition process between Health, Education and the Third sector for transitions from Health Visiting and Early Years settings into Primary 1</p> | <p>Year 2-3</p> | |

| | | | |
|---|---|----------|--|
| <p>3. Wellbeing and mental health Children and young people have timely access to preventative and community-based mental health support, enabling them to engage in learning and enjoy a healthy childhood.</p> | <p>Develop a sustainable Partnership model for the Single Point of Access (SPA), considering integration with other pathways of support e.g. Neighborhood Prevention Partnerships (NPPs) and improving efficiency and reducing bureaucracy.</p> | Year 1-2 | Well-being and Mental Health Sub-group |
| | <p>Improve prevention and early intervention for those with needs below CAMHS thresholds by strengthening the continuum of mental health support with consistent access to targeted support through collaborative locality working with Education Wellbeing Service and NHS partners (e.g. CAMHS, Primary care)</p> | Year 1-3 | |
| | <p>Develop relevant shared outcomes across community wellbeing and mental health providers with robust and proportionate reporting, including use of digital solutions, to improve efficiency and consistency.</p> | Year 1-2 | |
| | <p>Interface between pan-Lothian work around neurodevelopmental pathways and ECP members, promoting the inclusive and neuro-affirmative (with and without diagnoses)</p> | Year 1-2 | |
| | <p>CYP Priority – Smartphones and social media Promote positive approaches to the use of digital environments to support mental health across ECP members.</p> | Year 1-2 | |

| | | | |
|---|---|----------|--|
| <p>4. Youth work, inclusion and engagement</p> <p>Children and young people experience inclusive, accessible learning and community environments, including youth work, particularly for those facing barriers or disadvantage</p> | <p>Progress the Youth & Children's Work Strategy and associated Calls to Action through a coordinated partnership-led approach, with collective responsibility for addressing key priorities to ensure all children and young people can access safe spaces and build trusted relationships.</p> | Year 1-3 | <p>Youth Work and Community Engagement sub-group</p> |
| | <p>Building on the JSNA Universal Offer recommendation, coordinate the development and delivery of an Edinburgh Play Strategy that increases equitable access to informal learning, play, leisure and culture opportunities for children and young people of all ages.</p> | Year 1-3 | |
| | <p>Examine and address barriers to participation in learning outside of school from EY to secondary school.</p> | Year 1-3 | |
| <p>5. Children, young people and families' meaningful participation</p> <p>Children, young people and families are meaningfully involved in shaping services, with their rights, voices and lived experiences informing decisions and contributing to reduced inequalities and improved outcomes</p> | <p>Strengthen mechanisms for capturing infant, child, young person and family voices by embedding the Lundy model of participation across planning, delivery and evaluation.</p> | Year 1 | <p>Children's Rights and Participation sub-group</p> |
| | <p>Collect and analyse children and young people's voices to improve understanding of systemic barriers to children's services for vulnerable groups. Sharing with relevant Children's Partnership sub-groups to support changes which address barriers using a proportionate universalism approach to service provision.</p> | Year 2 | |

| | | | |
|---|---|----------|---------------------------|
| | Share data and learning from children and young people's voice work completed in Years 1 and 2, with wider Strategic Partnerships within Edinburgh's Community Planning Partnership to support further changes in service provision, which reduce inequalities in access to services. | Year 3 | |
| | As ambassadors for CYP, work with CLD Partnership to promote the continued commitment to upholding Children's Rights across Community Planning Partnership | Year 1-3 | |
| | CYP Priority – Racism and sexism Work across Community Planning to develop a response to CYP concerns about racist bullying and misogynistic behaviour from peers | Year 1-3 | |
| 6. A system that delivers: workforce, data and partnerships A confident, skilled workforce and a well-connected system use shared data, learning and partnership working to deliver consistent, effective and measurable improvement in outcomes for children and young people. | Coordinate workforce development across partners, including wider community planning strategic partnerships, learning from Whole Family Wellbeing funded projects, trauma-informed, Money Counts and neurodiversity training and improving access to training through shared systems. | Year 1-2 | Delivery short-life group |
| | Ensure actions are tracked and monitored using appropriate indicators of progress and feedback loops are in place to evaluate the impact of the Partnership. | Year 1-2 | |
| | Consider priority areas where improved data collection, sharing or analysis would enable us to | Year 1-2 | |

| | |
|---|----------|
| make more informed policy decisions and service improvements. | |
| Ensure learning from WWF and other programmes of community-based work are embedded in routine mechanisms for supporting communities to improve access to key services | Year 1-2 |
| Support collaborative working across sub-groups on cross-cutting priorities to facilitate joined-up strategies. | Year 1-2 |
| Formalise alignment with Strategic Partnerships and horizon-scan emerging priorities. | Year 1-2 |

These actions reflect our current priorities for infants, children and young people in Edinburgh, but do not represent an exhaustive programme of work for the next three years. The Edinburgh Children’s Partnership is committed to a responsive, data-informed approach, enabling us to adapt and develop further actions as new opportunities and emerging needs arise. Forthcoming national and local policies and reports are expected to provide additional evidence and recommendations and we will actively consider how these can inform and strengthen our work. We will continue to identify and use the Partnership’s collective influence to drive change, embedding learning as required throughout the lifetime of the Plan, including the following areas of work:

- Play Sufficiency Assessment
- Scottish Health Equity Research Unit (SHERU) reports
- Commercial determinants of health Youth Commission Project
- Expansion of breakfast clubs
- Childcare Short Life Working Group actions
- GIRFEC refresh implementation action plan

9 Joint Commissioning

The Joint Commissioning Group (JCG) was established to oversee/support the allocation and administration of funding in relation to three programmes of work – the Connected Communities Programme, the Community Mental Health Funding Programme and the Whole Family Wellbeing Programme. It has worked during the lifetime of the previous Edinburgh Children’s Services Plan (2023-226) to do this alongside the working/steering groups for each programme.

Purpose and need for continuity

The JCG has ensured continued partnership working throughout the monitoring of the Connected Communities (2024-27) grant programme, drawing on the learning from the published Lessons Learned Report. The JCG has supported work with partners from the University of Edinburgh, inviting Connected Communities Grant recipients to participate in an optional external evaluation of the impact of their work. The JCG has also supported the allocation of the next phase of Scottish Government Community Mental Health Funding, ensuring specifications to procure further mental health and wellbeing support for children and young people complement and enhance

existing offers in the city, following recommendations from the evaluation of the previous phase of community mental health grants. The JCG has also used transformation funding from the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund to pilot a digital data platform to support more effective delivery, monitoring and evaluation of supports from children, young people and their families in the city. The platform will be made available to the recipients of Connected Communities Grants (phase 1 of the trial) and wider funding where applicable, with the aim of digitally transforming the way we collect monitoring data and informing future commissioning cycles.

Ongoing work and next steps

Learning from the first year of the Connected Communities Grant Programme has been used to influence discussions within the wider Edinburgh Community Planning Partnership about the value of working differently with the Third Sector, including the importance of Fair Funding Principles, as well as the value of jointly commissioning where possible. Work has begun to consider development opportunities, including partnership involvement, for the programme beyond April 2027 and how the Joint Commissioning Group can support the Connected Communities Steering Group. This will include consideration of how learning from joint commissioning opportunities can inform future funding of Third Sector work, including learning relating to effective and proportionate monitoring and evaluation of impact.



10 The Promise

The Promise set out a 10-year children's sector transformational programme, concluding in 2030. Plan 2024-30 covering the latter half of the route map. Aiming to support all children and all families (including those living away from home and being in the care system), focusing on preventative and supportive work to ensure, wherever possible, that Edinburgh's children and young people remain in the care of their families.

In Edinburgh, the Promise and progress to keep the Promise across the city is monitored by the City of Edinburgh Council's Corporate Parenting Board. Keeping the Promise is far bigger than the activities of the Children's sector in Edinburgh. Therefore, the Board has a diverse membership, reflecting the whole system approach to 'keeping the Promise'.

The membership and Board function under their own Terms of Reference and have reporting functions filtered through this model. To ensure the crucial strategic link with community planning and children's partnership planning, The Promise and Corporate Parenting Board will attend, update and work within the structure of the Children's Partnership.



11 Membership

Each sub-group consists of key partners who have specialist knowledge to support the development and delivery of the priority areas. All service areas, networks or organisations that are members of the full Children's Partnership will also be active within one or more of the subgroups.

| Children's Rights and Participation* | Best Start in Life | Poverty and Inequality | Youth Work and Community Engagement | Mental Health and Wellbeing | Joint Commissioning Group |
|--|-----------------------------------|---|---|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| CEC - Social Work | CEC - Early Years | CEC - Housing | CEC- Education | CEC- Education | CEC - Commissioning |
| CEC - WFW | CEC - Social Work (PrePare / PIP) | CEC - Wider Achievement (Parent & Carers) | NHS - Public health | (mental health & inclusion) | NHS - Public Health |
| CEC - Education (Schools) | NHS - Health Visiting | CEC - Social Work (Early Intervention) | Third Sector (LAYC) | CEC - WFW | Third Sector (LAYC) |
| CEC - Wider Achievement and Life Long Learning | NHS - Midwifery | CEC - Corporate Parenting | Third Sector representative | NHS - CAMHS | Third Sector (EVOC) |
| NHS - Child Health Commissioner's Office | NHS - Speech and Language | NHS - Public health | Third Sector (EVOC) | NHS - School Nursing | Police |
| NHS - Public health | NHS - PAIRS | NHS - Health Visiting | Police | NHS - Public Health | |
| Third Sector (EVOC) | NHS - Public health partnership | NHS - Family Nurse Partnership | Edinburgh Leisure Skills Development Scotland | NHS - OT | |
| Third Sector (LAYC) | NHS - Family Nurse partnership | NHS - Midwifery | | Third Sector (LAYC) | |
| Police | Thid Sector (EVOC) | Third Sector (EVOC) | | Third Sector (EVOC) | |
| SCRA | NHS - Strategic Planning | Third Sector (LAYC) | | Police | |
| | | Third Sector (Advice Network) | | | |

*To forward Children's Rights within Edinburgh, the Children's Rights and Participation sub-group will have a shared membership and terms of reference with the Community and Learning Developing Partnership. The statutory reporting function will be routed through the Children's Partnership.

12 Acknowledgement and Thanks

The Junction – staff and youth advisors

Drummond Community High School – staff and pupils who took part in the consultation

Wester Hailes High School - staff and pupils who took part in the consultation

EDAN – The Yard staff and children & families who attended the consultation

Home Link Family Support – Staff, children and families who attended the consultation

WFW Team and NHSL Public Health

The short life working group





THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

Date: 10 June 2026

Title: Partnership Funds quarterly update

Route to this meeting:

Following the decisions taken at EP Board on March 3, 2026, leads for each of the included funds were contacted to provide information in support of this quarterly report.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report responds to decisions taken by the Edinburgh Partnership (EP) Board on March 3, 2026 by tabling a proposed budget allocation of the EP's pooled financial resources in support of the development of the next Community Plan for approval and supplying information about the 'partnership funds' that the EP Board agreed to receive regular information about.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Board is recommended to:
- 2.1.1 Approve the allocation of the Partnership Fund (pooled by EP Board members) as presented (detailed in section 4.2 and at Appendix A).
 - 2.1.2 Note the other fund allocations presented.
 - 2.1.3 Provide feedback as to the format of this report to ensure it provides the desired information.
 - 2.1.4 Agree to receive a further report to a future EP Board meeting regarding joint funding needed to deliver on the actions identified by the new Community Plan (LOIP) 2028-2038.

3. Background

- 3.1 Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs) look for opportunities to work together and to use collective resources in more effective and efficient ways to improve outcomes.
- 3.2 There is also a statutory duty for CPPs to contribute resources to deliver Partnership ambitions, including:
- 3.2.1 Sharing, alignment or redeployment of resources to deliver shared services priorities.
 - 3.2.2 Financial support for the facilitation and development of initiatives and partnership working arrangements

- 3.3 The Improvement Service (IS) facilitated self-assessment of the EP Board found that members feel a lack of assurance in relation to 'effective use of joint resources' and improving this is an action in the EP Board's workplan
- 3.4 The EP Board also agreed to respond to the findings and recommendations from the EP's Third Sector Review.
- 3.5 To support the above, the EP Board agreed during the meeting on March 3, 2026 that:
 - 3.5.1 It would receive quarterly updates in relation to this defined set of 'Partnership Funds'.
 - 3.5.2 [Fair Funding Principles](#) should be applied, where possible, to new work funded with 'Partnership Funds'.
 - 3.5.3 A more joined-up approach should be taken to the use of individual partner funds to deliver against partnership outcomes (e.g. welfare advice provision) in the remaining period of the current LOIP.
 - 3.5.4 The Community Planning Management Group (CPMG) / the Community Planning Support Team (CPST) should explore further options for joint commissioning / joint financial governance as part of LOIP 2028-2038.
 - 3.5.5 In addition to the funds pooled by EP members to facilitate partnership working and delivery, the funds for quarterly reporting include:
 - 3.5.5.1 Funds managed through the Children's Partnership Joint Commissioning Group
 - 3.5.5.2 The Connected Communities Fund
 - 3.5.5.3 'No-one left behind' funds managed through the Local Employability Partnership,
 - 3.5.5.4 Scottish Government project funds delivered in partnership (e.g. Ask & Act; Child Poverty Accelerator) and
 - 3.5.5.5 Funds allocated to progress LOIP outcomes (NPPs; Welfare Advice)

4. Main Report

- 4.1 This is the first quarterly report responding to the decisions outlined in 3.5 and we anticipate that the report structure will evolve to ensure that the most pertinent information is included.
- 4.2 Appendix A provides an overview of the current pooled funds from Partners in support of the Edinburgh Partnership and the recommended allocation of these funds in 2026/27 and 2027/28 to facilitate EP operations and develop the new 2028-2038 Community Plan, per the timelines agreed in December 2025.



- 4.2.1 In 2026/27 there is currently an available budget of £48,490.02. The CPST has proposed the budget is allocated as follows:
- 4.2.1.1 £500 for Board Costs i.e. facilities and refreshments (cell J19)
 - 4.2.1.2 £600 for community engagement in support of the 2026 refresh of the 2018-2028 Community Plan (LOIP) which was budgeted initially for 2025/26 but spent in 2026/7
 - 4.2.1.3 a total of £24,820 for costs associated with developing the new Community Plan (LOIP) (cells J39, J42-45 and J48-J50)
 - 4.2.1.4 £3,535 is allocated to the General Partnership Priorities Fund (cell J30).
 - 4.2.1.5 This is a total allocation of £29,455.00 and a carry forward of £19,035.02.
- 4.2.2 In 2027/28 the CPST has anticipated an available budget of £19,035.02 and proposed this is allocated as follows:
- 4.2.2.1 £500 for Board Costs (K19)
 - 4.2.2.2 £3,535.02 is allocated to General Partnership Priorities Fund (cell K30)
 - 4.2.2.3 £10,000 for formal consultation (K53) on the new Community Plan and
 - 4.2.2.4 £5,000 for the launch of the new Community Plan (K55).
- 4.2.3 Of note, the anticipated £19,035.02 budget in 2027/28 is based on £0 additional contributions by Partners to the Edinburgh Partnership, but the CPST is aware that in 2019 the EP agreed an annual financial contribution of £10,000 from Police Scotland, NHS Lothian, Scottish Enterprise and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and that this commitment should be revisited at a future meeting of the EP Board.
- 4.3 Appendix B provides an overview of the funds managed through the Children's Partnership Joint Commissioning Group.
- 4.4 Appendix C provides an overview of the projects managed through the Local Employability Partnership (LEP).
- 4.5 Appendix D provides an overview of the Ask and Act pilot funded by Scottish Government (to follow).
- 4.6 Appendix E provides an overview of the two projects funded by the Scottish Government's Child Poverty Accelerator Fund (CPAF) which are to be progressed under the refreshed Community Plan (LOIP).
- 4.7 Appendix F provides an overview of the Scottish Government funded Gambling Levy which is being delivered in partnership by the Health and Social Care



Partnership (HSCP) and may support outcomes within the Community Plan (LOIP).

- 4.8 Appendix G provides an overview of the funds allocated to progress Neighbourhood Prevention Partnership (NPP) development (to follow).
- 4.9 Appendix H provides reports on three welfare, advice and income max services offered through NHS Lothian.
- 4.10 Reports on the Connected Communities Fund and the City of Edinburgh Council Welfare advice funds will be included next quarter.

5. Next steps

- 5.1 On approval of the proposed budget allocation, the Community Planning Support Team (CPST) will begin allocating funds to Community Plan development.
- 5.2 Any feedback on the format of the reports on the other funds will be incorporated into the next quarterly report.

6. LOIP/Locality Plan alignment

- 6.1 The budget allocation will support development of the new Community Plan.
- 6.2 It is hoped that a better understanding of partner funds will support greater alignment.

7. Background reading/external references

- 7.1 [Children's Planning Guidance](#)
- 7.2 [Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for Children and Young People](#)

8. Appendices

9. Contact

April Harrison-Clark – Community Planning Manager, CEC
April.harrison-clark@edinburgh.gov.uk

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---|
| Development & Project Costs (Renamed General Partnership Priorities fund from 2022/23) | £16,456.41 | £14,657.39 | £14,232.43 | | | | | | | |
| Community Engagment | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £2,500.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | | | |
| BAME Citizen Panel (1-time) | | | | £5,000.00 | | | | | | |
| Edinburgh Survey | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £60,000.00 | £60,000.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | |
| End Poverty Edinburgh Citizen's Group (1-time) | | | £25,000.00 | £14,562.50 | | | | | | |
| General Partnership Priorities Fund | | | | £28,699.18 | £28,150.18 | £33,741.23 | £4,452.86 | £3,535.00 | £3,535.02 | |
| 1-time EACC Contribution (meeting & development costs) | | | | | £1,850.00 | | | | | |
| LOIP 2018-2028 Refresh | | | | | | | | | | |
| Community engagement | | | | | | | £600.00 | £600.00 | | 25/26 £600 budgeted for CE sessions hosted by EVOC/EaRN - actually spent in 26/27 |
| LOIP 2028-2038 development | | | | | | | | | | |
| Population Needs Assessment (data foundation) | | | | | | | | | | The CPST is working with the University to see if they can support with the analysis work. We are advised that it is possible that we will require a budget to support an honoraria |

Budget

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|-----------|--|--|
| Integrated Community Engagement Report (Gathering insights from engagement across the partnership between June 2025-June 2026 to develop key themes and | | | | | | | | | £5,000.00 | | for undertaking analysis, developing a report to identify what the data tells us, key themes and what's missing/what we need to interrogate further during community engagement |
| :Community Engagement | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ::Facilities & refreshments | | | | | | | | | £1,320.00 | | In 26/27 anticipate hosting approx 5 open events across the city for 50 participants and 4 additional smaller events for specific groups est 20 participants using partner spaces at no cost. Budget is for refreshments 5 events x 50 attendees plus 4 events x 20 attendees at £4 per person |
| ::Materials and supplies | | | | | | | | | £1,000.00 | | inc printing paper surveys |
| ::Barrier reduction fund | | | | | | | | | £5,000.00 | | To facilitate participation. May inc translation/BLS, support with transport costs etc |
| ::Communications | | | | | | | | | £2,000.00 | | Promoting the workshops & survey participation (general and youth). Cost estimate from CEC Comms team |
| :LOIP Conference | | | | | | | | | | | 1 day 'Towards a Fairer Future' conference modelled on Aberdeen CPP's approach to LOIP development. Brings 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. |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---|
| ::Facility & refreshments | | | | | | | | £5,000.00 | | Conversations to date suggest there isn't an EP partner with a space large enough to host this event. Thus would need to rent this facility space & fund refreshments. |
| ::Speaker costs | | | | | | | | £5,000.00 | | We would like to have similar speakers to Aberdeen (focussed on CHES and innovative, successful approaches to addressing poor outcomes) and are working with them to better understand costs. |
| ::Communications | | | | | | | | £500.00 | | Paid socials/print promo & printed materials on the day - cost est from CEC Comms team |
| :Formal Consultation | | | | | | | | | | 3 month formal consultation survey (likely a general one and one for youth) |
| ::Communications | | | | | | | | | £10,000.00 | Comms campaign to encourage participation esp from under represented groups (cost est from CEC Comms) |
| :Launch of new Community Plan (LOIP) | | | | | | | | | £5,000.00 | Graphic design of full and easy read version, comms to launch. Cost est from CEC Comms |
| Website | | | | | | | | | | Website options being appraised |
| Budget Sum | £30,456.41 | £28,555.14 | £53,190.18 | £110,761.68 | £90,000.18 | £33,741.23 | £5,052.86 | £29,455.00 | £19,035.02 | |
| Allocation (Actuals) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Development Workshop | £1,203.00 | £180.00 | £0.00 | £324.00 | £744.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | | |
| Board costs | | | | | | | | | | |
| Food & Drink | £596.02 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £514.95 | £202.37 | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|--|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--|--|
| Actual Expenditure | EP Board Room Hire & refreshments | | | | | | | | | | 2026/27 £82.80 Sept 2025 EPB at Royal Ed (invoiced late & showing in 26/27) 2025/26 £113 Broomhouse rental March 2026 EPB £285 June 2025 EPB rental (North Ed Arts) £60 Dec 2025 EPB (Spartans) £120 EPB Induction Sept 2025 (chambers catering) |
| | | £60.00 | -£60.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £386.00 | £578.00 | £82.80 | | |
| | Other | £45.25 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | | | |
| | Web domain costs | £0.00 | £244.96 | £182.80 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £84.84 | | | |
| | Animate: Join the Dots | £0.00 | £0.00 | £1,258.20 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | | | |
| | Advice Service Review (EPE Citizen Grp Budget) | | | £10,437.50 | £10,437.50 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | | | |
| | BAME Citizens' Panel (one-time) | | | | £5,000.00 | | | | | | |
| | Edinburgh Survey | | | | | £60,000.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | | |
| | LOIP 2018-2028 Refresh | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Community Engagement | | | | | | | | £580.47 | | £580 for communitiy engagement session on LOIP refresh (to EVOC) |
| | LOIP 2028-2038 development | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Expenditure Sum | £1,904.27 | £364.96 | £11,878.50 | £15,761.50 | £61,258.95 | £588.37 | £662.84 | £663.27 | | |
| | Closing Balance | £28,551.93 | £28,190.18 | £25,761.68 | £95,000.18 | £33,741.23 | £33,152.86 | £42,490.02 | £47,826.75 | | |



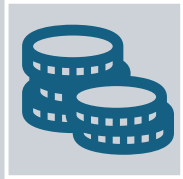
THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

EP Board June 10, 2026
Item 6a
Appendix D – Ask & Act

Fund details



THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP



Fund: Whole Family Wellbeing

Grant Provider: Scottish Government

Funding Period: 2024-2027. Value £2.6m for 1 year extension until June 2027



Role of the Edinburgh Partnership:

Scottish Government has provided Edinburgh Children's Partnership (ECP) with Whole Family Wellbeing Fund to support transformational change in Edinburgh. The Children's Partnership is the decision-making body.

Funding supports delivery of the Children's Services Plan and related actions contained within the Community Plan (LOIP)



Fund holder: Funds are held by City of Edinburgh Council as per CoSLA agreement applicable to all Local Authorities.

Committee delegates authority to Corporate Director to implement the decisions of the Children's Partnership

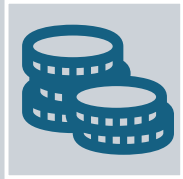
Purpose & Overview

- [7.1 - Whole Family Wellbeing Grant Programme - Extension.pdf](#)

Summary of Grant allocation

| Grant Recipient - Organisations Full Name | Programme | Brief Description of Grant Purpose | Business Plan Theme | Main Beneficiary | Grant Start Date | Grant End Date | Original Grant Annual Value | Grant Total Value |
|---|------------------------|---|--|--|------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| WFW - Family Hub | Whole Family Wellbeing | Transformational change and holistic whole family support | Take all the local actions needed to end poverty in Edinburgh,Create good places to live and work in Edinburgh | being pregnant or on maternity leave,disability,race including colour or nationality or or ethnic or national origin,socio-economic disadvantage | 03/07/2024 | 30/06/2027 | £456,441.00 | £1,332,391.00 |
| WFW - EDAN Hub | Whole Family Wellbeing | Transformational change and holistic whole family support | Take all the local actions needed to end poverty in Edinburgh,Create good places to live and work in Edinburgh | being pregnant or on maternity leave,disability,race including colour or nationality or or ethnic or national origin,socio-economic disadvantage | 03/07/2024 | 30/06/2027 | £750,219.00 | £2,119,763.00 |
| WFW - Time to Talk | Whole Family Wellbeing | Transformational change and holistic whole family support | Take all the local actions needed to end poverty in Edinburgh,Create good places to live and work in Edinburgh | being pregnant or on maternity leave,disability,race including colour or nationality or or ethnic or national origin,socio-economic disadvantage | 03/07/2024 | 30/06/2027 | £245,069.60 | £688,319.90 |
| WFW - PIP & UH NHS / CEC amounts | Whole Family Wellbeing | Transformational change and holistic whole family support | Take all the local actions needed to end poverty in Edinburgh,Create good places to live and work in Edinburgh | being pregnant or on maternity leave,disability,race including colour or nationality or or ethnic or national origin,socio-economic disadvantage | 03/07/2024 | 30/06/2027 | £1,641,252.00 | £2,666,090.00 |

Fund details



Fund: Community Mental Health Framework

Grant Provider: Scottish Government

Funding Period: £1.22 per annum



Role of the Edinburgh Partnership:

The City of Edinburgh Council has a responsibility to use this funding to support the delivery of the CMHF, the governance of which is placed with the Edinburgh Children's Partnership (ECP).

Funding supports delivery of the Children's Services Plan and related actions contained within the Community Plan (LOIP)



Fund holder: Funds are held by City of Edinburgh Council.

Committee approves the use of funding as agreed and recommended by the ECP

Purpose & Overview

- [7.2 Community Mental Health Framework.pdf](#)

Summary of Contracts awarded

Total Budget: £900k per annum. Tender in progress

| Amount (£) | Recipient | Project | Desired outcome |
|------------|-----------|---------|-----------------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

EP Board: June 10, 2026

Item 6a - Appendix C: Funds managed through the Local Employability Partnership (LEP) one of the seven strategic partnership within the Edinburgh Partnership

Fund(s): Multiple funding sources including City of Edinburgh Council, No One Left Behind (Scottish Government),

Role of the Edinburgh Partnership (EP): the LEP takes a partnership approach with all these funds e.g. LEP involvement in coproduction, specification and scoring

| Contract/Grant | Purpose | Allocated Funding 26/27 | Funding type | Funding period | Funding source |
|--|---|-------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| Next Step | Locality-based intervention to support unemployed and those facing in-work poverty to secure and sustain | £428,800 | Contract | 22-25, with yearly extensions to 2028 | Core CEC/NOLB |
| Subsidised Childcare for Working Parents | Four childcare organisations provide subsidised childcare to working parents. Currently only funded until August 2026. | £116,540 | Contract | Currently funded to August 2026 | Core CEC |
| EnCompass | Preventative service for those with long term trauma; including substance abuse, criminal behaviour and | £309,000 | Contract | 22-25, with yearly extensions to 2028 | Core CEC |
| All in Edinburgh | Supported employment model for those with a disability and/or long term health condition | £2,014,133 | Contract | 22-25, with yearly extensions to 2028 | Core CEC/NOLB |
| NEST: Third Party Grants | Small grants programme for specific employability interventions, includes parental employability support and youth programmes | £2,245,893 | Grant | 2025-28 | NOLB (incl PESF) |
| Local Growth Fund | One year fund from UK Govt to support business growth, productivity and skills (years 2 and 3 to be | £1,245,651 | Grant | July 26-March27 | UK Govt, LGF |
| Moving Forward | To support young people at risk of no positive destination, includes new ASN service | £460,030 | Grant | 2024-27 | NOLB (incl PESF) |
| ESOL for Employability | Pilot project to improve clients' language skills | £248,543 | Grant | 2025-27 | NOLB (incl PESF) |

| | | | | | |
|--------------------|--|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Advance | Support for people in low income employment to progress in work | £184,405 | Contract | 22-25, with yearly extensions to 2028 | Core CEC |
| Training Framework | Delivery of sector specific courses for those who are unemployed or wishing to upskill | £425,000 | Gants via Framework | 2025-30 | NOLB |
| | TOTAL FUNDS | £7,677,995 | | | |

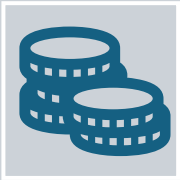


THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

EP Board June 10, 2026
Item 6a
Appendix E – CPAF Funds



Fund details



Fund: Child Poverty Accelerator Fund (Scottish Government)

April 2026-March 2028



Role of the Edinburgh Partnership:

Leading the work via Community Plan (LOIP) actions:

1.8 Understanding and Addressing Unmet Need within Priority Groups

1.10 Establish systems & training to raise the profile of Child Maintenance as a key form of income maximisation and reducing the number of unpaid child maintenance payments in Edinburgh.



Fund holder:

For 1.8 funds are held by City of Edinburgh Council

For 1.10 funds are held by Fife Council



THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

Action 1.8: Understanding and Addressing Unmet Need within Priority Groups



Purpose & Overview

- The Edinburgh Poverty Commission found a need for additional work to support children and families from priority groups, with a particular focus on Black and Minority Ethnic communities, as well as those from migrant or refugee families.
- Over the past decade, Edinburgh has become the most racially and culturally diverse city in Scotland, with 26% of its population from ethnic minority groups.
- We know that minority ethnic children in Edinburgh are more likely to live in the city's most deprived areas. These families also face specific challenges in finding support to avoid or escape from poverty.
- The purpose of this project is to use a data led approach to addressing these challenges, making Edinburgh's actions to end poverty better targeted and more effective for this priority group.
- We're building on work that West Lothian Council did in CPAF2
- The aim of the data analysis is to identify areas of focus with unmet need:
 - Improvement Service are exploring the national datasets on population and ethnicity to map against data on deprivation
 - The Council's Data Team are starting to work with service/info governance on accessing and extracting the initial Council datasets
 - Housing Partnership (Advice Partnership) will provide advice and oversight

Summary of Grant

- £55,000
 - £10,000 is allocated for data analytics and dashboard design. This element will be led by the Improvement Service, with support from City of Edinburgh Council and the Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights (CRER)
 - £30,000 is allocated for the community engagement phase. This phase will be led by City of Edinburgh Council, with support from the Improvement Service and CRER, and will include costs associated with providing reimbursement for citizens and third sector organisations taking part in the work
 - £15,000 is allocated for project management and evaluation costs, and will include resource for securing an evaluation partner.



THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

Action 1.10: Child Maintenance

Purpose & Overview



THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

- This project builds on the successful Transforming Child Maintenance program established by Fife Council/Fife Gingerbread.
- The Edinburgh Poverty Commission reported that poverty in Edinburgh has remained stagnant since 2020. Child Maintenance has an important role to play- 27% of families in Edinburgh are lone parent households, higher than Scotland's average of 19%.
- There are 701 known unpaid Child Maintenance arrangements, and the scale of the issue is hidden.
 - 40% of separated families in the UK have no Child Maintenance arrangement in place.
 - Currently £734m unpaid Child Maintenance in the UK. If all Child Maintenance was paid correctly, £2.7 billion would be paid to approximately two million children.
 - This would lift around 210,000 out of poverty, 20, 000 of which are in Scotland (IPPR Scotland, 2025).
- Edinburgh has a diverse population and a complex advice network. Developing a city-wide approach to Child Maintenance with a no wrong door ethos will improve prevention and add value to existing service delivery. This connects directly to Priority 1: 'enough money to live on' for lone parent families.
- CPAF funding will provide a direct response to the recommendations of [Better-for-everyone-full-report-2025.pdf](#)
 - An online toolkit to help parents navigate Child Maintenance (Recommendation 6)
 - Embed Child Maintenance across all financial inclusion support (Recommendation 7)
 - Face-to-face support for complex and challenging cases (Recommendation 8)
- Project Outcomes: Supporting more lone parents to secure reliable financial support for their children and young people by:
 - Reducing the number of unpaid Child Maintenance arrangements in both Fife and City of Edinburgh Council – improving the lives of lone parent families.
 - Embedding Child Maintenance in financial inclusion conversations through capacity building, by working collaboratively across the partnerships in both Fife and Edinburgh, working towards a sustainable approach beyond this funding period.
 - Developing a scale-able model of support ready for national roll out to address primary, intermediate and complex casework in a sustainable way.

Summary of Grant

- £99,215 (CPAF) + 29,615 match funding from Fife Gingerbread (secured unrestricted grant from Roberston Trust focused around financial inclusion)
- Allocation is over 2 years and for delivery in both Fife and Edinburgh
 - £111,130 is allocated to administration (inc. project coordination)
 - £9,700 is allocated to project delivery (inc. delivery costs and service user costs)
 - £8,000 is allocated to evaluation led by the Poverty Alliance

Update: Gambling Levy Project

| Year | Allocated Funds | Timeline of activity |
|---------|-----------------|---|
| 2026-27 | £129,000 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit KPIs for formal approval from SG. • Raise the issue of gambling with patients incl which care pathways and staff groups and outreach opportunities for ‘missing’ patients. • Explore guidance and mechanisms for recording of information on gambling harms identified / support accessed / outcomes achieved within patient records as well as the routine extraction and analysis of that information. • Better understand need and advocate for / develop further supports where required. |
| 2027-28 | £114,000 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore opportunities for ‘screening’ for gambling harm can be integrated within a pathway of holistic enquiry alongside other key social and behavioural determinants of health such as financial and housing and tobacco and substance use. • Explore data captured during the initial pilot and consider the extent to which identified needs are being addressed by currently available support services, or if the provision of additional support is required. |
| 2028-29 | £114,000 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If unmet need is identified during data analysis in year 2, develop a business case / Gambling Levy Fund bid proposal for the development of additional service(s) to be piloted in year 3 (year 2-3) |

Update

Following the successful bid application and allocated funds awarded by Scottish Government (as above) EHSCP has begun working to establish workstreams in line with agreed scope. The aim of the project is to use the allocated funds to identify individuals at risk from gambling harms in primary and community care settings, to allow them to access treatment and support.

In order to achieve this the following actions have been taken, and further progression is anticipated as per proposed timeline above:

1. Scoping documentation has been established to effectively manage this project, including project initiation documentation, stakeholder mapping, identification of key risks and mitigations. A project plan is in development, and this will include formal KPIs as established and approved.
2. Recruitment for allocated EHSCP project manager is underway, applications closed and interviews due early June 2026.
3. Working group has been established and meeting to progress early scoping and collaboration between PHS, EHSCP, Primary Care and third sector colleagues. Quarterly oversight group is in development. This group, as agreed in the funding bid, will ensure funds are correctly allocated and ring-fenced to address gambling related harms – noting that it cannot be used for any other process as noted in the Gambling Act (2005).
4. Early collaboration with third sector and training partners to establish a training/guidance. This includes discussions regarding the mechanisms for delivering training, agreement regarding relative costings and onboarding of practices.
5. Working to establish availability and capacity within primary and community care settings is currently underway. Formal agreement and contract management is ongoing but early relationship building has been positive. It is anticipated that once practice(s) are onboarded, that training and detailed timeline of activities can begin.

EP Board – June 10, 2026

Item 6a Appendix H: NHS Lothian Welfare Advice Services, Early Years Income Max Pilot (page 3) & Royal Edinburgh Hospital Advice Service (page 4)

Fund: NHS Lothian Hospital Welfare Advice Services.

The hospital welfare advice services in NHS Lothian are funded by the NHS Lothian Charity (with the exception of the REH Service, which is funded by NHS Lothian), managed by NHS Lothian Public Health and delivered by specialist advice agencies in the third sector including Citizens Advice Edinburgh, CHAI, Citizens Advice West Lothian, Citizens Advice Musselburgh and Citizens Advice Penicuik. The reporting below provides detail on the overall service as well as for Edinburgh specifically, however it should be noted that the service is an NHS Lothian wide service, rather than an Edinburgh specific service. The information below has been taken from existing reporting.

Role of the Edinburgh Partnership: Awareness & per March 3, 2026 agreement: explore further options for joint commissioning / joint financial governance as part of new Community Plan (LOIP 2028-2038) development.

January 2026 – March 2026 (report 2: year 4)

This report provides a summary of project activity across the welfare advice services in NHS Lothian acute hospitals from 1st Jan 2026 to 31st Mar 2026. This report is the second in year 4 of the 5-year funding period (which runs to 30.09.27). The 1-3 year figures (Oct 22 – Sept 23, Oct 23 – Sept 24 and Oct 24 – Sept 25) have also been provided in this report to give an overall running total for the duration of the Charity funding period.

These services are funded by the NHS Lothian Charity, managed by NHS Lothian Public Health and delivered by specialist advice agencies in the third sector including Citizens Advice Edinburgh, CHAI, Citizens Advice West Lothian, Citizens Advice Musselburgh and Citizens Advice Penicuik. The Charity funding of these contracts began on 1st October 2022, apart from the East Lothian contract which did not commence until 1st February 2023 due to a commissioning delay. The services operating across the Edinburgh hospitals are a continuation of previous provision so these are well established. For the other areas, the services are new. The services are co-located in the hospitals with advice and support provided to patients, carers/family members and NHS Lothian staff at the point of contact.

Objective 1: Improve access to welfare advice by providing a free, independent, impartial and confidential advice service to those on low incomes and who are most vulnerable at point of contact.

Number of new clients

Total for all areas

| Period | Patients | Carers | Staff | Total |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| <i>Year 1: Oct 22 – Sept 23</i> | 784 | 200 | 65 | 1049 |
| <i>Year 2: Oct 23 – Sept 24</i> | 901 | 338 | 53 | 1292 |
| <i>Year 3: Oct 24 – Sept 25</i> | 869 | 335 | 35 | 1239 |
| Total Year 1 – Year 3 | 2554 | 873 | 153 | 3580 |
| Q1 Oct 25 – Dec 25 | 215 | 78 | 13 | 306 |
| Q2 Jan 26 – Mar 26 | 198 | 85 | 10 | 293 |
| Overall total | 2967 | 1036 | 176 | 4179 |

Edinburgh (including RIE, WGH and RHYCP)

| Period | Patients | Carers | Staff | Total |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| <i>Year 1: Oct 22 – Sept 23</i> | 594 | 135 | 46 | 775 |
| <i>Year 2: Oct 23 – Sept 24</i> | 461 | 210 | 24 | 695 |
| <i>Year 3: Oct 24 – Sept 25</i> | 399 | 265 | 18 | 682 |

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|------|-----|----|------|
| Total Year 1 – Year 3 | 1454 | 610 | 88 | 2152 |
| Q1 Oct 25 – Dec 25 | 94 | 56 | 1 | 151 |
| Q2 Jan 26 – Mar 26 | 79 | 62 | 1 | 142 |
| Overall total | 1627 | 728 | 90 | 2445 |

**Note: Previously, the service at the RHCYP reported most client contact as ‘patient’ contact. Following discussion, it has been agreed that a patient will only be classed as the client if they are 16+ and have capacity to act on their own behalf. Otherwise, in these cases this will be recorded as ‘carer’ contacts to account for the fact that it is the parents/carers/family of the child receiving the direct support. This ensures that reporting practices are consistent across all hospitals and accounts for the marked increase in carer numbers this quarter.*

Local authority breakdown – as NHS Lothian hospitals provide clinical care for people outside Lothian, some clients accessing welfare advice and support through these services are from other areas.

Total new clients* – July – Sept 25

| Area | Edin | WL | EL | ML |
|-----------------|------|----|----|----|
| Lothian | 74 | 79 | 49 | 23 |
| Outside Lothian | 22 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

**Note: The total number of clients on the Local Authority report is unlikely to precisely match the total number of clients seen in the quarter. The discrepancy arises because the service records different categories of contacts: New, Repeat and Initial Inquiry. The figure for total new clients includes ‘new’ and ‘initial inquiries’ as this counts every unique individual once. Unlike all other figures in the report, which are drawn from the service spreadsheet, the local authority report is drawn from the Castle database, and a case can only be created for a client on Castle when a certain amount of identifying information is known about them. ‘Initial inquiries’ usually involve the provision of 2nd-tier advice to colleagues in the hospital, to pass on to their patient. As such, the client does not have a Castle record, does not appear on the local authority report, and the result is the slight discrepancy between the ‘new clients’ and ‘local authority’ reports.*

Often clients require a period of sustained support to work through complex issues. The number of client contacts gives an indication of the time and resource required to provide this level of support.

Number of client contacts

Edinburgh

| Period | Patients | Carers | Staff | Total |
|--------------------------|----------|--------|-------|-------|
| Year 1: Oct 22 – Sept 23 | 1858 | 600 | 47 | 2505 |
| Year 2: Oct 23 – Sept 24 | 1250 | 1057 | 37 | 2344 |
| Year 3: Oct 24 – Sept 25 | 884 | 937 | 23 | 1844 |
| Total Year 1 - Year 3 | 3992 | 2594 | 107 | 6693 |
| Q1 Oct 25 – Dec 25 | 235 | 293 | 1 | 529 |
| Q2 Jan 26 – Mar 26 | 241 | 288 | 1 | 530 |
| Overall total | 4468 | 3175 | 109 | 7752 |

Summary of client issues being addressed

The below provides a brief summary of the main issues being addressed by the projects. This often includes advice and support on income maximisation and benefit entitlement, debt management, housing, and employment

Edinburgh

The majority of client contacts are in relation to benefit claims, top up benefits and community care grants. The most common of these are Adult Disability Payment, Employment Support Allowance, Universal Credit, Pension Credit, Attendance Allowance and Council Tax. The advisers also offered advice and support on issues relating to housing, debt management, employment, utilities, education and finance.

Objective 2: Provide case management or referral within the community setting as appropriate.

The below gives an indication of the links the hospital services have with community agencies for additional expertise and the ongoing support accessed on behalf of patients following discharge.

Agencies referred and signposted to

| Area | Agencies |
|-----------|---|
| Edinburgh | CAE Specialist Advisers CAS Help to Claim line (UC) CAE GP Surgery Advisers – Craigmillar Medical Practice CAE specialist advisers Citizens Advice Scotland Help to Claim [Universal Credit] advisers Scottish Welfare Fund Social Care Direct Maggie's Centre, WGH VOCAL [Voice Of Carers Across Lothian] CHAI community based advice teams |

The financial gains achieved for clients are a measure of how financially better off people are by using these services and accessing specialist support and advice.

Client Financial Gain

Total for all areas

| Period | Client Gain – Confirmed (£) | Client Gain – Unconfirmed (£) | Total CFG |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Year 1: Oct 22 – Sept 23 | £702,051.08 | £241,332.34 | £943,383.42 |
| Year 2: Oct 23 – Sept 24 | £1,222,996.38 | £244,011.68 | £1,467,008.06 |
| Year 3: Oct 24 – Sept 25 | £1,679,996.33 | £137,475.40 | £1,817,471.73 |
| Total: Year 1 - Year 3 | £3,605,043.79 | £622,819.42 | £4,227,863.21 |
| Q1 Oct 25 – Dec 25 | £363,754.87 | £18,228.08 | £381,982.95 |
| Q2 Jan 26 – Mar 26 | £371,238.81 | £21,065.20 | £392,304.01 |
| Overall total | £4,340,037.47 | £662,112.70 | £5,002,150.17 |

Confirmed financial gains – those which relate to benefits and reductions that a client meets the objective eligibility criteria for and therefore has an automatic entitlement to. These include Housing Benefit, Child Benefit and Council Tax Reduction.

Unconfirmed financial gains – the client is assisted to apply for a benefit that they appear to be eligible for, however it requires a subjective assessment to be made by a third party before it is awarded. This includes PIP and Adult Disability Payment.

Edinburgh

| Period | Client Gain – Confirmed (£) | Client Gain – Unconfirmed (£) | Total CFG |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Year 1: Oct 22 – Sept 23 | £504,338.39 | £241,332.34 | £745,670.73 |
| Year 2: Oct 23 – Sept 24 | £611,747.35 | £218,971.40 | £830,718.75 |
| Year 3: Oct 24 – Sept 25 | £851,957.98 | £137,475.40 | £989,433.38 |
| Total: Year 1 - Year 3 | £1,968,043.72 | £597,779.14 | £2,565,822.86 |
| Q1 Oct 25 – Dec 25 | £154,523.44 | £18,228.08 | £172,751.52 |
| Q2 Jan 26 – Mar 26 | £223,142.43 | £21,065.20 | £244,207.63 |
| Overall total | £2,345,709.59 | £637,072.42 | £2,982,782.01 |

Case Study

Client required urgent welfare benefits advice following deteriorating health and hospitalisation in January 2026. They had recently left NHS employment due to ill health and required support with New Style ESA and Adult Disability Payment applications. Client's family member managed liaison with Hospital Welfare Adviser while caring for their family member during multiple hospital admissions and medical appointments. The family member initially struggled with online portals and form completion while balancing work commitments and caregiving responsibilities. Hospital Welfare Adviser provided ongoing support throughout multiple appointments, rescheduling when the family member was unwell or client was hospitalised. Support included reassurance about DWP processes including Claimant Commitment appointments and SSP1 form requirements from former NHS employer, and assistance gathering medical evidence from GP, hospital discharge documentation, and specialist reports for benefit assessments.

Advice Given

Hospital Welfare Adviser completed WCA50 form with client's family member, focusing on worst days and what client cannot do safely, reliably or repeatedly. Uploaded medical certificates to DWP and GP report to Social Security Scotland portal when family member experienced technical difficulties. Provided detailed explanations about benefit processes including Claimant Commitment (reassuring that no work-related requirements would apply given client's medical circumstances), ESA assessment procedures, and ADP backdating rules.

Both claims successful: New Style ESA awarded and backdated to October 2025, Adult Disability Payment Standard Daily Living component awarded and backdated to December 2025. Combined Client Financial Gain: £7,527.20 (including backdated amount and aggregation over 12 months). Awaiting Work Capability Assessment report to confirm placement and consider any grounds for challenge if needed.

Fund: NHS Lothian Early Years Income Maximisation Pathways Project – 26/27

Role of the Edinburgh Partnership: Awareness & per March 3, 2026 agreement: explore further options for joint commissioning / joint financial governance as part of LOIP 2028-2038

Update report Jan-Mar 2026

During the period from Jan – Mar 2026 lots of development work has gone on behind the scenes to ensure this pilot project was ready to launch on 1st April 2026. As previously reported an overarching principles and reporting requirements document was developed to ensure there is consistency among the commissioned advice providers across the different areas of Lothian, whilst acknowledging the variation in local delivery models. This overarching principles document was agreed by all partners and a reporting template developed so there was early awareness of the information and data to be gathered from the outset. Partners had the opportunity to contribute to this process to ensure reporting requirements are achievable within each area.

The first progress report from partners is not due until end September 2026 (as previously agreed with the NHS Lothian Charity). The Public Health Link Officers have been working in their respective areas to build and strengthen relationships with relevant early years practitioners and ensure the referral pathways are clear and straightforward. Links have been made with the welfare advice service at the Royal Hospital for Children and Young People.

A further general update report will be provided at the end of June and the first progress report from partners by mid October 2026.

Kerry Murray

Assistant Programme Manager – Anchor Institutions, April 2026

Fund: NHS Lothian Royal Edinburgh Hospital (REH) Advice Service

Role of the Edinburgh Partnership: Awareness & per March 3, 2026 agreement: explore further options for joint commissioning / joint financial governance as part of LOIP 2028-2038 consider as part of new Community Plan development

Quarter 4 – 01/01/26 – 31/03/26

Objective 1: Improve **access** to welfare advice by providing a free, independent, impartial and confidential advice service to those on low incomes and who are most vulnerable at health point of contact

| Number of new clients | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------|----------|----------|------------------------------|
| Period | Patients | Carers | Staff | Total |
| Q1 Apr - Jun | 62 | 1 | 1 | 64 |
| Q2 Jul - Sep | 54 | 1 | 2 | 57 |
| Q3 Oct - Dec | 48 | 3 | 2 | 54 (1 Uncategorized) |
| Q4 Jan - Mar | 52 | 2 | 0 | 54 |
| 2025 – 2026 TOTAL | 216 | 7 | 5 | 229 (1 Uncategorized) |

| Number of client contacts | | | | |
|---------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------------------------|
| Period | Patients | Carers | Staff | Total |
| Q1 Apr - Jun | 114 | 1 | 1 | 116 |
| Q2 Jul – Sep | 236 | 1 | 7 | 244 |
| Q3 Oct - Dec | 239 | 3 | 5 | 253 (6 Uncategorized) |
| Q4 Jan - Mar | 280 | 10 | 4 | 297 (3 Uncategorized) |
| 2025 – 2026 TOTAL | 869 | 15 | 17 | 910 (9 Uncategorized) |

| Client Financial Gain | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Period | Confirmed | Unconfirmed | Total CFG |
| Q1 Apr - Jun | £30,851.52 | £71,373.32 | £102,224.84 |
| Q2 Jul - Sep | £18,318.42 | £57,411.91 | £75,730.33 |
| Q3 Oct - Dec | £13,750.40 | £39,261.21 | £53,011.61 |
| Q4 Jan - Mar | £29,136.78 | £27,242.28 | £56,379.06 |
| 2025 – 2026 TOTAL | £92,057.12 | £195,288.72 | £287,345.84 |



THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

Date: 10th June 2026

Title: Item 6b - Edinburgh Partnership Board Governance Framework

Route to this meeting: Community Planning Support Team presented this draft update to Community Planning Management Group in May 2026 for comments.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Community Planning Support Team (CPST) was asked to review and update the Edinburgh Partnership (EP) Governance Framework to reflect recent changes.
- 1.2 A summary of the proposed amendments is listed in section 4. These include:
 - 1.2.1 updates following recent changes to Community Planning at a national level,
 - 1.2.2 revisions to the EP's structure,
 - 1.2.3 and clarification in areas identified during recent reviews by EP members.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Edinburgh Partnership Board is recommended to:
 - 2.1.1 Note future updates required e.g. adding a weblink to the performance framework once available, details about Locality Plans once developed, and links to the EP Participation Strategy once finalised.
 - 2.1.2 Approve and adopt the updated EP Governance document.
 - 2.1.3 Agree to review the EP Governance document every 2 years from the date of adoption, unless a matter arising requires an immediate review.

3. Background

- 3.1 The EP Governance Framework supports the work of the EP by ensuring that it is consistently governed and operating effectively.
- 3.2 The Governance structure of the EP was updated in 2025 and this is not reflected in the current Governance document.
- 3.3 The Community Planning Support Team (CPST) was reestablished in 2025 and this is not reflected in the current Governance document.
- 3.4 Recent questions by CPST members, 3rd sector organisations and new EP Board members have identified areas within the Governance document that require greater clarity and the CPST was tasked with updating the document.

- 3.5 Scottish Government has recently adopted a Place Director and Community Planning Partnerships (CPP) Charter which outlines the role of Place Directors as Ambassadors to CPPs working together to build trusted and effective relationships and support delivery of Local Outcome Improvement Plans (LOIPs). See Appendix B.

4. Main Report

- 4.1 To support this update, the CPST has reviewed Governance documents from five other CPPs to ascertain common and best practice.
- 4.2 This review identified some required amendments; examples noted below for ease:
- 4.2.1 Update the framework to reflect recent changes to Community Planning at a national level as well as the updated EP governance and structure.
 - 4.2.2 Update the framework to more clearly articulate the different types of Edinburgh Partnership member, i.e. statutory body, community body, advisory etc.
 - 4.2.3 Update the framework to more clearly reflect how decisions are made by the EP Board and identify those members with voting rights.
 - 4.2.4 Identify the process by which a Community body can join the Edinburgh Partnership.

5. Next steps

- 5.1 Once approved and adopted, the updated EP Governance Framework will be shared with all Strategic Partnerships, posted on the EP website and in the EP's (MS) Teams channel.

6. LOIP/ Locality Plan alignment

- 6.1 The EP Governance Framework supports implementation of the 2026 refresh of the 2018-28 Community Plan (LOIP), Locality Plan development and development of the new Community Plan (LOIP) by ensuring clear systems and processes for the EP.

7. Background reading/ external references

- 7.1 N/A

8. Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix A - Updated Edinburgh Partnership Governance Framework



8.2 Appendix B – Place Director and CPP Charter

9. Contact

Sabina McDonald – Population Health Project Manager - Edinburgh City,
NHS Lothian Dept. of Public Health and Health Policy
Email: Sabina.McDonald@nhs.scot



DRAFT
**EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP
GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK**

Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| 1. Introduction | 3 |
| 2. Purpose/Role/Remit | 3 |
| 3. The Edinburgh Partnership (EP) Vision | 6 |
| 4. Membership | 6 |
| 5. Roles within the Edinburgh Partnership Board..... | 9 |
| 6. Edinburgh Partnership Board Meetings | 9 |
| 7. Edinburgh Partnership Governance Structure | 10 |
| 8. Sharing information and resources | 11 |
| 9. Definitions | 11 |
| 10. Community Planning Management Group, Community Planning Support Team and Data and Intelligence Working Group | 12 |
| 11. Strategic Partnerships | 13 |
| 12. Appendices..... | 20 |

1. INTRODUCTION

This document sets out the governance framework for the Edinburgh Partnership (the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) for Edinburgh City). It has been informed by a period of review and consultation involving partners and wider stakeholders in the city. It is designed to provide a clear and transparent approach for the governance of community planning in the city.

2. PURPOSE/ROLE/REMIT

Community Planning

2.1 The [Community Empowerment \(Scotland\) Act 2015](#) places a statutory duty on a range of public bodies to play a full and active role in community planning, requiring them to draw together the public assets, activities and resources, together with those of the voluntary and private sectors and communities, to deliver shared priorities for their areas.

2.2 Community planning is a process by which public bodies work with communities to plan, resource and provide services to improve the quality of people's lives, with particular emphasis on reducing the outcome gap for those experiencing the greatest inequality. Community planning is a key driver for public service reform at local level; providing a focus for joint working, driven by strong shared leadership, directed towards distinctive local circumstances.

Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs)

2.3 CPPs look for opportunities to work together to use collective resources in more effective and efficient ways to improve outcomes and align their collective resources to better support the CPP's ambitions. This focused joint working provides powerful potential to address often deep-rooted causes of inequalities, and to apply preventative approaches to manage future demands on crisis intervention services.

2.4 There is genuine challenge and scrutiny in community planning, built on mutual trust, a shared and ambitious commitment to continuous improvement, and a culture that promotes and accepts challenge among partners. The statutory Community Planning Guidance can be found [here](#).

2.5 All Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs) are required to:

2.5.1 Prepare and publish a Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP), which sets out the local outcomes which the CPP will prioritise for improvement. In Edinburgh we call this the Edinburgh Community Plan. It provides a framework and sets out the shared priorities for the city. It identifies those issues that require sustained joint working to make a difference and describes the areas where the Edinburgh Partnership will work together to make improvements and meet these priorities to improve outcomes and reduce inequalities.

2.5.2 Identify smaller areas within the local authority area which experience the poorest outcomes, and prepare and publish Locality Plans to

improve outcomes on agreed priorities for these communities (the outcomes prioritised for improvement in a Locality Plan may differ from those in the LOIP).

- 2.5.3 Review and report publicly on progress towards their LOIP and Locality Plans, and keep the continued suitability of these plans under review.

Community Planning Partners

- 2.6 The 2015 Act places specific duties on all community planning partners, linked to improving outcomes. These include:
 - 2.6.1 Co-operating with other partners in carrying out community planning
 - 2.6.2 Taking account of LOIPs in carrying out its functions;
 - 2.6.3 Contributing such funds, staff and other resources as the CPP considers appropriate to improve local outcomes in the LOIP and secure participation of community bodies throughout community planning.

- 2.7 The 2015 Act applies duties to support shared leadership and collective governance on specified community planning partners, i.e. the local authority, NHS, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and Scottish Enterprise or Highlands and Islands Enterprise. These duties include:
 - 2.7.1 facilitating community planning
 - 2.7.2 taking all reasonable steps to ensure the CPP conducts its functions effectively and efficiently.

The Edinburgh Partnership Board

- 2.8 The remit of the Edinburgh Partnership Board is to:

- 2.8.1 Provide strategic leadership by developing a joint vision and outcomes to improve the quality of life and tackle inequality as set out in the [Edinburgh Community Plan](#) (LOIP) and Locality Plans¹.
- 2.8.2 Use data and evidence to inform practice and commissioning – links to relevant data and reports can be found [here](#).
- 2.8.3 Put in place administrative structures and operational arrangements which support effective and efficient community planning.
- 2.8.4 Ensure the Edinburgh Partnership is accountable to communities for the progress it makes.
- 2.8.5 Identify, agree and contribute the resources needed to achieve the shared outcomes.
- 2.8.6 Hold each other to account for the delivery of outcomes through constructive challenge and effective performance reporting².
- 2.8.7 Provide oversight of partnership working to achieve the delivery of outcomes.
- 2.8.8 Maintain a strategic oversight of any funding streams attributed to community planning in Edinburgh and delegate any funds to a nominated partner/ partnership.
- 2.8.9 Discuss and agree the potential risks the community and partnership is exposed to, including failure to improve outcomes and reduce inequalities and develop a risk management strategy³ to monitor and manage these risks appropriately.
- 2.8.10 Ensure legislative duties are jointly and individually discharged.
- 2.8.11 Identify and share examples of best practice.
- 2.8.12 Ensure that the organisations represented are aware of the Community Plan and have regard to it in the development of their own strategies (per 2.6.2).

2.9 Responsibilities

- 2.10** All members of the Edinburgh Partnership Board and supporting partnerships and groups will be committed to working together to improve outcomes for individuals and communities in the city and in doing so will:
 - 2.10.1 Uphold and promote the aims and objectives of the Edinburgh Partnership and act in the best interests of the public, at all times.
 - 2.10.2 Comply with the Seven Principles of Public Life and the Good Governance Standard for Public Services (Appendix A)
 - 2.10.3 Be committed to the National Standards for Community Engagement (Appendix B).
 - 2.10.4 Be committed to, uphold and comply with the Principles of Effective Community Planning (Appendix C), namely:
 - a) Community participation and co-production
 - b) Tackling inequalities
 - c) Shared leadership
 - d) Governance and accountability
 - e) Understanding of local community's needs, circumstances and opportunities

¹ Local community planning is still TBC – will be updated in due course

² Weblink to EPB Performance Framework will be added once agreed

³ Weblink to risk management strategy will be added once available

- f) Focus on key priorities
- g) Focus on prevention
- h) Resourcing improvement
- i) Effective performance management

2.10.5 Champion more effective partnership working.

2.10.6 Work collaboratively to find shared solutions to issues

3. THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP (EP) VISION

3.1 The EP's vision, agreed in 2018, is that:

“Edinburgh is a thriving, connected, inspired and fair city, where all forms of poverty and inequality are reduced.”

3.2 The EP is committed to combining its resources, thinking beyond organisational boundaries, to work meaningfully with communities to deliver this ambition for change.

4. MEMBERSHIP⁴

4.1 The membership of the EP is determined by the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 (the 2015 Act) and comprises both Statutory Bodies and Community Bodies. These also referred to as Community Planning Partners, or Partners.

4.2 Board members should be nominated by their constituent organisation based on their authority and ability to fulfil the remit of the Board and to:

4.2.1 represent the strategic views of their organisation (in the case of Statutory Bodies) or the community of place or community of interest (in the case of Community Bodies) that they represent.

4.2.2 support the vision and aims of the EP; and

4.2.3 contribute to the delivery of the EP's outcomes as defined in its strategic and local plans.

4.3 Changes to existing Board positions, and requests for new members, should be notified in writing to the Chair and will be considered at a Board meeting.

4.4 Statutory Bodies

⁴ Weblink to ToR will be added once uploaded to the EPB website

4.4.1 The 2015 Act identifies the public sector bodies that are subject to community planning duties, expanding on the list identified in the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 (marked in bold) to include those listed below.

4.4.2 Not all these Statutory Bodies are currently represented on the Edinburgh Partnership Board, but all are welcome.

4.4.3 Statutory Bodies (member organisations):

- **City of Edinburgh Council** - one member from each of the political groups including the Council Leader (the local authority)
- Edinburgh College (board of management of a regional college)
- Edinburgh Integration Joint Board (the health and social care IJB)
- Historic Environment Scotland
- **NHS Lothian** (the Health Board)
- **Police Scotland**
- Regional strategic body under the Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Act 2005 (not applicable)
- **Scottish Enterprise**
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency
- **Scottish Fire and Rescue Service**
- Scottish Natural Heritage (now known as Nature Scot)
- Scottish Sports Council (i.e. Sports Scotland)
- Skills Development Scotland
- **Southeast of Scotland Regional Transport Partnership**
- National Park authority (not applicable in Edinburgh)
- Visit Scotland

4.5 Community Bodies

4.5.1 The 2015 Act defines these as bodies, whether or not formally constituted, established for purposes which consist of or include that of promoting or improving interests of any communities however resident or otherwise present in the area of the CPP.

4.5.2 CPPs and community planning partners are required to both to engage with those community bodies which are likely to be able to contribute to community planning, and to participate with these bodies in community planning to the extent that those bodies wish to do so (section 4(3) and (6)).

4.5.3 There are typically six ways that a Community Body might chose to be involved in Community Planning, which can take place across the EP structure:

- Support the CPP to have a clear understanding of distinctive needs and aspirations of **communities of place** and/or **communities of interest** within its area.
- Co-produce CPP priorities, how services are shaped and resources deployed to achieve positive change.
- Represent the interests of persons experiencing inequalities/social economic disadvantage.
- Support the participation of people who face additional barriers to involvement, including via capacity building.
- Participate in the development of locality based and thematic approaches to address inequalities.
- Support/inform understanding how effectively the CPP is performing; identify and address improvement needs.

4.5.4 Community Bodies (member organisations):

The following Community Bodies are currently represented on the EP Board:

- Armed Forces
- Chamber of Commerce
- Edinburgh Affordable Housing Partnership
- Edinburgh Association of Community Councils (Community of place representative)
- Edinburgh Voluntary Organisation's Council (Third Sector Interface representative)
- University of Edinburgh

4.6 Scottish Government Representative – Place Directors

In 2026 a new Charter was approved for the role of Place Directors. They will attend CPPs as senior Scottish Government representatives. As civil servants, they do not hold voting rights or formal decision-making powers within partnership governance structures. Their role is supportive and strategic, focused on alignment, relationship-building, and helping to identify and unblock barriers.

4.7 Advisors to the Edinburgh Partnership Board

4.7.1 There are several non-voting advisors to the Board that attend on a regular basis. These include:

- The Chief Executive of Edinburgh City Council
- Head of Strategy, Edinburgh City Council
- Strategy Manager Community Planning & Equalities, Edinburgh City Council
- Community Planning Manager, Edinburgh City Council
- Consultant in Public Health, NHS Lothian

4.8 Occasionally, and dependent upon agenda items, other organisations and individuals may be invited to attend the Board to advise, or to address specific matters under discussion by the Board. These individuals shall have no voting rights.

5. ROLES WITHIN THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP BOARD

5.1 Chair

The Leader of the City of Edinburgh Council will Chair the EP Board.

5.2 Vice Chair

A Vice Chair will be selected from the membership from another member body and will serve for a term of 24 months and then be eligible for re-election.

5.3 Secretariat

Secretariat support will be provided to the EP Board by the City of Edinburgh Council's Community Planning team. This person will be a non-voting member of the EP Board. This role will include:

- Calling for agenda items,
- Developing the agenda,
- Facilitating an Agenda Preparation Meeting (APM) for the Chair and Vice chair in advance of the board meeting,
- Taking an action note of the meeting
- Updating a log of decisions made by the EP Board
- Supporting updates of the EP Board's action tracker and
- Sending the Agenda and action note of previous meeting in advance of the meeting.

6. EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETINGS

6.1 Quorum

The quorum for the EP Board meetings is not less than one third of the Board membership and provided at least 3 Board membership organisations are present.

6.2 Absence

Where a member is unable to attend a meeting, an alternate member may attend in their stead.

6.3 Resignation

A Member may resign from the Board at any time by sending a written notice to the Chair advising them of their resignation and the effective date. A replacement should be identified wherever possible, particularly in relation to Statutory Bodies.

6.4 Meeting Schedule

The Board will meet a minimum of four times per year with a schedule of meeting dates and forward work programme to be agreed annually in advance by the Board. Additional meetings will be arranged as required.

6.5 Methodology

6.5.1 Papers for meetings will be circulated to the Board no later than 7 days in advance of the meeting and be posted on the [Edinburgh Partnership Web Pages](#).

6.5.2 An action note will be taken at every meeting of the Board and the note presented to the following meeting for approval.

6.5.3 Decisions taken by the Board will be added to a decision log after each meeting.

6.5.4 Actions identified during a meeting will be added to an action log, to be reviewed each meeting.

6.6 Declaration of Interest

Board members will declare an interest in items of business where appropriate. Declarations will be noted in the minutes of meetings. Appendix F has further details on the Declaration of Interest Process.

6.7 Decision Making

6.7.1 Each Board member (whether representing a Statutory Body or a Community Body) is an equal partner.

6.7.2 The values of shared priorities, collaborative action, collective responsibility, and shared accountability apply to each Board member, and all Board business.

6.7.3 The Board will work towards achieving a consensus in making decisions, whilst respecting the right of individual members to disagree.

6.7.4 Where a consensus cannot be reached a vote of members in attendance will be taken.

6.7.5 Each Board member organisation is entitled to cast one vote. If there are 2 or more persons present from the same member organisation, then only 1 representative is entitled to vote.

6.7.6 Where there are an equal number of votes, the Chair will have the casting vote.

6.7.7 In the event of the Chair not using their casting vote, the decision will be reached by lot.

6.7.8 The Board has the power to co-opt the Chairs of the seven Strategic Partnerships either as voting or non-voting members (whilst considering that each Board member organisation is only entitled to cast one vote).

7. EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

- 7.1 The [Community Empowerment \(Scotland\) Act 2015](#) requires the EP to put governance, structures and arrangements in place which support effective and efficient community planning, and provide a clear role for community bodies in its organisation and decision-making processes.
- 7.2 The diagram below sets out the governance arrangements for community planning in Edinburgh; the structure consists of the Edinburgh Partnership Board, which is supported by the Community Planning Management Group and Community Planning Support Team, along with seven Strategic (thematic) Partnerships.

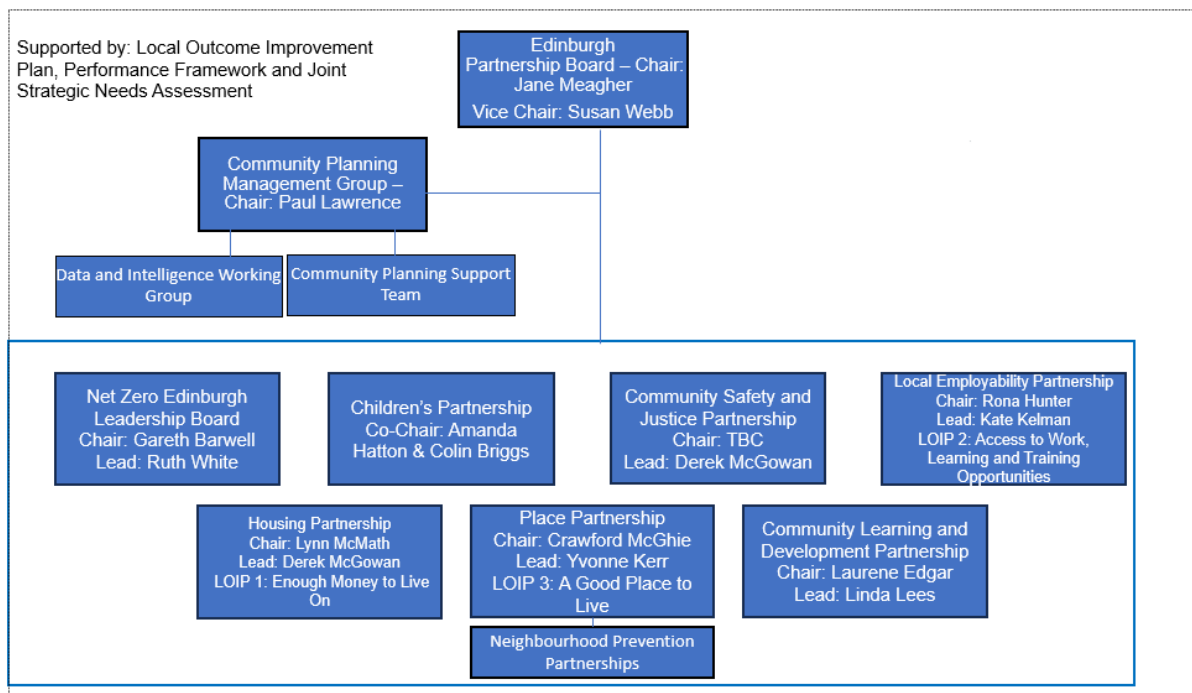


Figure 1: The Edinburgh Partnership Structure

- 7.3 Further information on the Edinburgh Partnership Board, Community Planning Management Group, Community Planning Support Team, Data and Intelligence Working Group and the seven Strategic Partnerships is provided below, from section 10 onwards.

8. SHARING INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

The Edinburgh Partnership has an online MS Team administered by City of Edinburgh Council. Administrative documents relating to the work of the Edinburgh Partnership are stored within this MS Team.

9. DEFINITIONS

- 9.1 Community Planning Partnership (CPP) - The name given to all those services that come together to take part in community planning. There are 32 CPPs across Scotland, one for each council area. Each CPP focuses on where partners' collective efforts and resources can add the most value to their local communities, with particular emphasis on reducing inequality (*Scottish Government*). *CPPs act in accordance with the Community*

Empowerment (Scotland) Act, 2015 (the Act). In Edinburgh this is known as the Edinburgh Partnership (EP).

- 9.2 Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) - Mandated by the Act these local authority wide plans are developed by CPPs and identify the core issues most relevant to the area that cannot be solved by one agency along. These plans are designed to ensure that CPPs work together effectively with local communities to tackle the underlying causes of these issues through prevention and early intervention. In Edinburgh this plan is known as the Edinburgh Community Plan.
- 9.3 Locality Plans – These codesigned plans are targeted to smaller areas experiencing greatest disadvantage in line with the expectations set out in the Act and associated guidance. Each CPP will produce at least one Locality Plan; there is no fixed maximum number. In Edinburgh these have also been known historically as Locality Improvement Plans (LIPs). New Locality Plans will be developed in the five areas identified for Neighbourhood Prevention Partnerships (NPPs) in 2026/27.
- 9.4 Neighbourhood Prevention Partnerships (NPPs) – Areas identified with most concentrated child poverty within Edinburgh and where we will develop a prevention focussed partnership response and produce Locality Plans to support progress on outcomes.

10. COMMUNITY PLANNING MANAGEMENT GROUP, COMMUNITY PLANNING SUPPORT TEAM AND DATA AND INTELLIGENCE WORKING GROUP

10.1 Community Planning Management Group (CPMG)

10.1.1 The CPMG serves to provide support to the Edinburgh Partnership Board, acting as a collaborative planning group for the leads from all seven Strategic Partnerships. It aims to drive progress against the priorities set out in the LOIP by ensuring a joined-up agenda and joined up delivery model across all the Strategic Partnerships, as well as monitoring activity and performance against agreed outcomes. The CPMG is also responsible for developing new LOIPs and corresponding performance frameworks, as required.

10.1.2 The CPMG is accountable to the Edinburgh Partnership Board. The role and remit of the group is set out in its own Terms of Reference.

10.1.3 The current membership⁵ comprises:

- The City of Edinburgh Council (Chair)
- Integration Joint Board
- NHS Lothian (Co Vice Chair)
- Police Scotland
- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

⁵ Weblink to ToR will be added once uploaded to the EPB website

- Children’s Partnership Chairperson and/ or Lead Officer
- Community Learning and Development Partnership Chairperson and/ or Lead Officer
- Community Safety and Justice Partnership Chairperson and/ or Lead Officer
- Housing Partnership Chairperson and/ or Lead Officer
- Local Employability Partnership Chairperson and/ or Lead Officer
- Net Zero Leadership Board Chairperson and/ or Lead Officer
- Place Partnership Chairperson and/ or Lead Officer

10.2 **Community Planning Support Team (CPST)**

10.2.1 The CPST provides multiagency support to facilitate the work of the Edinburgh Partnership.

10.2.2 The CPST is accountable to the Edinburgh Partnership Board. The role and remit of the group is set out in its own Terms of Reference.

10.2.3 The current membership⁶ comprises:

- Capital City Partnership
- The City of Edinburgh Council (Chair)
- Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations’ Council (EVOC) as the TSI rep
- NHS Lothian
- Police Scotland
- Scottish Enterprise
- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
- Southeast Scotland Transport Partnership

10.3 **Data and Intelligence Working Group**

10.3.1 The Data and Intelligence Working Group coordinates work on data and intelligence related to understanding the distinct needs and demographics of different communities within Edinburgh, including JSNAs where relevant.

10.3.2 The Data and Intelligence Working Group is accountable to the Edinburgh Partnership Board. The role and remit of the group is set out in its own Terms of Reference.

10.3.3 The current membership⁷ comprises:

- NHS Lothian (Chair)
- The City of Edinburgh Council
- Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP)
- Public Health Scotland
- Police Scotland

11. **STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS**

⁶ Weblink to ToR will be added once uploaded to the EPB website

⁷ Weblink to ToR will be added once uploaded to the EPB website

The seven Strategic Partnerships direct the strategic planning, development and delivery of several services and work-streams on behalf of the Edinburgh Partnership. Some also hold responsibility for developing and delivering on specific statutory plans, as noted below.

11.1 Children's Partnership

11.1.1 The Children's Partnership is established in response to the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 and is accountable to the Edinburgh Partnership Board in respect of developing, delivering and reporting on the Children's Services Plan.

11.1.2 The Children's Services Plan is a partnership plan involving multi-agency actions for the benefit of children, young people, and their families in Edinburgh. The Children's Partnership reports to the Edinburgh Partnership Board annually on progress.

11.1.3 The role and remit of the Children's Partnership is set out in its own Terms of Reference and supporting legislation.

11.1.4 The current membership⁸ comprises:

- NHS Lothian (Co-Chair)
- The City of Edinburgh Council (Co-Chair)
- Edinburgh College
- Edinburgh Leisure
- Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations' Council (EVOC)
- Homelink Family Support
- Lothian Association of Youth Clubs (LAYC)
- Multicultural Family Base
- Police Scotland
- Project Esperanza
- Scottish Children's Reporter Administration
- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
- Skills Development Scotland
- University of Edinburgh

11.2 Community Learning and Development (CLD) Partnership

⁸ Weblink to ToR will be added once uploaded to the EPB website

11.2.1 The CLD Partnership is accountable to the Edinburgh Partnership Board in respect of developing, delivering and reporting on the CLD Plan, in line with the Community Learning and Development (Scotland) Regulations 2013. The CLD Plan focuses on adult learning, community development, and youth work. The CLD Partnership brings together key stakeholders to ensure collaborative, needs-led approaches that support lifelong learning, reduce inequalities, and strengthen communities. The CLD Partnership reports to the Edinburgh Partnership Board annually on progress.

11.2.2 The role and remit of the CLD Partnership is set out in its own Terms of Reference and supporting legislation.

11.2.3 The current membership⁹ comprises:

- Lothian Association of Youth Clubs (Chair)
- Capital City Partnership (Vice-chair)
- The City of Edinburgh Council (Lead Officer)
- Edinburgh College
- Edinburgh Leisure
- Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations' Council (EVOC)
- NHS Lothian
- Police Scotland
- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
- Secondary Head Teacher Representative
- Skills Development Scotland
- University of Edinburgh, Open Learning
- Volunteer Edinburgh

11.3 **Community Safety and Justice Partnership**

11.3.1 The Community Safety and Justice Partnership is accountable to the Edinburgh Partnership Board in respect of developing, delivering and reporting on the Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan under the Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 and the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy under the Antisocial Behaviour etc. (Scotland) Act 2004. It reports to the Edinburgh Partnership Board annually on progress.

11.3.2 The role and remit of the Community Safety and Justice Partnership is set out in its own Terms of Reference and supporting legislation.

11.3.3 The current membership¹⁰ comprises:

- The City of Edinburgh Council (Chair and Lead Officer)
- NHS Lothian
- SACRO
- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
- Scottish Prison Service

⁹ Weblink to ToR will be added once uploaded to the EPB website

¹⁰ Weblink to ToR will be added once uploaded to the EPB website

- Simon Community Scotland
- Police Scotland
- Scottish Development Service
- Victim Support Scotland

11.4 **Strategic Housing Partnership (SHP)**

11.4.1 The SHP brings together key stakeholders to develop, promote, and support a public health approach to address housing issues and income maximisation across Edinburgh. The SHP will act as a unified voice representing senior leadership on housing issues in the city. It is responsible for leading progress against actions under Priority 1 in the Edinburgh Community Plan (Enough money to live on). The SHP is accountable to the Edinburgh Partnership Board, and reports to the Edinburgh Partnership Board annually on progress.

11.4.2 The role and remit of the SHP is set out in its own Terms of Reference and supporting legislation.

11.4.3 The current membership¹¹ comprises:

- Capital City Partnership
- Cyrenians
- Department for Work and Pensions
- Heriot Watt University
- Homes for Scotland
- Links Housing Association
- NHS Lothian
- Police Scotland
- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
- SHAPE
- Skills Development Scotland/ Local Employability Partnership
- Social Security Scotland
- The City of Edinburgh Council (Housing & Homelessness, Planning, Education, Children's, & Justice Services) (Lead Officer)
- The University of Edinburgh (Chair)

11.5 **Local Employability Partnership (LEP)**

¹¹ Weblink to ToR will be added once uploaded to the EPB website

11.5.1 The Edinburgh Local Employability Partnership exists to foster collaboration between stakeholders involved in the employability and skills landscape; partners include statutory organisations, skills providers, health and the third sector. Their key role is to develop and implement strategic plans to address local employment challenges. The group is responsible for the allocation of Scottish Government No one Left Behind Funds, co-ordinating employer engagement and analysis of labour market data. <https://edinburghlep.org/>.

11.5.2 It is responsible for leading progress against actions under Priority 2 in the Edinburgh Community Plan (Access to work, learning and training opportunities). The LEP is accountable to the Edinburgh Partnership Board in respect of developing, delivering and reporting on the LEP operational plan¹². It reports to the Edinburgh Partnership Board annually on progress.

11.5.3 The role and remit of the LEP is set out in its own Terms of Reference and supporting legislation.

11.5.4 The current membership¹³ comprises:

- Capital City Partnership (Chair)
- The City of Edinburgh Council (Vice-chair)
- Chamber of Commerce
- Department for Work and Pensions
- Edinburgh College
- Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations' Council (TSI Representative)
- Employability providers through the Joined up for Jobs Forum
- NHS Lothian
- Police Scotland
- Skills Development Scotland
- The University of Edinburgh

11.6 Net Zero Edinburgh Leadership Board (NZELB)

¹² Weblink to LEP operational plan will be added once available

¹³ Weblink to ToR will be added once uploaded to the EPB website

11.6.1 The NZELB provides city-wide leadership in creating a green, clean and sustainable future for the city, as laid out in the [2030 Climate Strategy](#). By ensuring economies of scale, opportunities of scale and place-making are being achieved through collaboration and alignment between Board partners; the NZELB will also break down barriers to joint investment in project delivery. The NZELB is accountable to the Edinburgh Partnership Board in respect of developing, delivering and reporting on the [2030 Climate Strategy](#). It reports progress to the Edinburgh Partnership Board annually.

11.6.2 The role and remit of NZELB is set out in its own Terms of Reference and supporting legislation.

11.6.3 The current membership¹⁴ comprises:

- City of Edinburgh Council (Chair)
- Chamber of Commerce
- Nature Scot
- NHS Lothian
- Scottish Gas Networks
- Scottish Power Energy Networks
- Scottish Water
- The University of Edinburgh

11.7 Place Partnership (PP)

11.7.1 The PP includes members from across the Edinburgh Partnership and aims to create and foster vibrant, thriving, healthy, sustainable and safe places and communities. By ensuring a joined-up approach to the place-based and place-making agendas and systems in Edinburgh and undertaking evidence-based 'tests of change' across the city, the PP supports the delivery of improved outcomes for citizens and communities.

11.7.2 It is responsible for leading progress against actions under Priority 3 in the Edinburgh Community Plan (A good place to live). The PP is accountable to the EP Board where it reports progress annually.

11.7.3 The role and remit of the SPP is set out in its own Terms of Reference and supporting legislation.

11.7.4 The current membership¹⁵ comprises:

- City of Edinburgh Council (Chair)
- Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership (EHSCP)
- Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations' Council (EVOC)
- Lothian Association of Youth Clubs (LAYC)
- NHS Lothian (Lead Officer)
- Police Scotland
- The University of Edinburgh

¹⁴ Weblink to ToR will be added once uploaded to the EPB website

¹⁵ Weblink to ToR will be added once uploaded to the EPB website

11.8 Local Community Planning

Local community planning arrangements are being revised under the Place Partnership and in line with the development of Neighbourhood Prevention Partnerships (NPPs). More detail will be provided in due course.

11.9 Annual Work Plan

An Annual Work Plan will be added once it has been agreed.

| Status / Version | Date Revised | Date Agreed by EP Board | Signed by EP Board Chair | Next Review Date |
|------------------|--------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| 4 | | | | |

12. APPENDICES

12.1 Appendix (A)

The Seven Principles of Public Life

Selflessness

Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other benefits for themselves, their family or their friends.

Integrity

Holders of public office should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might seek to influence them in the performance of their official duties.

Objectivity

In carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, holders of public office should make choices on merit.

Accountability

Holders of public office are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office.

Openness

Holders of public office should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions that they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands.

Honesty

Holders of public office have a duty to declare any private interests relating to their public duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest.

Leadership

Holders of public office should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.

12.2 Appendix (B)

The Good Governance Standard for Public Services

The Good Governance Standard for Public Services is intended for use by all organisations and partnerships that work for the public, using public money. It sets out six core principles of good governance for public service organisations.

1 Good governance means focusing on the organisation's purpose and on outcomes for citizens and service users

- 1.1 Being clear about the organisation's purpose and its intended outcomes for citizens and service users
- 1.2 Making sure that users receive a high quality service
- 1.3 Making sure that taxpayers receive value for money

2 Good governance means performing effectively in clearly defined functions and roles

- 2.1 Being clear about the functions of the governing body
- 2.2 Being clear about the responsibilities of non-executives and the executive, and making sure that those responsibilities are carried out
- 2.3 Being clear about relationships between governors and the public

3 Good governance means promoting values for the whole organisation and demonstrating the values of good governance through behaviour

- 3.1 Putting organisational values into practice
- 3.2 Individual governors behaving in ways that uphold and exemplify effective governance

4 Good governance means taking informed, transparent decisions and managing risk

- 4.1 Being rigorous and transparent about how decisions are taken
- 4.2 Having and using good quality information, advice and support
- 4.3 Making sure that an effective risk management system is in operation

5 Good governance means developing the capacity and capability of the governing body to be effective

- 5.1 Making sure that appointed and elected governors have the skills, knowledge and experience they need to perform well
- 5.2 Developing the capability of people with governance responsibilities and evaluating their performance, as individuals and as a group
- 5.3 Striking a balance, in the membership of the governing body, between continuity and renewal

6 Good governance means engaging stakeholders and making accountability real

- 6.1 Understanding formal and informal accountability relationships
- 6.2 Taking an active and planned approach to dialogue with and accountability to the public
- 6.3 Taking an active and planned approach to responsibility to staff
- 6.4 Engaging effectively with institutional stakeholders

The Independent Commission on Good Governance in Public Services

12.3 Appendix (C)

National Standards of Community Engagement



Social Community Development Centre (SCDC)
[Community engagement | SCDC - We believe communities matter](#)

12.4 Appendix (D)

Summary of Expectations – Principles of Effective Community Planning

Community participation and co-production

- The CPP and community planning partners work with community bodies to ensure that all bodies which can contribute to community planning are able to do so in an effective way and to the extent that they wish to do so.
- The CPP and community planning partners have a clear understanding of distinctive needs and aspirations of communities of place and interest within its area, as a result of effective participation with community bodies.
- Effective community participation informs decisions about the CPP's priorities, how services are shaped and resources deployed; this includes working with community bodies on co-production where these bodies wish to do so.
- Effective community participation informs how the CPP manages and scrutinises performance and progress, and how it revises its actions to meet its ambitions as a result of its performance management.
- The CPP embraces the principles of effective co-production which is aimed at combining the mutual strengths and capacities of all partners (including community bodies) to achieve positive change.

Tackling inequalities

- The CPP has a strong understanding of which households and communities, both of place and of interest, in its area experience inequalities of outcome which impact on their quality of life.
- The CPP focuses its collective energy on where its partners' efforts can add most value for its communities, with particular emphasis on reducing inequalities.
- The CPP develops locality and thematic approaches as appropriate to address these, with participation from community bodies representing the interests of persons experiencing inequalities.
- The CPP should build the capacity of communities, particularly those experiencing inequality, to enable those communities, both geographic and of interest, to identify their own needs and opportunities; and support their efforts to participate effectively in community planning, including in the co-production of services.

Shared leadership

- Partners demonstrate collective ownership, leadership and strategic direction of community planning.
- Partners use their shared leadership role to ensure the CPP sets an ambitious vision with and for local communities; the CPP involves all partners and resources that can contribute towards delivering on that vision; and that partners deliver on it.
- The CPP is clear about how they work with public service reform programmes (including health and social care integration and community justice reforms).

Governance and accountability

- The CPP understands what effective community planning requires, and the improvement needs for it and its partners.
- The CPP and its partners apply effective challenge and scrutiny in community planning, built on mutual trust, a shared and ambitious commitment to continuous improvement, and a culture that promotes and accepts challenge among partners.
- The CPP organises itself in an effective way, which provides platforms for strong strategic decision-making and action, and effective scrutiny and challenge.
- The CPPs and partners can demonstrate, including to local communities through annual progress reports, how they are working effectively in partnership to improve outcomes as part of how they are held to account.

Understanding of local communities' needs, circumstances and opportunities

- The CPP has a strong understanding of its local areas, including differing needs, circumstances and opportunities for communities (geographical and communities of interest) within its area.
- This understanding is built on appropriate data and evidence from partners and community perspectives flowing from effective community engagement.

Focus on key priorities

- The CPP uses its understanding of local needs, circumstances and opportunities to establish a clear and ambitious vision for its area and identify local priorities for improvement.
- The CPP is clear about the improvement it wishes to make locally in terms of better outcomes for specific communities, reducing the gap in outcomes between the most and least deprived groups and improving long term sustainability of public service provision.
- The LOIP places a clear emphasis on identifying local priorities which focus on how the CPP will add most value as a partnership to improve outcomes and tackle inequalities, and the CPP targets activities around these priorities.

Focus on prevention

- The CPP and partners plan prevention and early intervention approaches as core activities which help people and communities to thrive and contribute to addressing poor outcomes and improving long term sustainability of public service provision.
- The CPP places strong emphasis on preventative measures to achieve ambitious long term improvement goals on the local outcomes it prioritises.
- CPP partners provide resources required to support preventative measures to the scale required to fulfil these ambitions.
- The CPP works with local communities and uses a close understanding of local needs, circumstances and opportunities to design services and focus resources to where it has greatest preventative benefit.

Resourcing improvement

- The CPP and its partners understand how their collective resources are supporting

shared local priorities, and whether together these are sufficient and the right resources to enable the CPP to meet its improvement targets.

- Partners demonstrate strong shared leadership by working with other bodies to use collective resources in more effective and efficient ways to improve outcomes and reduce inequalities.
- Partners deploy sufficient resource to meet agreed ambitions for the CPP's local priorities.
- Partners align their collective resources in ways which support its local priorities effectively and efficiently.
- The CPP and its partners keep under review whether partners' deployment of resources remains appropriate for meeting its ambitions, and take corrective action where necessary.

Effective performance management

- The CPP has a deep-rooted commitment to continuous improvement.
- The CPP has effective processes and skills to understand and scrutinise performance.
- The CPP acts wherever appropriate to improve performance in light of this understanding and scrutiny.

12.5 Appendix (E)

Community Planning Partnership Community Bodies

[Community Planning Partnership \(CPP\) Statutory Bodies](#) must facilitate the involvement of CPP Community Bodies to the extent that the Community Body wishes to be involved in community planning in their CPP area.

As per [Section 4 \(9\) of the Community Empowerment \(Scotland\) Act 2015](#), Community Bodies are defined as: “*whether or not formally constituted, established for purposes which consist of or include that of promoting or improving interests of any communities however resident or otherwise present in the area of the CPP*”.

- CPP Statutory partners must facilitate the Community Bodies involvement in the following, to the extent that the Community Body wishes to be:
 1. Support the CPP to have a clear understanding of distinctive needs and aspirations of communities of place and/or communities of interest within its area.
 2. Co-produce CPP priorities, how services are shaped and resources deployed to achieve positive change.
 3. Represent the interests of persons experiencing inequalities/social economic disadvantage.
 4. Support the participation of people who face additional barriers to involvement, including via capacity building.
 5. Participate in the development of locality based and thematic approaches to address inequalities.
 6. Support/inform understanding how effectively the CPP is performing; identify and address improvement needs.
 7. Approaches should be informed by the National Standards for Community Engagement.

- Extent of participation is the choice of the Community Body. Community Bodies should therefore inform the Edinburgh Partnership the extent to which *they* wish to be involved in these things at the city level and at the locality level.

- **IMPORTANT NOTE:** The CPP should ensure its structure and organisation facilitates a strategic, full and clear role for community bodies in its organisation and in its decision making across all levels. From this and how the CPP more broadly secures participation from community bodies in community planning, community needs and aspirations should strongly inform the CPP’s understanding of local needs and circumstances as well as its clear vision for local communities and the priorities it sets for improvement in its Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP). These decisions may not fully satisfy the wishes of every community body, so the CPP should be transparent and provide reasoning for their choice of actions.

12.6 Appendix (F)

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

1. Your interests

- 1.1 Interests which should be declared may be financial or non financial. They may or may not be interests covered under the categories of a Register of Interests.
- 1.2 Interests which are registered should be declared.
- 1.3 Where a private or personal interest might be seen by a member of the public to be in a different light to that of an ordinary member of the public because of your standing in the Edinburgh Partnership the interest should be declared.

2. Interests of other persons

- 2.1 Where financial interests and non financial interests are known to you of your spouse or your cohabiter, you will need to consider if these should be declared, where a member of the public might reasonably regard the interests as effectively your interests.
- 2.2 The interests, both financial and non financial, known to you of relatives and close friends may have to be declared under the principle of transparency, where the interest might objectively be regarded by a member of the public acting reasonably, to be affecting your responsibilities in the EP.

3. Making a Declaration

- 3.1 Your declaration of interest must be made as soon as practicable, when a particular item is being discussed you must declare the interest as soon as you realise it is necessary.
- 3.2 an oral declaration should identify the item or items of business to which it relates and give sufficient information to enable those at the meeting to understand the nature of your interest. You do not need to give a detailed description.

4. Effect of Declaration

- 4.1 Declaring a financial or non financial interest will have the effect of prohibiting participation in discussion or voting on the item. You may be asked by the Chair to leave the room until the business item is concluded.
- 4.2 A conclusive test of whether you should declare an interest is whether knowing all the relevant facts, a member of the public would reasonably regard your interest as so significant that it is likely to prejudice your discussion or decision making in your role in the Edinburgh Partnership.
- 4.3 If in doubt you should take no part in the discussion of the business item, and leave the room until the item is concluded.

Place Director & CPP Charter

As Place Directors and Community Planning Partnerships, we will work together to build trusted and effective relationships between Scottish Government and local leaders to support the delivery of Local Outcome Improvement Plans to reduce inequalities in communities across Scotland.

Place Directors will:

- Build & maintain effective relationships with local leaders including community representatives
- Attend & take an active role in CPP meetings
- Keep partners informed of relevant national policy and funding developments
- Champion 'Place' & local variation in national policy where relevant
- Escalate actions that require national input to support progress on local priorities
- Commit 2 days/month for a term of 3 years

Community Planning Partners will:

- Provide an induction for Place Directors including meetings with local communities
- Facilitate regular access to their local leaders
- Work with Place Directors to identify the national actions required to improve local outcomes
- Share information and insights to keep PDs informed of local issues
- Keep Place Directors sighted on any relevant communications with Scottish Government

Our Shared Commitment: Maintain clear, regular and open communication to ensure information flows both ways.



THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

EP Board June 10, 2026
Strategic Partnerships - status &
resource updates

Item 6c



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

Edinburgh Partnership Board – Chair: Jane Meagher
Vice Chair: Susan Webb

Community Planning Management Group – Chair: Paul Lawrence

Community Planning Support Team

Strategic Partnerships

Net Zero Edinburgh Leadership Board
Chair: Gareth Barwell
Lead: Vacancy

Children's Partnership
Chair: Colin Briggs
Lead: Rose Howley

Community Safety and Justice Partnership
Chair: Tim Pogson
Lead: Derek McGowan

Local Employability Partnership
Chair: Rona Hunter
Lead: Kate Kelman
LOIP 2: Access to Work, Learning and Training Opportunities

Housing Partnership
Chair: Lynn McMath
Lead: Derek McGowan
LOIP 1: Enough Money to Live On

Place Partnership
Chair: Crawford McGhie
Lead: Yvonne Kerr
LOIP 3: A Good Place to Live

Community Learning and Development Partnership
Chair: Laurene Edgar
Lead: Linda Lees

Neighbourhood Prevention Partnerships

Children's Partnership

Statutory duties: Must develop, deliver and report on a Children's Services Plan (CSP) every 3 years: Next due 2026 - on track

Budgetary responsibility: Whole Family Wellbeing Fund, Community Mental Health Framework

Resourcing: No dedicated resource, in kind support from Partners.

Governance structure: New structure identified by new CSP with working groups established and meetings scheduled.

Chair: Currently in transition

Co Chair: Currently in transition

Secretariat: Currently NHS but will need replaced with change in Chair

TOR: Update in progress to reflect new CSP & revised governance structure

Workplan: Per the CSP and will lead 6 initial LOIP refresh actions. Links to working groups will be established as workplans developed.

Meetings: Regular meetings not scheduled

Quarterly Report: Not submitted

Next steps:



Community Safety & Justice Partnership

Statutory Duties: Jointly responsible for developing, delivering and reporting on a Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan (CJOIP) with statutory community justice partners (Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016) AND responsible for developing, delivering and reporting on a Community Safety Strategy (Antisocial Behaviour etc. (Scotland) Act 2004)

Budgetary responsibility: unknown

Resourcing: No dedicated resource - Previous CEC resource supporting this not replaced

Governance structure: Structure TBD based on workplan

Chair: Police Scotland have agreed to chair for 12 months from summer 2026.

Vice Chair: CEC able to provide

Secretariat: not in place

TOR: Needs updated

Workplan: Will lead 8 initial LOIP refresh actions. Working groups need established and workplans developed to further these

Meetings: Regular meetings are penciled in for the year – will be confirmed when secretariat role is identified.

Quarterly Report: Not submitted

Next steps:



Edinburgh Community Learning & Development Partnership

Statutory Duties: Must develop, deliver & report on a CLD Plan every 3 years. Next due Sept 2027.

Budgetary responsibility: None

Resourcing: No dedicated resource – all support is in-kind from Partners

Governance: In place – supports delivery of CLD Plan

Chair: Laurene Edgar (LAYC)

Lead Officer: Linda Lees (CEC)

Secretariat: CEC (Community Planning Team)

TOR: In place

Workplan: Per CLD Plan and annual implementation plan. Will lead 8 initial LOIP refresh actions – links to working groups & their workplans are established.

Meetings: Regular meetings are scheduled, including working group meetings.

Quarterly Report: Submitted

Next steps:

Commentary: Leading this work is time consuming – if partnership work is an equal responsibility between members we need to consider how the resource needs a more equitable.



Housing Partnership (HP)

Responsible for:

Statutory Duties: None

Budgetary responsibility: None

Resourcing: No dedicated resource – all support is in-kind from Partners

Governance: Per draft TOR

Chair: Lynn McMath (University of Ed.) to Sept 2026

Vice Chair: Derek McGowan (CEC) – note DM will become Chair in Sept 2026 leaving unfilled vacancy as Vice Chair.

Secretariat: University of Ed. Will need replaced with change of Chair.

TOR: Currently being updated

Workplan: Under development and will lead 10 initial LOIP refresh actions – links to working groups & their workplans need established.

Meetings: Regular meetings are scheduled

Quarterly Report: Not submitted

Next steps:



Local Employability Partnership (LEP)

Responsible for:

Statutory Duties: The Scottish Government requires all local authorities to establish LEPs to guide and commission local employment support, rather than operating services solely through the council

Budgetary responsibility: Has oversight of multiple budget streams

Resourcing: No dedicated resource – all support is in-kind from Partners

Governance: In place per ToR

Chair: Rona Hunter (CCP)

Lead Officer: Kate Kelman (CCP)

Secretariat: CEC (Community Planning Team)

TOR: In place

Workplan: Per LEP Plan and will lead 7 initial LOIP refresh actions – [links to working groups need established](#).

Meetings: Regular meetings are scheduled

Quarterly Report: Submitted

Next steps:



Net Zero Edinburgh Leadership Board (NZELB)

Responsible for: It is a strategic governance framework established to drive the city's ambitious goal of becoming a net-zero emissions city by 2030

Statutory Duties: None

Budgetary responsibility: None

Resourcing: No dedicated resource – all support is in-kind from Partners

Governance: Under review

Chair: Gareth Barwell (CEC)

Lead Officer: Ruth White (CEC)

Secretariat: Climate Team (CEC)

TOR: Under review

Workplan: Under development and will lead 11 initial LOIP refresh actions – links to working groups & their workplans need established.

Meetings: Regular meetings are scheduled

Quarterly Report: Submitted

Next steps:

Place Partnership (PP)

Responsible for: The Place Partnership provides a space to bring the collective strengths of partners together to identify shared opportunities and joined up ways of working, ensuring a collective agenda.

Statutory Duties: None

Budgetary responsibility: Oversight of NPP funds

Resourcing: Some in kind, some funded via NPP funds

Governance: Currently being finalised

Chair: Crawford McGhie (CEC)

Vice Chair: Yvonne Kerr (NHS)

Secretariat: tbc

TOR: In development

Workplan: Under development and will lead 4 initial LOIP refresh actions – links to working groups & their workplans need established.

Meetings: Regular meetings not scheduled

Quarterly Report: Submitted

Next steps:

Support Needed from the EP Board

- Maternity cover (12 months) for current Community Plan (LOIP) activity coordination from August 2026.
 - Oversight of EP activity, Quarterly reporting, updating against LOIP actions, organising EP Board, EP Management Board, Strategic Partnership support around workplans etc.
- Public Health working on finding resource to support development of LOIP 2028 onwards. Additional resource offer for this in any form would be helpful to support this work.
- 3x Partnership secretariat roles (Children's Partnership, CSJP and Housing tbc)
- 2x Partnership Vice Chair roles (Children's Partnership and Housing tbc)





THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

Date: 10th June 2026

Title: 2026 refresh of the 2018-2028 Community Plan (LOIP)

Route to this meeting:

A refresh was agreed by the EP Board in September 2025. The draft was developed in partnership and has been reviewed by the leadership/decision making bodies and/or membership of EP Board member organisations for scrutiny.

1. Executive Summary

1.1 This report tables the final refresh of the Edinburgh Partnership's 2018-2028 Community Plan for approval and adoption. This Plan is the Edinburgh Partnership's Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) and the refresh is undertaken in accordance with the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. It reflects recommendations from the 2020 audit, the 2025 Transformation and Improvement Program and recent engagement/policy.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the EP Board:

- 2.1 Notes the process taken to develop this refreshed 2018-2028 Community Plan (LOIP)
- 2.2 Acknowledges the contributions made by individuals and organisations from across the Edinburgh Partnership and beyond (including third sector, community bodies and members of the public) in supporting this refresh of the Community Plan.
- 2.3 Approves and adopts the refreshed 2018-2028 Community Plan.
- 2.4 Agress to receive quarterly reports on the actions included in this refreshed plan.
- 2.5 Notes that this refresh aims to close the outstanding actions from the 2020 Best Value Audit and that a paper will be taken to the relevant City of Edinburgh Council Committee making that recommendation.
- 2.6 Notes that development of the next Community Plan will begin in summer 2026, with updates to the Board to follow as appropriate.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Edinburgh Partnership (the Partnership) is the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) for Edinburgh. The Partnership brings public agencies, including the Council, third and private sectors together with Community Bodies, as defined in the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act, 2015 (The Act).
- 3.2 The Partnership model promotes joint use of resources and collaboration in the design and delivery of services. The overall aim is to improve outcomes for individuals and communities, especially those experiencing the greatest need.
- 3.3 In accordance with the Act, the Community Plan (LOIP) sets out the shared priorities and outcomes that the Partnership is committed to delivering with the people of Edinburgh.
- 3.4 The current LOIP 2018-2028 was published in 2018 and updated in 2022. It has three partnership priorities to ensure people in the city have:
 - 3.4.1 Enough money to live on
 - 3.4.2 Access to work, learning and training opportunities and;
 - 3.4.3 A good place to live.
- 3.5 In [September 2025, the Partnership Board](#) agreed to refresh the current LOIP for the remainder of the 10-year cycle. The refresh reflects the Partnership's commitment to continuous improvement and more inclusive engagement with partners and communities.
- 3.6 The LOIP refresh addresses findings from the [2020 audit](#).

4. Main Report

- 4.1 The Act requires CPPs to keep their Community Plan up to date, ensuring it reflects the current needs, circumstances and aspirations of local communities. Our last refresh was in 2022 and responded to the pandemic and its aftermath. This refresh responds to the most significant things that have changed since then and strengthens how we evidence to residents and Partners the impact our actions are having.
- 4.2 It is important to note that this is a refresh of the existing Plan, not a replacement. Work will shortly commence on a new Community Plan, which will be designed from the ground up to reflect the full breadth of change facing our communities, including the wider, more fundamental shifts in our social, economic and environmental landscape that this refresh acknowledges, but does not seek to address in full.

- 4.3 The refresh updates the action register and reflects shifts in strategic and policy contexts in respect of emergent and deepening issues outlined in section 1 of the refresh. These include the ongoing cost of living crisis and the Housing Emergency, along with the calls to action from the Edinburgh Poverty Commission’s interim report and other feedback, to ensure that collective resources are focussed on the right things. There is also a strengthened focus on prevention and early intervention.
- 4.4 The refresh is about more than updating a document, supporting the Edinburgh Partnership to deliver meaningful, measurable change for communities who need it the most.

Community Plan Refresh Development Process

- 4.5 The refresh addresses the audit findings from 2020 and progresses the Partnership’s commitment to continuous improvement and more inclusive engagement with partners and communities. It sets out actions that:
 - 4.5.1 require two or more partners to deliver them are linked to the three LOIP priorities
 - 4.5.2 carry mixed indicators of progress and impact (tracked through a digital performance framework)
 - 4.5.3 exclude business as usual activity that can be delivered by individual agencies.
- 4.6 LOIP refresh actions have been developed in partnership with more than 40 organisations and informed by a review of data, evidence and recent engagement activity by partners, incorporating the voices of people with lived experience of poverty and inequality.
- 4.7 As ever, and in line with best practice, the Community Planning Support Team (CPST) was keen to learn from engagement undertaken by Partners to avoid duplication and participation fatigue. This is especially important as we will be undertaking robust community engagement and consultation later this year and in 2027 to support the development of the new Community Plan, Locality Plans and a Participation Strategy for the EP. The development of actions for this refresh has involved community voice through various mechanisms and gathered by each of the Strategic Partnerships (detailed in Appendix C).
- 4.8 In February 2026, the Third Sector Interface (TSI) and The Equality and Rights Network (EaRN) sought views from 30 community organisations through roundtable discussions, exploring how well the proposed actions align with community needs, what is missing, the risks of adverse effects (informing our updated Integrated Impact Assessment, IIA), and what impact participants would like to see.



- 4.9 Members of the Lothian Association of Youth Club's (LAYC) Youth Work Manager's Forum, representing 15 youthwork organisations, undertook a similar exercise, also in February 2026, focused on actions related to youth and children's work.
- 4.10 Edinburgh Partnership Board members participated in a workshop in March 2026 to identify gaps, flag actions of relevance to their organisations, and highlight where they would want to be involved.
- 4.11 The people that lead the seven thematic partnerships within the Edinburgh Partnership met with the Edinburgh Poverty Commission in April 2026 to review their findings and recommendations as they relate to the Community Plan and to agree where these are incorporated into actions for this refresh, and/or the new Community Plan from 2028 onward.
- 4.12 A draft incorporating feedback from the above was sent to the EP Board in April 2026 to share with their decision making bodies/membership for scrutiny with an ask that any feedback be shared with the CPST by May 28, 2026.
- 4.13 Feedback received has been reviewed and wherever possible, included in the Community Plan tabled today.

Revised Governance

- 4.14 The LOIP Refresh will be delivered through the Edinburgh Partnership governance detailed in **Appendix B**.
- 4.15 Community and stakeholder engagement during the refresh highlighted the need to improve transparency and communication. Officers are scoping accessible ways to update the Partnerships website with information on a regular basis ahead of developing the Participation Strategy and an options paper for a new EP website.

New Performance Measurement Framework

- 4.16 The LOIP refresh is supported by a Performance Measurement Framework (PMF) in line with best practice across the [Scottish Community Planning Network \(SCPN\)](#). This includes mixed outcome measures, which will be reported on quarterly to the Community Planning Management Group and EP Board from the point of adoption. This will be made publicly available alongside other reporting information.

5. Next steps

- 5.1 The following next steps will be progressed following approval and adoption of the refreshed Community Plan by the EP Board:



- 5.1.1 Quarterly reporting against the performance measurement framework will commence.
- 5.1.2 A Participation Strategy and the Communications and Engagement Plan will be developed in parallel with the development of the new Community Plan with work beginning summer 2026.
- 5.1.3 Locality Plans will be developed in areas with the highest concentration of poverty, addressing calls to action by the Edinburgh Poverty Commission and bringing the Partnership into alignment with legislative requirements to develop Locality Plans in areas of poorest outcome.

6. LOIP/Locality Plan alignment

- 6.1 Action 3.3. in the refreshed Community Plan: Develop a codesigned Locality Plan for each NPP area to address Place and Wellbeing Outcomes (linked to both City Plan and Service Delivery)
- 6.2 Action 3.4 in the refreshed Community Plan: Develop a mechanism to support non-NPP areas to develop Locality Plans for their areas.

7. Background reading/external references

- 7.1 [Edinburgh Partnership Local Outcomes Improvement Plan \(LOIP\) 2018–2028:](#)
- 7.2 [The Community Empowerment \(Scotland\) Act 2015:](#)
- 7.3 Scottish Government Community Planning [Statutory Guidance](#)
- 7.4 [Equality Act 2010 and Public Sector Equality Duty](#)
- 7.5 [Fairer Scotland Duty Guidance for Public Bodies](#)
- 7.6 [Equal Edinburgh: City of Edinburgh Council EDI Framework](#)
- 7.7 [Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020](#)
- 7.8 [The National Standards for Community Engagement](#)
- 7.9 [Edinburgh Consultation and Engagement Framework:](#)
- 7.10 Integrated Impact Assessment; Appendix 3
- 7.11 Edinburgh Partnership Board Reports:
 - [September 9, 2025](#): Item 5.3 Edinburgh Partnership Workplan Proposal and item 7.1 Update on the progress of Edinburgh Partnership Poverty Prevention Programme
 - [December 3, 2025](#): Item 6.1: Prevention and the Edinburgh Partnership Workplan and item 8.1 LOIP 2028-2038 Planning update & Next Steps
- 7.12 Previous Policy and Sustainability Committee reports:



- August 19, 2025: [Prevention, Early Intervention and Mitigation in Edinburgh – Getting it right through local partnership working](#)
- December 9, 2025 Business Bulletin: [Edinburgh Partnership Progress Update](#)
- March 10, 2026: [Edinburgh Partnership: LOIP 2018-2028 Refresh](#)

7.13 Edinburgh Poverty Commission's [Interim Report \(2025\)](#)

8. Appendices

8.1 Appendix A – Refreshed 2018-2028 Community Plan (LOIP)

8.2 Appendix B – EP Governance Structure

8.3 Appendix C – Engagement Activity

8.4

9. Contact

Contact: April Harrison-Clark, Community Planning Manager, City of Edinburgh Council

E-mail: april.harrison-clark@edinburgh.gov.uk



THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

The Edinburgh Community Plan 2018-2028: June 2026 Refresh
The Edinburgh Partnership's Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP)

Foreword

Edinburgh is one of the best cities in the world in which to live and work. We live in a city full of prosperity and opportunity and, as a Partnership, we're working hard to ensure that all residents can share in our city's success.

But sadly, there's another side to this: today, one in five children are growing up in poverty, high housing costs are a challenge for many low and middle-income households and the life expectancy in our wealthiest areas is 21 years higher than in the poorest parts. The life chances of people across Edinburgh are still influenced too much by where they're born and not enough by their talent and ability. Poverty and inequality therefore continue to be the most important shared challenges we face, which no single partner alone can address.

This plan is a refresh of our 2018–2028 Community Plan, with a continued focus on tackling and preventing poverty. The three central themes remain the same, i.e. making sure our residents have:

1. Enough money to live on,
2. Access to work, learning or training opportunities and
3. Making sure people have a good place to live.

Whilst this is not a new plan, it takes account of and responds to the emerging and persistent challenges we face as a city. The updated actions have been developed with more than 40 organisations and groups of stakeholders, and community participation continues to be at the heart of community planning. The refresh aligns with recent national publications, including Scotland's [Population Health Framework](#), [Public Service Reform Strategy](#) and the [Edinburgh Poverty Commission's Interim Report](#) and draws on the most recently available data sources, as set out in the [Edinburgh Partnership Board's Data and Intelligence pages](#). We would like to extend our thanks to all those who gave their time, expertise and experience to support this work.

We believe this refreshed plan demonstrates our collective commitment to reducing poverty and inequality across the city, improving our residents' quality of life and giving everyone the opportunity to share in Edinburgh's success.

We look forward to working with you to make this happen.



Edinburgh Partnership Chair
Councillor Jane Meagher
Leader of City of Edinburgh Council



Edinburgh Partnership Vice Chair
Susan Webb
Director of Public Health, NHS Lothian

Contents

- Foreword 2
- Contents..... 3
- 1. The case for action 5
 - Why refresh the plan with 21 months to go? 6
 - The Edinburgh Partnership 7
 - How we are governed 8
 - What is the Edinburgh Community Plan? 8
- 3. What the data tells us 9
 - Edinburgh in Numbers..... 9
 - Edinburgh: A population overview: 9
 - How inequality shows up..... 11
 - Edinburgh's overall prosperity masks sharp and stubborn divides. The data below sets out what inequality looks like in practice across income, employment, health, and place. 11
 - Emerging priorities 13
- 4. How we developed this plan 14
 - What we heard Feedback from the sessions led by the TSI, EaRN and LAYC, in addition to the Edinburgh Partnership Board: 15
 - How we have responded..... 16
 - The Third Sector Review..... 16
 - How we work: the prevention spectrum 16
- 5. Our priorities..... 18

| | |
|--|----|
| How our Priorities relate to the National Outcomes | 19 |
| How the sections that follow work | 20 |
| 6. Priority 1: Enough money to live on..... | 20 |
| 7. Priority 2: Access to work, learning and training opportunities..... | 23 |
| 8. Priority 3: A good place to live..... | 25 |
| 9. Measuring what matters | 27 |
| Priority 1: Enough money to live on: Actions and Performance Indicators | 28 |
| Priority 2: Access to work, learning and training opportunities: Actions and Performance Indicators: | 31 |
| Priority 3: A Good Place to Live: Actions and Performance Indicators..... | 35 |
| 10. Looking ahead | 42 |
| 11. Appendices | 45 |
| Appendix A: The Engagement and Participation Process | 46 |
| Appendix B: The Edinburgh Partnership Board Membership and Structure | 47 |
| Appendix C: The Partnership Landscape..... | 49 |
| Appendix D: Updated Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) | 50 |
| Appendix E: Glossary | 51 |
| Appendix F: Bibliography | 52 |

1. The case for action

Edinburgh is changing — but who benefits from this isn't always fair

Our Vision: “Edinburgh is a thriving, connected, inspired and fair city, where all forms of poverty and inequality are reduced.”

Our shared vision is what drives the work outlined in this plan, because this vision is not yet a reality for everyone who calls Edinburgh their home.

Edinburgh is one of Europe's most successful cities. It has a growing, increasingly diverse population, a strong economy, and some of the best services in Scotland. But beneath that success lies a city of sharp and stubborn contrasts. Where we are born in Edinburgh, and the family circumstances we are born into, still shapes how long we live, how well we do at school, and whether we can afford to heat our home.

Despite continuous efforts, poverty rates have barely shifted in five years. The housing crisis is deepening. The costs of living are squeezing households that were never counted as poor before. And a new set of challenges, from exploitation to school readiness to community cohesion, has grown more pressing since this plan was last refreshed in 2022.

This is the Edinburgh Partnership's response. It is a refresh of our 2018–2028 Community Plan — not a new plan, but a recalibrated one. It takes account of what has changed, sharpens our focus on where action is most needed, and introduces a new way of measuring whether we are making a difference.

Why refresh the plan with 21 months to go?

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 requires Community Planning Partnerships to keep their Community Plan up to date, ensuring it reflects the current needs, circumstances and aspirations of local communities. Our last refresh was in 2022 and responded to the pandemic and its aftermath. In the Partnership's collective view, this refresh responds to the most significant things that have changed since then and strengthens how we evidence to residents and Partners the impact our actions are having.

It is important to note that this is a refresh of the existing Plan, not a replacement. Work will shortly commence on a new Community Plan, which will be designed from the ground up to reflect the full breadth of change facing our communities, including the wider, more fundamental shifts in our social, economic and environmental landscape that this refresh acknowledges, but does not seek to address in full.

| What has changed? | Why it matters to this plan |
|---|---|
| The cost-of-living crisis has intensified | Financial pressure now extends far beyond those traditionally counted as poor. Edinburgh's high housing costs mean households on moderate incomes are struggling in ways the original plan did not anticipate. The high costs of childcare and fuel can exacerbate these issues for those who were already having financial difficulties. |
| The Housing Emergency has been declared | There is no pathway to ending poverty in Edinburgh without resolving the housing and homelessness crisis. One in three Edinburgh households in poverty are in that situation because of excessive housing costs. (Edinburgh Poverty Commission, 2020) |
| New legislation and guidance | <p>The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act, 2024: Recognising that a LOIP should consider the needs and actions that cover the lifespan of citizens, this refresh provides an opportunity to include actions focused on children and young people.</p> <p>Common ground: Building cohesive communities by the Belong Network and the Local Government Association (2026): Provides timely practical support for the Partnership, setting out the relationships and partnership models that can be drawn upon to build and sustain social cohesion at a local level.</p> |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| | The Community Wealth Building (Scotland) Act, 2026: While Community Wealth Building was incorporated into the last refresh, the new Act and associated guidance will support the development of a strategic plan and Edinburgh specific actions. |
| New and growing concerns have emerged | In addition to the above, since 2022, exploitation, school readiness, mental wellbeing, community cohesion, and substance use harms, rising fuel prices (particularly in the wake of the 2026 conflict in the Middle East), and the deepening climate crisis have all grown in significance. |

Table 1: Important changes for refreshing the Community Plan

This updated plan sets out the actions that the Edinburgh Partnership will take between now and 2028 and is supported by a Performance Framework that will evidence both progress and impact.

2. Who we are

The Edinburgh Partnership and how we work

The Edinburgh Partnership

The Edinburgh Partnership (The Partnership) is the statutory Community Planning Partnership (CPP) for Edinburgh, established under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act, 2015. It brings together more than 40 organisations; public agencies, the third sector, the private sector, and communities - to plan for and deliver services that seek to address the underlying causes of poverty and inequality of outcome.

Our purpose

To take proactive, targeted action so that people experiencing disadvantage have the same life chances as others, and to reduce reliance on crisis services.

Our approach

To focus on a small number of high-impact priorities and tackle the underlying causes of inequality, primarily through prevention and early intervention.

Our Community Plan

Sets out what only the Partnership can collectively do, with actions that require more than one partner to deliver, going beyond any individual organisation's business as usual.

Put simply, CPPs seek to work together to address issues that no single body can resolve in isolation, and ultimately it is about improving the quality of people's lives.

How we are governed

Seven Strategic Partnerships bring together relevant partner organisations to lead work across Edinburgh's priority areas with a Chair and Lead Officer for each. A Management Group coordinates cross-cutting themes and will receive quarterly progress reports following this refresh, -people working within Partner organisations facilitate the Partnership's work and the [Edinburgh Partnership Board](#) provides overall strategic leadership. Full details of the Partnership's structure are in Appendix C.

What is the Edinburgh Community Plan?

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 requires the Partnership to publish a Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP), which we call our Community Plan. This document sets out our shared priorities and what we will do together to make improvements, primarily through prevention and early intervention.

This refreshed plan:

- Sets the shared strategic direction for community planning in Edinburgh to 2028 and should inform the plans of statutory partners.
- Describes the shared priorities we are working to achieve and our shared commitment to joined action.
- Sets out what we will do to achieve those priorities - all actions require more than one partner to deliver.
- Explains how we will measure progress through our new performance measurement framework.
- Provides a framework for every organisation involved in the Edinburgh Partnership to contribute to tackling poverty and inequality of outcomes.
- Is supported by a Performance Framework, with quarterly reporting.

The plan is not:

- A replacement for individual partner plans and strategies.
- A list of business-as-usual activities any single partner delivers alone.
- The only plan that matters, it sits alongside many others (see Appendix D)

3. What the data tells us

Understanding Edinburgh's people, outcomes, and challenges

Edinburgh in Numbers

These numbers are not just statistics. They represent real people in our city; people whose lives the Edinburgh Partnership exists to improve.

Edinburgh's population has changed significantly since this plan was first published in 2018. This refresh draws on two new Joint Strategic Needs Assessments (JSNAs) covering [adult health and social care](#) and [children and young people](#), alongside [Scotland's Census \(2022\)](#) and other national and local data. This evidence has strengthened our understanding of who lives in Edinburgh and what support is most needed, particularly for those experiencing the greatest inequality.

Edinburgh: A population overview:

Source (unless hyperlinked): [Scotland's Census 2022](#)

| Edinburgh is | Evidence |
|---------------------------------|---|
| A large and growing city | 530,680 people live in Edinburgh (NRS, 2025), up 36,100 since the 2011 census. The population is projected to keep growing. |

| | |
|--|--|
| Getting older | Most population growth is in people aged 65 and over, who tend to have higher health and care needs. |
| Becoming more ethnically diverse | Around 15% of Edinburgh's population identify as Asian, Black, Mixed, or from another minority ethnic background, up from 8% in 2011. The largest group is Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British (8.6%). |
| A city with significant pockets of poverty | 26% of residents (134,206 people) live in the most deprived 40% of areas in Scotland (NRS, 2024). 17% of the population — 89,000 people including 18,000 children — were living in poverty (EPC, 2025). |
| Seeing growth where need is highest | Older people, people from ethnic minority communities, and people in deprived areas all have greater health and social care needs, and these are the groups growing fastest. Population groups that are at greater risk of poverty e.g. priority family types (such as lone parents, large families, families with a disabled member, and minority ethnic families) also require targeted prevention and early intervention. |
| Experiencing long-standing inequality | Despite Edinburgh's overall prosperity, inequality in outcomes has been largely static since 2010. For 7 of the 18 key performance indicators developed by the Improvement Service for CPPs, Edinburgh is not keeping pace with Scotland either in current outcomes, rate of improvement, or progress on reducing inequality (CPOP ; Scotland's National Outcomes). The details of these 7 indicators are below. |
| A city in which where you live shapes how long you live | Edinburgh's average life expectancy is 82.2 years for women and 78.3 for men, both better than Scotland. But women in the most deprived areas live 9 years less than those in the least deprived, and for men the gap is 12 years (NRS, 2025). |

Table 2: Edinburgh population information

How inequality shows up

Edinburgh's overall prosperity masks sharp and stubborn divides. The data below sets out what inequality looks like in practice across income, employment, health, and place.

Income, poverty and wellbeing

Source: [Scottish Government, 2025](#); [NHS Lothian, 2023](#)

| Measure | Most deprived areas | Rest of Edinburgh | Ethnic dimension |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---|
| Food insecurity | 26.7% | 6.3% | 33.8% of African, Scottish African, British African, Caribbean or Black people vs 11.5% of white people |
| Unable to heat home or cook | 27% | 8.7% | 32.6% of African, Scottish African, British African, Caribbean or Black people vs 13.1% of white people |
| Poverty rate by ethnicity | — | — | 43% for Asian or Asian British; 50% for Mixed, Black or Black British and Other; 18% for White British |

Table 3: Edinburgh inequality data for poverty

People in the most deprived areas are twice as likely to feel lonely most or all of the time, twice as likely to report low mental wellbeing, four times as likely to have been unable to heat their home, and three times as likely to have been unable to afford food in the past year ([Edinburgh Partnership Survey, 2023](#); [NHS Lothian, 2023](#)).

While the Poverty Commission's most recent report acknowledges that the maintenance, rather than worsening, of poverty levels may be reflective of the collective efforts made in the city over the past five years, more work is still needed – 36,000 people need to be lifted out of poverty by 2030 in order to meet targets. The nature of poverty is also changing. It is becoming deeper and harder to escape, with rising food insecurity, homelessness and destitution. The proportion of people in Edinburgh who experienced destitution (going without food, shelter, heat, or basic essentials) rose by 15% between 2019 and 2023.

Employment and learning

The employment gap between ethnically diverse and white populations in Scotland was 13.8% in 2023 ([Scottish Government, 2024](#)). One in ten white people in Lothian are employed on a temporary contract, compared with over a quarter of African people (26.5%) and one in five Asian people (21.4%) ([NHS Lothian, 2023](#)).

| Measure | Most deprived areas | Least deprived areas |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Hold a degree | 31.4% | 65.2% |
| No formal qualifications | 18.4% | 3.7% |
| Low wellbeing | 26.4% | 9.6% |
| Life satisfaction (score out of 10) | 6.3 | 7.1 |

Table 4: Edinburgh inequality in employment data

Source: [NHS Lothian, 2023](#)

Place and safety

Two 2023 surveys, the [Edinburgh Partnership Survey](#) and the [NHS Lothian Population Health Survey](#), show that citywide averages hide a sharp divide.

| Measure | Most deprived 20% | Rest of Edinburgh |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| Satisfied with neighbourhood | 68% | 95% |
| People from different backgrounds get on well | 75% | 93% |
| Feel safe after dark | 50% | 76% |
| Community works together to improve things | 52% | 73% |

Table 5: Edinburgh inequality in experiences data

The Community Planning Outcomes Profile

The Community Planning Outcomes Profile ([CPOP](#)) measures how Community Planning Partnerships across Scotland are performing against 18 key indicators identified by the Improvement Service. For 7 of the 18 key indicators, Edinburgh is not keeping pace with Scotland, either in current outcomes, rate of improvement, or progress on reducing inequality.



Figure 1: CPOP outcome indicators where Edinburgh is not performing better than Scotland

For more detailed population and outcome data, visit the [Edinburgh Partnership Data and Intelligence webpages](#).

Emerging priorities

The data confirms that our three core priorities; Enough money to live on; Access to work, learning and training opportunities; and A good place to live, remain the right focus. But several additional concerns have grown in scale or emerged since 2018, such as:

- Homelessness
- School readiness
- Community cohesion
- Exploitation of children and adults
- Substance use harms
- Young people's mental wellbeing
- The deepening cost of living crisis
- The Climate Crisis

While the actions that individual Partners are taking on these issues will not be reflected in this Community Plan, the actions that we are taking together will be. Sometimes this might be via direct action, such as increasing housing supply in the city, including affordable housing (Action 1.5), delivering best start in life actions (Action 1.7), developing a joint community cohesion strategy (Action 3.19) and strengthening community mental health support (Action 2.12). Other planned actions target the [building blocks of health](#) (employment, housing, education and skills, childhood experiences, economic stability, healthcare and social/community structure and environment) or at improving resilience, which will indirectly benefit these emerging areas of need.

4. How we developed this plan

Community and partner engagement in the refresh

The work undertaken to develop the plan in 2017/2018, involved research by Public Health and engagement with partners and communities, including targeted work with groups whose voices are often underrepresented. This shaped our vision and priorities, which remain at the core for this refresh.

As we are updating (refreshing) the current plan, rather than developing a brand-new plan, formal consultation was not required. However, the EP is committed to meaningful engagement and the updated actions in this plan have been developed with more than 40 organisations, following a review of data and evidence (Section 2) and bringing together what we heard in recent engagement activity undertaken by Partners, which also ensured that actions are informed by the voices of people with lived experience of poverty and inequality, including children and young people. An overview of the engagement and participation process is at Appendix A.

In addition:

- The Third Sector Interface (TSI) and The Equality and Rights Network (EaRN) sought views from 30 community organisations through roundtable discussions, exploring how well the proposed actions align with community needs, what is missing, the risks of adverse effects (informing our updated Integrated Impact Assessment, IIA), and what impact participants would like to see.
- Members of the Lothian Association of Youth Club's (LAYC) Youth Work Manager's Forum, representing 15 youthwork

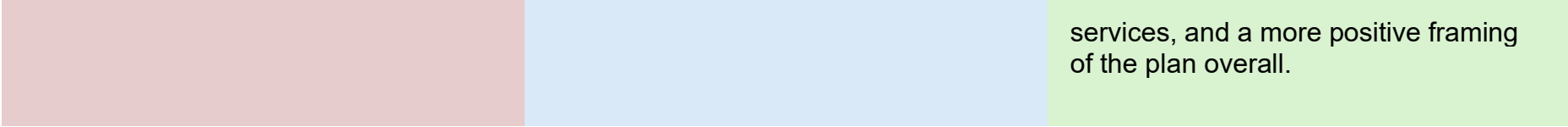
organisations, undertook a similar exercise focused on actions related to youth and children’s work.

- Edinburgh Partnership Board members participated in a workshop to identify gaps, flag actions of relevance to their organisations, and highlight where they would want to be involved.
- Lastly, the people that lead the seven thematic partnerships within the Edinburgh Partnership (see Appendix C) met with the Edinburgh Poverty Commission to review their findings and recommendations as they relate to the Community Plan and to agree where these are incorporated into actions for this refresh, and/or the new Community Plan from 2028 onward.

What we heard

Feedback from the sessions led by the TSI, EaRN and LAYC, in addition to the Edinburgh Partnership Board:

| Enough money to live on | Access to work, learning and training | A good place to live |
|---|--|---|
| <p>Participant welcomed the proposed actions and asked for greater clarity and better coordination between services, including actions around genuinely affordable housing and more integrated support to reduce duplication.</p> <p>The need to shift from managing symptoms to addressing root causes and for more third and private sector involvement, in addition to stronger accountability and improved outreach on financial literacy and better inclusion of young parents was also noted.</p> | <p>Feedback included a need for actions to improve support for people who are homeless, have disabilities, or have convictions. The need to break the housing-employment trap, to establish a better connection between the City Region Deal, NPPs, and employability actions and to ensure meaningful measurement around school attendance (not just data based) was identified.</p> <p>Questions were asked about the ability to deliver on some actions without additional funding. Childcare was noted as a key barrier to be addressed.</p> | <p>There was cautious optimism about NPPs and broad agreement on the need for a partnership approach locally, particularly for community safety and Bonfire Night. Concerns were raised about resource limitations and the practical implementation of Neighbourhood Prevention Partnerships (NPPs), to ensure local codesign.</p> <p>Other themes: more trauma-informed approaches, strengthening youth and children’s work, better support for victims and people leaving prison, deeper integration with addiction</p> |



services, and a more positive framing of the plan overall.

How we have responded

-In addition to the feedback above on the priorities, we also heard that grouping actions by themes within priorities was unhelpful. Actions are now grouped according to where they sit on the prevention spectrum, making clearer how our collective resources are being used. The actions have also been significantly revised to incorporate feedback. A full list of the actions and indicators of both progress and impact (outcome) for each can be found in Sections 7-9.

The Third Sector Review

In 2025 the Edinburgh Partnership conducted a review of how it and its Partners support and work with third sector organisations in Edinburgh. This review included mechanisms for grant funding and commissioning, how we ask third sector organisations to monitor and report on what they do, and what in-kind support we provide. We recognise that a well-functioning third sector is essential for Edinburgh, and that third sector organisations are our partners in delivering a vast range of services to all communities in the city.

This Review helped us to better understand the third sector's experience of funding in Edinburgh. As a Partnership, we have sought to learn from this and are currently looking at ways to approach future funding of the third sector. This includes commitments by the [Edinburgh Partnership Board](#) to take a more joined-up approach to the use of individual partner funds to deliver against partnership outcomes in the remaining period of the current Community Plan, and to explore further options for joint commissioning / joint financial governance as part of the next Community Plan.

Our Approach

How we work: the prevention spectrum

The Partnership is committed to shifting from reactive responses to proactive, collaborative action that addresses the root causes of poverty and inequality. All actions in this plan are categorised according to whether they are a strategic action or where they sit on the prevention spectrum.

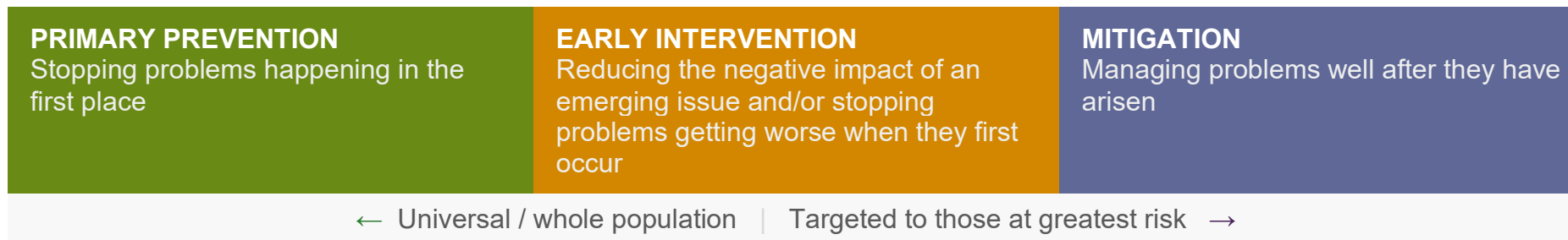


Table 6: Prevention spectrum

Categorising actions this way helps us, and the communities we serve, to see clearly where our collective resources are being invested. It is also how we hold ourselves to account.

Our Partners work together through many existing strategies and plans (see Appendix D). This Community Plan does not duplicate those, rather it sets out the additional actions, leadership, and collaboration that only the Partnership can provide. In doing so, the Partnership is committed to several guiding principles:

| Our guiding principles | |
|--|---|
| Community participation and co-production | <p>The Partnership is committed to the National Standards for Community Engagement. Communities most affected by poverty and inequality should shape our work, not just receive it. We will develop a Communications and Engagement Plan outlining how Partners and community can be involved in the implementation and monitoring of this LOIP Refresh. A Communications and Engagement Plan will also be developed for the development of the next Community Plan.</p> <p>Finally, a Participation Strategy will be codesigned to agree how Partners and community members will be involved in the Edinburgh Partnership and the decisions it makes on an ongoing basis moving forward.</p> <p>Community needs are at the heart of everything we do. Our IIA process, and in the case of NHS Lothian, the Equalities and Children's Rights Assessment, ensures that when we</p> |

| | |
|---|---|
| | propose new services or decisions, an intersectional lens is applied to achieve equity and uphold human rights. The IIA for this refresh is published alongside this plan. |
| Focus on poverty and inequality | Tackling poverty and inequality is the most important shared challenge we face. No single partner can address it alone. It sits at the centre of everything we do. |
| Proportionate universalism | We design services for the whole population but scale our effort in proportion to need, investing most where need is greatest, for example where we develop Locality Plans and Neighbourhood Prevention Partnerships (targeting support within the city). |
| Planning for future needs | For example, climate change, nature loss, and adverse weather disproportionately affect people in the most deprived communities. This is a matter of equality as well as environment. |
| Effective performance management | We need to be better at evidencing our impact. A new quarterly performance management tool will be introduced alongside this plan as well as longer-term monitoring of relevant outcomes e.g. child poverty, attainment, crime rates, satisfaction of neighbourhood and life expectancy by Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD). |

Table 7: Our guiding principles

5. Our priorities

Three areas where we will act together

In 2017/18, through consultation with partners and communities, we identified where additional action, beyond what any single partner can deliver, was needed. Drawing on data as well as guidance from Public Health Scotland, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, and the [Christie Commission](#), three priorities were established. They remain the right focus.

| Priority 1 Enough money to live on | Priority 2 Access to work, learning and training opportunities | Priority 3 A good place to live |
|---|---|--|
| <p>Income is the clearest indicator of whether a household can maintain an acceptable standard of living. Actions in this priority focus on maximising income, particularly for those on the lowest incomes, and improving access to affordable housing.</p> <p>We also recognise that Edinburgh's high cost of living means financial pressure extends to households that would not necessarily be counted as poor elsewhere; our approach takes account of this broader reality while keeping the sharpest focus where hardship is deepest.</p> | <p>Worklessness is the single strongest predictor of poverty; 71% of children in households where no adult works live below the poverty threshold (Leeds Observatory, 2018). But work alone is not enough: 61% of people in poverty in Edinburgh live in a household where at least one adult is working (Edinburgh Poverty Commission, 2025).</p> <p>This priority provides additional targeted support to help residents access the work, learning, and training they need to achieve and sustain a good quality of life.</p> | <p>Where people live, the safety of their neighbourhood, their connections with others, and their ability to shape the decisions that affect them, has a profound impact on wellbeing.</p> <p>This priority focuses on the additional actions needed to ensure residents can access affordable, safe, well-designed, and inclusive places to live, and can find the right help, where and when they need it.</p> |

How our Priorities relate to the National Outcomes

The National Performance Framework (NPF) is Scotland's wellbeing framework. Under section 4(4) of the [Community Empowerment \(Scotland\) Act 2015](#), the Edinburgh Partnership has a legislative duty to set out how our priorities relate to Scotland's National Outcomes. The NPF is currently under review, but this duty remains. Across the piece, our actions seek primarily to address Outcome 11 (Poverty) and tackle the underlying causes of health inequality (Outcome 8).

| Priority | Primary links to the 11 National Outcomes |
|---|---|
| Priority 1: Enough money to live on | (1) Children & young people and (9) Human Rights |
| Priority 2: Access to work, learning & training opportunities | (7) Fair work & Business, (5) Education, (4) Economy, (1) Children & young people, (2) Communities, (3) Culture, (9) Human Rights |
| Priority 3: A good place to live | (1) Children and young people, (2) Communities, (3) Culture, (6) Environment, and (9) Human Rights |

Table 8: National Outcome alignment in our Community Plan

How the sections that follow work

| In each priority section you will find: | What it tells you |
|---|---|
| What do we know? | The evidence: scale of the challenge and the opportunity for action |
| What are we doing now? | Current partnership activity, and where the gaps are |
| What difference will we make? | The changes our actions will deliver |

Table 9: Navigating the priority sections

Section 10: Measuring what Matters, includes all the specific actions relating to each priority area.

6. Priority 1: Enough money to live on

Maximising income and addressing the drivers of financial hardship

Poverty occurs when resources fall below the level needed to meet minimum needs. Income is the most direct indicator of whether a household can maintain an acceptable standard of living and participate in society.

What do we know?

Edinburgh's poverty rates have barely changed since 2020 and remain well above our 2030 targets. While the Poverty Commission's most recent report acknowledges that the maintenance, rather than worsening, of poverty levels may be reflective of the collective efforts made in the city over the past five years, more work is still needed. The nature of poverty is also changing — it is becoming deeper and harder to escape. The proportion of people who experienced destitution — going without food, shelter, heat, or basic essentials — rose 15% between 2019 and 2023, and levels of persistent poverty have risen ([EPC, 2025](#)). As the data section (Section 3) shows, 17% of Edinburgh's population — 89,000 people, including 18,000 children — are living in poverty.

Housing as a driver of poverty

There is no pathway to ending poverty in Edinburgh without resolving the city's housing and homelessness crisis. Excessive housing costs are a primary reason that one in three Edinburgh households are in poverty, and Edinburgh is the least affordable city in Scotland to buy a home — the average house price is approximately seven times [average gross annual earnings](#) ([ONS, 2026](#)). In September 2025, 4,802 Edinburgh households, including 3,640 children, were in temporary accommodation ([Scottish Government, 2025](#)).

Working poverty and income

Work alone is not enough. 61% of people living in poverty in Edinburgh live in a household where at least one adult is working, and 15,000 people in Edinburgh are in work but still depend on Universal Credit to top up their income ([EPC, 2025](#)). Childcare costs can push people on moderate incomes into poverty, and tax-free childcare remains underutilised. If child maintenance were paid to all children currently not receiving what they are entitled to, the [IPPR \(2025\)](#) estimates 210,000 children would be lifted out of poverty across the UK — including 20,000 in Scotland.

Who is most affected?

Poverty and its consequences are not evenly distributed. People in the most deprived areas, and people from ethnic minority communities, experience significantly higher rates of food insecurity and fuel poverty, as set out in the data section (Section 3). Child maintenance non-payment disproportionately affects single parents. People with disabilities, people involved in the justice system, and large and lone-parent families face the greatest barriers to financial stability.

What are we doing now?

Community Planning Partners including the Council, NHS Lothian, housing providers, and the third sector provide or fund a range of services to support people experiencing financial hardship. The introduction of the Advice Network by the Edinburgh Partnership

has improved coordination of these services. That said, funding routes are fragmented, timescales often misalign, and quality and accessibility varies across the city. It remains difficult to consistently target provision to highest need.

- Welfare rights advice, income maximisation, debt advice, emergency grants and loans, and housing advice and support are provided or funded across the Partnership.
- The Advice Network has improved coordination of these services, though gaps remain in targeting provision to those with the highest need.
- Childcare costs can push people on moderate incomes into poverty. Tax-free childcare is underutilised and child maintenance is rarely discussed as a child's right or an income maximisation tool.
- More joined-up action is needed to support homelessness prevention, early intervention, and mitigation.

What difference will we make?

- Deliver a more coordinated income maximisation approach across the whole city, so that residents can access the same high-quality support wherever they are.
- Make services more accessible, more targeted and better coordinated, focusing on those in greatest need — including lone parents, low-income families, people with disabilities, and people involved in the justice system — and targeting provision in communities with the highest need.
- Develop and deliver a training programme across the Partnership focused on homelessness prevention, including through the Ask and Act pilot.
- Improve childcare access and support across the city.
- Deliver best-start-in-life actions.
- Expand poverty awareness and financial literacy initiatives, such as the '1in5' programme in schools.
- IN delivering on the actions included in Priority 1, it is anticipated that we will positively impact measures not directly addressed, including people's ability to heat their homes.

7. Priority 2: Access to work, learning and training opportunities

Ensuring everyone can access the opportunities Edinburgh has to offer

The number of people claiming out-of-work benefits has remained high since the pandemic, with more people reporting unemployment because of poor health. Work alone is not necessarily enough, we will provide additional targeted services to help residents access the work, learning, and training they need.

What do we know?

As the data section (Section 3) shows, worklessness alone does not explain poverty in Edinburgh, 61% of people in poverty live in a household where at least one adult is working ([EPC, 2025](#)). Increasing the number of parents in work remains one of the most significant levers available: modelling suggests that doing so could lift 60,000 children in Scotland out of poverty by 2030/31.

Barriers to employment are not evenly shared

Access to work, learning and training is shaped by where you live, your background, and your circumstances. The employment gap between ethnically diverse and white populations in Scotland was 13.8% in 2023 ([Scottish Government, 2024](#)), and poverty rates for Mixed, Black or Black British and Other groups reach 50% ([Scottish Government, 2025](#)). One in ten white people in Lothian are employed on a temporary contract, compared with over a quarter of African people (26.5%) and one in five Asian people (21.4%) ([NHS Lothian, 2023](#)).

Educational attainment, one of the strongest predictors of employment outcomes, is deeply shaped by deprivation. 31.4% of those in the most deprived areas hold a degree, compared with 65.2% in the least deprived. 18.4% of people in the most deprived areas have no formal qualifications, compared with 3.7% in the least deprived ([NHS Lothian, 2023](#)). There is also a 7% gap in positive destinations between the best and worst performing wards in Edinburgh, and care-experienced young people are less likely to be in positive destinations on leaving school ([Scottish Government, 2024](#)).

Systemic gaps compound individual barriers

People can find it difficult to reach help quickly, multiple agencies often work with the same family without being joined up. Systemic failure occurs where individuals consistently fall through the gaps ([EPC, 2020](#)). This is particularly acute for people with the most complex needs: those experiencing homelessness, poor health, disability, or involvement in the justice system, and for those for whom childcare remains a barrier to entering or sustaining employment.

What are we doing now?

Edinburgh's employability offer is structured around an Employability Pipeline. The Local Employability Partnership (LEP) ensures a joined-up approach, avoids duplication, and identifies gaps. For many residents this works well. But for those with the most complex needs, and for groups who face systemic barriers, additional partnership effort is needed.

- A complex-needs employability service focused on substance misuse, homelessness, and the justice system.
- A Whole Family Equality Approach supporting ethnically diverse families.
- An expanded offer for people with disabilities and long-term health conditions.
- Youth work supporting young people's achievement, employability, and wellbeing.
- Stronger links between education, employability, and employers; vocational pathways through schools and colleges into key growth industries.

What difference will we make?

- Establish a Digital Inclusion Network as a first step towards a Minimum Digital Living Standard across the city, supporting people experiencing digital exclusion.
- Develop a dedicated youth employability hub and partnerships with education colleagues to support young people, particularly those with care experience or additional support needs, through school and beyond, with continued support when first destinations are not sustained.
- Strengthen community mental health support and its connection to employability, including a pilot in Wester Hailes co-locating health and DWP services, to improve outcomes for people experiencing health or mental health difficulties.
- Expand ESOL employability provision to improve progression towards employment for New Scots and people with English as a second language.
- Develop joined-up pathways to better support people from ethnically diverse backgrounds to access services and improve outcomes, and work with employers to improve recruitment from these communities.
- Map financial literacy provision across schools, youth work, and community settings to identify gaps and ensure all children and young people can access this support.

- Support employers to better understand and adopt fair work practices.
- Strengthen links between community justice and employability services to support people on release from prison through a systematic, holistic, long-term partnership approach.

8. Priority 3: A good place to live

Building places where everyone can thrive

The places people live and work, their connections with others, and their ability to influence decisions that affect them all have a significant impact on quality of life and wellbeing. Where you live in Edinburgh, and the circumstances you live in, shapes your health, your safety, and your experience of poverty.

What do we know?

The physical environment, social networks, housing design, and access to public services are key determinants of health ([Scotland's Population Health Framework 2025–2035](#); [COSLA and Scottish Government, 2018](#)). For children and young people, growing up in a healthy and safe neighbourhood, including access to green space, is essential to giving them the best possible start ([Institute of Health Equity, 2020](#)).

The inequality of place

The data section (Section 3) sets out the full picture of deprivation and inequality in Edinburgh. Within that picture, where you live shapes your daily experience in sharp and measurable ways. 26.4% of those in the most deprived areas experience low wellbeing, compared with 9.6% in the least deprived. Life satisfaction ranges from 63% in the most deprived areas to 71% in the least ([NHS Lothian, 2023](#)). Those areas where poverty is highest also show lower satisfaction with neighbourhood and lower perceptions of safety after dark ([Edinburgh Partnership Survey, 2023](#)). Fuel poverty is strongly associated with both deprivation and ethnicity; full detail is set out in the data section. As the data section also shows, the gap in life expectancy between the most and least deprived areas of Edinburgh is 9 years for women and 12 years for men.

What communities tell us

Community engagement consistently identifies placemaking as important. People want more integrated transport, better use of civic space, and services that respond to local context. Community Wealth Building is central to this — local economic opportunity

is essential for vibrant neighbourhoods and underpins anti-poverty work more broadly. Our communities also need to prepare for and adapt to the challenges of the climate crisis, which disproportionately affects people in the most deprived communities.

What are we doing now?

Partners across the city are working together to deliver a more joined-up approach to placemaking, community safety, and climate action. The current focus is on embedding local partnerships in areas of greatest need and building the workforce capacity to deliver effective, place-based support.

- A refreshed Place Partnership is working to ensure a joined-up approach to placemaking across the city, with a current focus on supporting the embedding of five Neighbourhood Prevention Partnership (NPP) test sites — in Wester Hailes, Restalrig, Liberton, Craigmillar, and Pilton — bringing together communities to understand and respond to local need.
- Developing Locality Plans in areas of most concentrated poverty, and establishing mechanisms for city-wide responses to Locality Plans.
- A city-wide community centre review to strengthen these vital local resources.
- Coordinated workforce development to improve frontline staff confidence in having good conversations and signposting people to support.
- Delivering projects to mitigate and adapt to climate change: flood protection, nature and ocean restoration, building retrofit, sustainable transport, and access to sustainable, affordable food.
- A refreshed Community Safety and Justice Partnership (CSJP) is delivering on the Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan (CJOIP) and establishing key work streams.

What difference will we make?

- Make it as easy as possible for individuals and staff to access services and opportunities at local and city-wide levels.
- Develop a universal offer and a proposed play strategy to support earlier intervention and prevention.
- Build on our partnership approach to Bonfire Night, taking a preventative approach to anti-social behaviour, including small grant resource to provide diversionary activities for young people.
- Take a partnership and prevention-focused approach to community cohesion, hate crime, and exploitation in the city.
- Improve the experience of justice services for victims and families, and take actions to establish sustainable housing pathways for people released from prison and improved community supports for people involved in the justice system, to reduce repeat offending and homelessness numbers.
- Deliver on our climate commitments — retrofit and energy efficiency, adaptation, nature restoration, and sustainable transport — embedding just transition principles throughout.

- Embed Community Wealth Building approaches into place-based developments, in line with the Community Wealth Building (Scotland) Act 2026.
- We will dedicate additional resource to five areas of concentrated child poverty within Edinburgh through our Neighbourhood Prevention Partnership (NPP) model.
- We will codesign Locality Plans in each of the NPP areas based on what communities tell us.
- We will learn through this work how services can better support residents across Edinburgh.

9. Measuring what matters

Our performance framework and accountability

One of the clearest things we heard from partners and communities during this refresh is that we need to be better at evidencing our impact. This plan introduces a performance management approach to address that.

We will measure:

- Progress against actions – tracking delivery milestones
- The difference our actions ultimately make (outcomes), including on people’s lives, experience of services and the places we live.
- City-wide indicators – CPOP and additional local indicators (further details will be shared on our website)
- Qualitative evidence – for actions involving relationship building, cultural change or place-based working

Reports will be submitted to the Management Group and Edinburgh Partnership Board. Communities will be able to see what the Partnership is delivering and whether it is making a difference through published papers and quarterly progress updates shared on our website.

The actions the Partnership has committed to delivering are listed in the tables below, for each of the 3 priority areas.

Priority 1: Enough money to live on: Actions and Performance Indicators

| Action | Action Type | How will we address this Priority? | Who will make it happen? | How will we know we are making progress? | How will we know the difference we've made? |
|--------|-------------|---|--|---|---|
| 1.1 | Strategic | Develop & deliver a coordinated approach to data linkage to allow better targeting on anti-poverty and homelessness prevention interventions | Housing Partnership and Children's Partnership | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan for use developed to increase impact across the EP | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homeless prevention numbers • Implementation of recommendations from Scottish Health Equity Research Unit Report • CPOP - Child poverty • CPOP – Fuel Poverty |
| 1.2 | Strategic | Agree and implement a common Edinburgh approach to income maximisation — establishing a consistent set of standards for commissioned services so that people who access services experience the same high standard of advice across Edinburgh | Housing Partnership (Advice Partnership) | <p>Further definition required, may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uptake of services • Number of people supported with welfare rights queries by funded providers inc by demographic/geography • Scottish Welfare Fund payments • Discretionary Housing payments • Outcomes for people supported | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPOP - Child poverty • Persistent poverty: Proportion of children who have lived in relative poverty in three or more of the last four years. |
| 1.3 | Strategic | Deliver training and awareness raising on poverty across the Edinburgh Partnership | Housing Partnership | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of training sessions delivered by org delivering • # of people attending training sessions by org | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPOP - Child poverty • Increase knowledge across partners about the causes and impact of poverty and sources of support - survey (post session) • Contributes to making the process of seeking help less painful, less complex, more |

| | | | | | |
|-----|------------|--|--|---|--|
| | | <p>waivers in relation to the certificate of lawfulness for childcare providers operating from domestic premises.</p> <p>d) Work in partnership to develop and deliver workshops for parents to improve awareness of childcare provision, access, timelines and support in the city.</p> | | | <p>providers operating from domestic premises</p> <p>Childcare providers operating from domestic premises report barriers reduced to beginning operations.</p> <p>Parents report greater understanding of the childcare system in Edinburgh.</p> |
| 1.5 | Prevention | Work in partnership to increase housing supply in the city, including affordable housing. Target: 52,000 by 2035 (36,000 affordable) | Housing Partnership | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •# of consents to build (by sector), •# of completions, £ investment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Increase in number of affordable homes in the city • No. of homeless households in the city |
| 1.6 | Prevention | Deliver Ask & Act project to increase uptake of homelessness prevention opportunities and apply lessons learned across the city | Housing Partnership | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Awareness training # sessions delivered (by partner) •Increase in service uptake •Applying lessons learned | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •No. of homeless presentations in Wester Hailes vs other areas of the city (by demographic) |
| 1.7 | Prevention | Deliver best start in life actions, including actions to improve equity of uptake of relevant services | Children's Partnership | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developmental Concerns • CPOP: Healthy Birthweight • CPOP - P1 Body Mass Index (healthy weight) |
| 1.8 | Prevention | Develop and deliver Child Poverty Accelerator Fund project: Take a data led approach to tackling poverty in Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities and migrant or refugee families, | Housing Partnership (Advice Partnership) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of participants in the program •Increase in benefit uptake in these demographics •Income generated | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •CPOP - Child poverty |

| | | | | | |
|-------------|--------------------|---|--|---|---|
| | | focusing on benefits uptake | | | |
| 1.9 | Early Intervention | Investigate food support needed in temporary accommodation | Housing Partnership | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Effective mechanisms of food support are in place for people across the range of temporary accommodation types and rough sleepers. •Delivery of different food support | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. of people in temporary accommodation seeking emergency food support will reduce. |
| 1.10 | Early Intervention | Develop and deliver Child Poverty Accelerator project to establish systems and training to raise the profile of Child Maintenance as a key form of income maximisation by improving awareness and confidence among those supporting single parents (and other families entitled to CM), and to reduce the number of unpaid child maintenance payments in Edinburgh. | Housing Partnership (Advice Partnership) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •No. of Confident Conversations training sessions completed •Practitioner Network established – No. of participant orgs •No. of parents actively participating in the design and development of the project •No. Systems adapted to meet an agreed baseline for tracking & reporting on child maintenance conversations, receipt, amount etc. •% single parents with dependant children where child maintenance was included in financial inclusion conversations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. of child maintenance applications • No. of child maintenance agreements that are in place • No. of child maintenance agreements that are in place for children under 20, that are not being paid • Financial gain for single parents/families with children linked to child maintenance. |

Table 10: Priority 1: Actions and Performance Indicators

Priority 2: Access to work, learning and training opportunities: Actions and Performance Indicators:

| Action | Type of Action | How will we address this Priority? | Who will make it happen? | How will we know we are making progress? | How will we know the difference we've made? |
|--------|----------------|--|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| 2.1 | Strategic | Further Digital Inclusion Short Life Working Group recommendations (links to | Lead: Edinburgh Community Learning & | • Network membership list established and regularly updated | Professionals and clients report better navigation of digital inclusion landscape and |

| | | | | | |
|-----|------------|---|---|--|---|
| | | <p>Priority 1):</p> <p>a) Establish a Digital Inclusion Network to share information, learning and resources, hosting training and encouraging collaborative working.</p> <p>b) Improve Service Visibility via a marketing & comms. strategy supporting professionals & clients to navigate the DI landscape.</p> <p>c) Develop recommendations for Officer Resource need to support the above.</p> | <p>Development Partnership (ECLDP)</p> <p>Support/Link: LEP</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum number of meetings scheduled • Resource identified to improve visibility (short term) • Minimum digital standard (access to equipment and digital literacy - long term) • Campaign launched • Recommendations developed & tabled | <p>find the support they need more quickly.</p> |
| 2.2 | Strategic | Deliver actions to support employers to adopt fair work practices | Lead: Local Employability Partnership (LEP) | •Number of businesses signed up to Living Wage Charter | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of people claiming in work Universal Credit will reduce • CPOP - Median Earnings • CPOP – Fuel Poverty |
| 2.3 | Prevention | Undertake a mapping exercise of financial education/financial literacy programmes being delivered across settings (early years, primary, secondary, youth work and community settings) | Lead: ECLD Partnership | •Number of settings responding to mapping request | •Identification of settings with no current financial education provision |
| 2.4 | Prevention | Support youth and children's workers to deliver Youth Awards and raise recognition of SQA equivalent awards in | Lead: ECLDP Support/Link: LEP and Children's Partnership | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Baseline established of current Youth Awards delivery across youth and children's work settings. •Training delivered for | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Improved business and employer engagement with Youth Awards. •Improved Further and Higher Education engagement with |

| | | | | | |
|-----|------------|--|----------------------------------|--|--|
| | | Business and Local employment sector, and Further and Higher Education. | | youthwork workforce focused on Digital Learner Profile & Achievements. •Increase Learner Profile usage beyond education, which increased data available around skills and skill gaps. | Youth Awards. •Increased recognition of the skills developed by young people through Youth Awards delivered in youth work settings. |
| 2.5 | Prevention | Increase the number of adult ESOL learners who complete employability programmes | Lead: ECLDP Support/Link: LEP | Baseline established of current ESOL employability activity | •Increased number of adult ESOL learners who have successfully completed employability programmes. •ESOL learners will report increased progression towards employment. • CPOP - Employment rate • CPOP – Fuel Poverty |
| 2.6 | Prevention | Ongoing work with education colleagues to improve positive destination post school through dedicated pathways. Work in partnership with DWP to establish a Youth Employability Hub to increase visibility of youth employability services. | Lead: LEP Support/Link: ECLDP | Baseline from participation measure for 16-24 year olds, claimant count | •Reduction in number of young people claiming out of work benefits •Higher than Scottish average results in the School Leavers Destination Results and Participation Measure •Young People (particularly those with ASN and care experience) are supported through school and beyond to find a positive destination that suits their needs (case studies/testimony & CPOP Positive Destinations) • CPOP - Employment rate |
| 2.7 | Prevention | Develop pathways to support people to move | Lead: LEP | Fewer people claiming in work element of UC | •Reduction in number of people claiming in work |

| | | | | | |
|------|--------------------|--|---|--|---|
| | | from low-income work to fair, sustainable work. | | | benefits. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPOP - Median Earnings • CPOP – Fuel Poverty |
| 2.8 | Prevention | Deliver actions to establish joined-up supports for Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities and recent migrants to improve access to work | Lead: LEP | Data from Helix system (no local data for race employment) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment rate (by ethnicity) • Median Earnings (by ethnicity) • Fuel Poverty (by ethnicity) |
| 2.9 | Prevention | Increase the number of adults who achieve community-based qualifications at SCQF Levels 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. | Lead: ECLDP | Baseline established of current accredited adult learning activity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased number of adult learners who have successfully completed community-based awards at SCQF Levels 2-6. This will create an improved pathway into further accredited learning for adult learners. |
| 2.10 | Prevention | Delivery of training for youth and children's work staff to support safe, engaging and quality youth and children's work provision. | Lead: ECLDP Support/Link: Children's Partnership | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numbers of participants engaged in training. • Number of training sessions delivered. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numbers of participants engaged in training. • Number of training sessions delivered. |
| 2.11 | Prevention | Increase the number of families who attend community-based family learning programmes | Lead: ECLDP | Baseline established of current family learning activity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased number of families who are engaged in family learning programmes. Parents and carers will report increased progression on to further community based adult learning. |
| 2.12 | Early Intervention | Strengthen community mental health support, and inclusive youth and children's work to improve engagement in learning | Lead: Children's Partnership | To be determined | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPOP - Attainment • CPOP - Positive destinations • Additional qualitative measures tbc |

| | | | | | |
|------|--------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|---|
| | | and increase equity of outcomes | | | |
| 2.13 | Early Intervention | Strengthen links between health and employability services, ensuring that the LEP and HSCP work in tandem to improve outcomes for people with disabilities and long-term health conditions | Lead: LEP Support: IJB | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activity to progress/support project • Ensure that GP link workers have information to make good referrals to employability services | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No of GP Link workers referring to employability • Number of people claiming benefits due to health reasons in Edinburgh • Implementation of recommendations from Scottish Health Equity Research Unit Report • Implementation of recommendations from Wester Hailes Pilot evaluation. • CPOP: Employment rate |
| 2.14 | Mitigation | Develop a partnership approach to supporting people with convictions to move into employment, training and/or other meaningful activity. | Lead: LEP Support/Link: CSJP | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Data from Helix system, record outcomes for people with criminal convictions. •Positive destinations following release from prison (data access required including follow up after at least 9 months). •Data relating to access to learning and training resources. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •CPOP: Crime Rate •Recidivism rate (Edinburgh) • CPOP: Employment rate |

Table 11: Priority 2: Actions and Performance Indicators

Priority 3: A Good Place to Live: Actions and Performance Indicators

| Action | Type of Action | How will we address this Priority? | Who will make it happen? | How will we know we are making progress? | How will we know the difference we've made? |
|--------|----------------|--|--------------------------|--|---|
| 3.1 | Strategic | Establish governance for overall NPP programme | Lead: Place Partnership | •Governance group established | NA |

| | | | | | |
|-----|-----------|--|--|---|---|
| | | | | •Posts filled | |
| 3.2 | Strategic | Local NPPs to be established with a Lead Coordinator, Partnership Group and workplan in Wester Hailes, Restalrig, Liberton, Craigmillar and Pilton | Lead: Place Partnership | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Coordinators in post •Group established/links made to existing group (if applicable) •Work plan established | NA |
| 3.3 | Strategic | Develop a codesigned Locality Plan for each NPP area to address Place and Wellbeing Outcomes (linked to both City Plan and Service Delivery) | Lead: Place Partnership | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Locality Plans Developed •Actions allocated to responsible individuals •Mechanism established for monitoring delivery of Locality Plans | <p>Partners (including CEC departments) work better together to address needs identified, measured by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Staff satisfaction with problem resolution (via evaluation survey) •Community satisfaction with problem resolution (via evaluation survey) •Rating of neighbourhood as a place to live by SIMD |
| 3.4 | Strategic | Develop a mechanism to support non-NPP areas to develop Locality Plans for their areas in accordance with the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 and associated guidance. | Lead: Place Partnership | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Locality Plans Developed with performance framework •Actions allocated to responsible individuals •Mechanism established for monitoring delivery of Locality Plans | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Partners (including CEC departments) work better together to address needs identified, measured by: •Staff satisfaction with problem resolution (via evaluation survey) •Community satisfaction with problem resolution (via evaluation survey) •Rating of neighbourhood as a place to live by SIMD |
| 3.5 | Strategic | Work in partnership to develop a Participation Strategy for the Edinburgh Partnership | Lead: Community Planning Support Team (CPST) / Management Group (CPMG) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Comms & engagement plan developed •Definitions agreed •Co-design workshops completed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community Planning Partners have a clear understanding of the agreed definitions and know when and how to engage. |

| | | | | | |
|-----|-----------|--|--|---|--|
| | | | | Strategy approved | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community Bodies better understand the ways in which they can participate in the EP and are supported to do so. |
| 3.6 | Strategic | Classify the city's housing to enable a strategic approach to the energy retrofit of social housing (climate mitigation) | Lead: Net Zero Edinburgh Leadership Board (NZELB) Support/Link: Housing Partnership | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The completion of the integration of different archetypes and building information into a Climate Action Map that is available for the partnership for future action. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •A more strategic approach to energy retrofit to housing types to streamline construction and funding mechanisms to support the retrofit of social housing. •Rating of neighbourhood as a place to live by SIMD |
| 3.7 | Strategic | Work with partners to meet the requirements of the Community Wealth Building (Scotland) Act 2026 | Lead: Management Group | Working group established Plan developed & agreed Actions assigned to appropriate COMMUNITY PLAN priorities | To be determined |
| 3.8 | Strategic | Provide targeted support to Community Centre Management Committees to maintain and improve local access to existing community centres. | Lead: ECLDP Support: Place Partnership | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Evidence of more robust governance of Community Centres. •Increased funding secured by Management Committees through fundraising. •Management Committees feel more skilled and confident in carrying out their role. •Evidence that Management Committees are engaging with local communities and developing programmes and activities that reflect local need. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Capacity, skills and confidence of Management Committees of Community Centres are strengthened (Case studies, Feedback from CC Forum). •Local communities have access to activities and services that reflect local needs and address poverty and inequality (Centre programmes/User feedback). •Evidence of use of centres by a wider range of groups (Data collection). |

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|------|------------|--|------------------------------|---|---|
| 3.9 | Strategic | Develop a Strategic Business Case (SBC) for an integrated regional transport network - 'SEStranist'. | Lead: NZELB | Strategic Business Case delivered. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance transport connectivity by sustainable modes of transport. • Rating of neighbourhood as a place to live by SIMD |
| 3.10 | Strategic | Work in partnership to develop and present for approval a Good Food Nation Plan in accordance with Scottish government legislation and guidance. | Lead: NZELB | Clear, outcome-driven plan in place to support access to sustainable, safe, nutritious, affordable and age and culturally appropriate food. | To be determined by the plan. |
| 3.11 | Strategic | Work in partnership to establish a dynamic, visual monitoring system (Climate View Platform) to track delivery of actions to mitigate city emissions. | Lead: NZELB | Enhanced intelligence derived from new monitoring system. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Enhanced progress tracking for climate action to inform prioritisation and identify challenges/opportunities to unblock these. •CPOP - Carbon Emissions |
| 3.12 | Strategic | Coordinate the development and delivery of an Edinburgh Play Strategy that increases equitable access to informal learning, play, leisure and culture opportunities for children and young people. | Lead: Children's Partnership | Coordinate working group with relevant stakeholders; develop action plan; initiate consultation with wider stakeholders. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •CPOP - P1 Body Mass Index (healthy weight) •CPOP - Attainment •CPOP - Positive destinations •Rating of neighbourhood as a place to live by SIMD |
| 3.13 | Prevention | Develop coordinated workforce development so that more frontline staff in the city have the tools to have good conversations and be able to action the findings. | Lead: CPMG/CPST | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Training developed •Training delivered | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Staff knowledge improved •Staff satisfaction improved |
| 3.14 | Prevention | Develop an online map of volunteering opportunities relevant to climate, nature and food growing. | Lead: NZELB | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Map is live and promoted •Number of searches •Number of volunteers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction of flood risk to residents • Reduction of flood risk in city wide surface water management flood plans • Rating of neighbourhood as |

| | | | | | |
|------|--------------------|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | a place to live (by SIMD) |
| 3.15 | Prevention | Design interventions to combat flooding | Lead: NZELB | Completion of 2 intervention projects. | Reduced flood risk and surface water (and sewerage) flooding. |
| 3.16 | Prevention | Complete Stage 1 of the Coastal Change Adaptation Plan (CCAP) to better understand the actions needed to prevent flooding and damages at specific trigger points. | Lead: NZELB. | Completion of Stage 1 of the CCAP, with Committee approval. | Detailed understanding of the condition of city's coastal assets and development of policies and potential triggers/actions to inform future management of the coast. |
| 3.17 | Prevention | Establish new short-life Source to Ocean Action Recovery working group (SOAR) to provide citywide leadership in defining the City's role within the wider goals of ocean recovery — identifying opportunities for ocean literacy, coastal adaptation and habitat restoration. | Lead: NZELB | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Define what ocean recovery looks like within the remit of the Council. •Define what the Council can do to support the remit of other organisations in ocean recovery. •Clarify budget requirements for ocean recovery within the Council's remit and identify delivery opportunities. •Distribute current budget (£50k) to inspire and educate residents about the importance of the ocean and Edinburgh's own marine and coastal environments. | Opportunities for ocean literacy, coastal adaptation and habitat restoration identified and delivery progressed as budget allows. |
| 3.18 | Early Intervention | Work in partnership to develop a joint Edinburgh Partnership community cohesion strategy, including a joint definition, current challenges, good practice, | Lead: Community Safety & Justice Partnership (CSJP) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership definition of community cohesion agreed •Partnership community cohesion strategy | To be determined by the strategy |

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|------|--------------------|--|---|---|--|
| | | prevention-led approaches and mitigation protocols | | approved by EP Board • Actions incorporated into CSJP (and other relevant SP) workplans. | |
| 3.19 | Early Intervention | Scope options for a single landing page to collate existing sources of support — physical hubs/community anchors and online resources. | Lead: CPMG / CPST | •Mapping of key projects complete •Key description of Edinburgh-specific services | More people access information (measured by web analytics) |
| 3.20 | Early Intervention | Continue to develop and deliver a Partnership approach Bonfire Night planning and response | Lead: CSJP Support/Link: ECLDP, Children's Partnership | •Number of buses diverted •Police incident numbers •Youth diversions | •Reporting feeling safe where they live (Household survey) •Rating of neighbourhood as a place to live by SIMD •CPOP - Crime data |
| 3.21 | Early Intervention | Work in partnership to restore the burn within the Burdiehouse Burn Valley park setting, undertaking community engagement and participation throughout design process. | Lead: NZELB | •Completion of Phase 1 section of the burn restoration project. | A restored river landscape and parkland in part of the Burdiehouse Burn Valley Park. |
| 3.22 | Early Intervention | Work in partnership to complete the next phase of the Transport to Healthcare programme establishing a transport system that actively supports equitable access to healthcare. | Lead: NZELB | •Completion of options appraisal. | The development of a regional 'Transport to Health Strategy' that aims to achieve better outcomes for patients and NHS staff in a more efficient and effective system of integrated working practices. |
| 3.23 | Early Intervention | Work in partnership to deliver the 'Transport to Employment' programme. | Lead: LEP | •Delivery of grant funding to enable more accessible transport to employment and education. | Reduced public transport cost when travelling to new employment and further education. |
| 3.24 | Mitigation | Work in partnership to enhance lived experience practices around | Lead: CSJP | To be determined | To be determined |

| | | | | | |
|------|------------|---|--|--|--|
| | | justice services including with victims and families. | | | |
| 3.25 | Mitigation | Develop a partnership approach to Restorative Justice within communities in Edinburgh. | Lead: CSJP | •Agreed approach developed. | To be determined by the approach and where in the process RJ is introduced. |
| 3.26 | Mitigation | Work in partnership to better understand and respond to exploitation in the city. | Lead: CSJP | | |
| 3.27 | Mitigation | Work in partnership to tackle hate crime in the city including establishing a joined-up approach to reporting and recording. | Lead: CSJP | •Reported hate crime data •Data sharing agreement in place | •To be determined • CPOP - Crime rate • Rating of neighbourhood as a place to live by SIMD |
| 3.28 | Mitigation | Establish sustainable housing pathways for people released from prison. | Lead: Housing Partnership Support/Link: CSJP | % of prison leavers leaving to 'suitable accommodation' | • CPOP - Crime rate • Homeless data for prison leavers over time (repeat homelessness) |
| 3.29 | Mitigation | Improve community supports (voluntary throughcare) for people in (and recently involved) in the justice system - ensuring accessible, flexible, integrated services delivering improved outcomes. | Lead: CSJP | •Diversions from prosecution •Alternatives from incarceration | • Recidivism • CPOP - Crime Rate |
| 3.30 | Mitigation | Deliver heritage adaptation and energy retrofit pilots to test innovative approaches to adapting World Heritage Site buildings and infrastructure. | Lead: NZELB (Edinburgh World Heritage, CEC, Historic Environment Scotland) | Delivery of up to 10 heritage adaptation and energy retrofit pilots. | • Reduction in carbon emissions of up to 10 pilot sites while adapting them for the changing climate • CPOP - Carbon Emissions • Developing and sharing learning from this process for future adaptation work |

Table 12: Priority 3: Actions and Performance Indicators

10. Looking ahead

The next Community Plan

The next Community Plan

This refresh has sharpened our focus, strengthened our evidence base, and introduced a new way of measuring whether we are making a difference. But it is a recalibration of an existing plan, not a fundamental reimagining. The challenges Edinburgh faces, deepening poverty, a housing crisis, growing inequality, and the accelerating effects of climate change, demand more than the remaining months of this plan can fully address.

The new Community Plan, which will cover the period from 2028, offers that opportunity. It will be designed from the ground up, drawing on everything this Partnership has learned, and will be shaped by the voices of the communities most affected by poverty and inequality. The appetite for deeper participation that we heard clearly during this refresh will be central to how that plan is built. We are committed to making it worthy of the city Edinburgh can be.

Emerging priorities

The data in Section 3 confirms that our three core priorities remain the right focus for this plan. But it also identifies a set of concerns that have grown significantly in scale since 2022. These are concerns that are not fully addressed within the body of this Community Plan, but which the Partnership is committed to holding in view.

- **Homelessness** — the scale of the housing emergency has deepened, with over 4,800 Edinburgh households in temporary accommodation, including 3,640 children. While housing supply and homelessness prevention actions are embedded within Priority 1, the full response required exceeds what this plan can deliver alone.
- **School readiness** — the evidence on early childhood and developmental inequalities points to a need for concerted early years action. Actions 1.7 and 2.12 address aspects of this, but a more comprehensive approach will be needed in the next plan.
- **Community cohesion** — recent societal pressures, including the aftermath of the 2026 conflict in the Middle East and growing inequalities, have heightened the importance of social cohesion. Action 3.19 begins the work of developing a joint community cohesion strategy, and this will need to be built on substantially.

- **Exploitation of children and adults** — this is addressed through Action 3.27 but remains an area where deeper, better coordinated partnership work is needed.
- **Substance use harms** — connections between substance use, poverty, homelessness, and health are well evidenced, and while several actions touch on this, it has not been possible within this refresh to give it the full strategic focus it warrants. For now, this area is being addressed through the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership.
- **Young people's mental wellbeing** — Action 2.12 provides a starting point, but the scale of the challenge, and its intersection with school readiness, poverty, and place, means it will need to be a central thread of the next plan.
- **The deepening cost of living crisis** — the financial pressures affecting households across Edinburgh continue to evolve. The actions in Priority 1 are calibrated to the current picture, but the Partnership will need to remain responsive as this landscape shifts.
- **The climate crisis** — the actions in Priority 3 address specific aspects of climate mitigation and adaptation, but the broader challenge of embedding a just transition, one that protects those least able to cope with the effects of climate change, will require a more fundamental approach in the next Community Plan.

How we will keep these priorities in view between now and 2028

The Edinburgh Partnership's Management Group will receive quarterly progress reports on delivery of this plan. Where emerging priorities are touched by existing actions, these will be monitored through the performance framework set out in Section 10. Beyond individual actions, the Partnership is committed to three things that will help ensure these themes are not lost in the transition to the next plan:

- **The Participation Strategy** (Action 3.5) will be co-designed with partners and communities and will shape how people experiencing the issues above, including those with lived experience of homelessness, exploitation, or mental ill-health, are involved in the design of the next Community Plan.
- **The Communications and Engagement Plan** to be developed as part of this refresh, will set out how communities can track what the Partnership is delivering and hold it to account. The Communications and Engagement Plan for the next Community Plan will outline the many ways communities can shape our future work priorities and action.
- **The scoping work for the new Community Plan**, which will begin shortly, will draw explicitly on the emerging priorities identified here. The thematic partnerships, and their leads, will be asked to bring forward evidence on what has and hasn't worked in relation to these themes, so that the new plan can respond to the full breadth of Edinburgh's challenges from the outset.

The Edinburgh Partnership is aware of the limits of what this refresh can do. The purpose of naming these emerging priorities explicitly is not to overstate the progress made, but to be honest about the scale of what lies ahead and to ensure that nothing identified in this plan is simply set aside when this Community Plan reaches its end in 2028.

Information about the progress of this plan can be found on the [Edinburgh Partnership website](#).

11. Appendices

| Appendix | Contents |
|---|--|
| A: Engagement and Participation Process | Figure 1: overview of how we engaged communities and partners in developing this refresh |
| B: Edinburgh Partnership Board Membership & Structure | The 14 Edinburgh Partnership Board members, and a diagram of the governance structure for the Edinburgh Partnership, including the seven Strategic Partnerships. |
| C: The Partnership Landscape | A list of strategies and plans developed by Partners and that have relevance, but which this Community Plan does not seek to duplicate. |
| D: Integrated Impact Assessment (Updated 2026) | |
| E: Glossary | Definitions of key terms used in this plan |
| F: References / Bibliography | All sources cited in this document |

Table 13: Appendix contents list

Appendix A: The Engagement and Participation Process

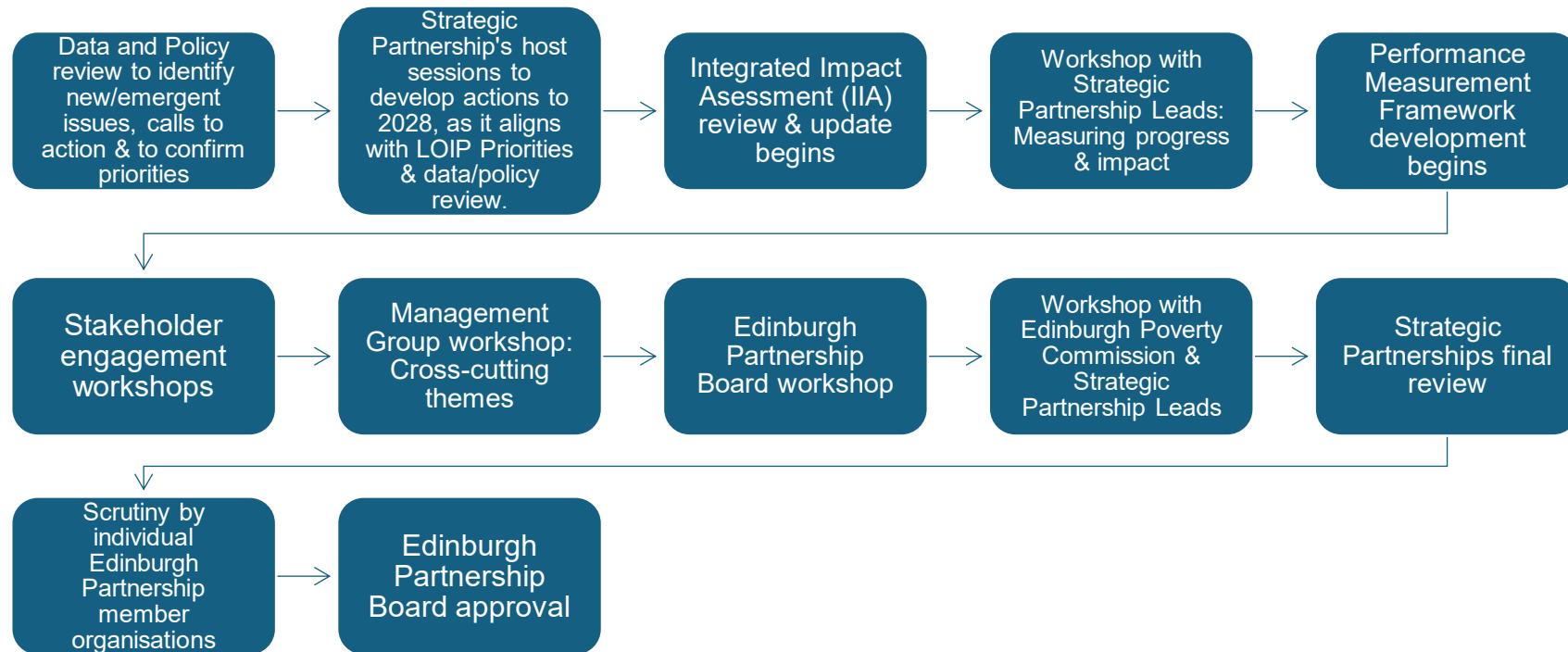


Figure 2: Engagement and participation process

Appendix B: The Edinburgh Partnership Board Membership and Structure

There are over forty Partners involved in the work of the Edinburgh Partnership.

Fourteen Partners currently sit on the Edinburgh Partnership Board:

- Armed Forces
- City of Edinburgh Council
- Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce
- Edinburgh Affordable Housing Partnership
- Edinburgh Association of Community Councils – Community of Place Representative
- Edinburgh College
- Edinburgh Integration Joint Board
- Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations' Council – Third Sector Interface Representative
- NHS Lothian
- Police Scotland
- Scottish Enterprise
- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
- Skills Development Scotland
- University of Edinburgh

Details about the role and responsibilities of each of the bodies within the Edinburgh Partnership structure can be found [on our website](#).

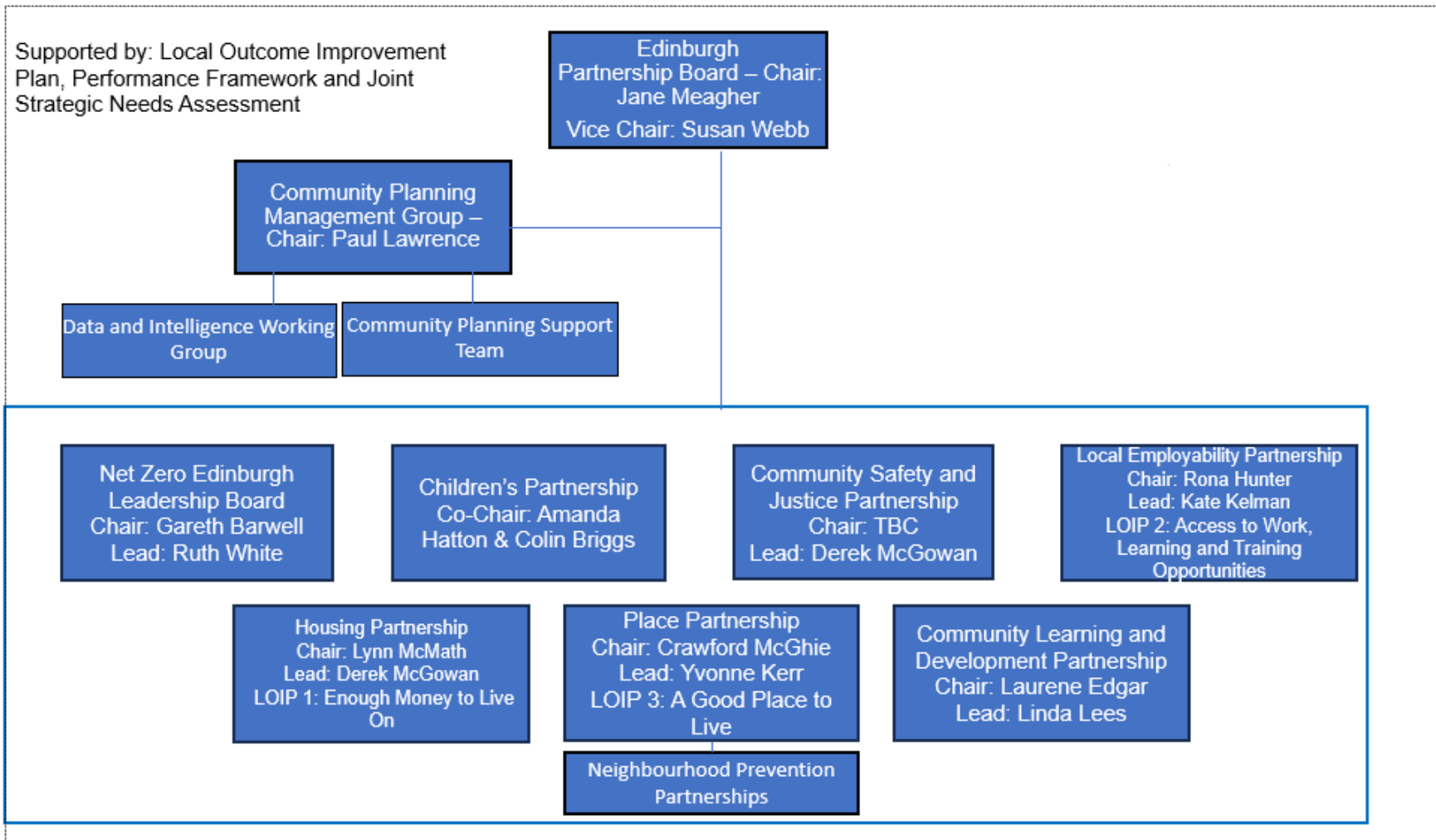


Figure 3: The Edinburgh Partnership Structure

Appendix C: The Partnership Landscape

Partners across the city already work together through a wide range of strategies and plans including examples below. The Community Plan does not seek to duplicate these strategies or the plans of individual partner organisations. Its purpose is to set out the additional actions, leadership, and collaboration that only the Edinburgh Partnership can provide.

- **Children and young people:** Statutory Plans developed within the Edinburgh Partnership Structure e.g. [Edinburgh Children's Services Plan](#) (new plan coming 2026) and Edinburgh Community Learning and Development Plan.
- **Health and wellbeing:** [Edinburgh Integration Joint Board](#), and [Health and Social Care Partnership Strategic Plan](#).
- **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion:** [Equality and Rights Network \(EaRN\)](#)
- **Economic Development:** [Edinburgh Economy Strategy](#), [Edinburgh and South-East Scotland City Region Deal](#) and [Edinburgh Community Wealth Building Plan](#).
- **Placemaking and sustainable communities:** [City Housing Strategy](#), Edinburgh [Housing Emergency Action Plan](#), [City Mobility Plan](#), and [City Plan 2030](#).
- **Community justice and safety:** Statutory Plans developed within the Edinburgh Partnership Structure: [Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan](#) and [Community Safety Strategy](#).
- **Climate and sustainability:** [Climate Ready Edinburgh Plan](#).
- **Locality planning:** The Place Partnership is co-designing Locality Plans with the five NPP areas; these plans will set out local actions to improve outcomes.

Appendix D: Updated Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)

See appendix

Appendix E: Glossary

| Term | Definition |
|---|---|
| Community | The people living in one particular area, or people who are considered as a unit because of their common interests, social group, or nationality. (<i>Cambridge Dictionary</i>) |
| Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 | The Act empowers community bodies through the ownership or control of land and buildings, and by strengthening their voices in decisions about public services. It covers 11 topics and was passed by the Scottish Parliament on 17 June 2015, receiving Royal Assent on 24 July 2015. (<i>Scottish Government</i>) |
| Community Plan | See Local Outcomes Improvement Plan. |
| Community Planning Partnership (CPP) | The name given to all those services that come together to take part in community planning. There are 32 CPPs across Scotland, one for each council area. Each CPP focuses on where partners' collective efforts and resources can add the most value to their local communities, with particular emphasis on reducing inequality. (<i>Scottish Government</i>) |
| Edinburgh Partnership | The Community Planning Partnership (CPP) for Edinburgh. |
| Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) | Covers the whole council area, describing the priorities and planned improvements. Also referred to as 'LOIP' or 'community plan'. (<i>paraphrased from Scottish Government</i>) |
| Locality Plans | Cover smaller areas within the CPP area which experience significantly poorer outcomes than either the rest of the CPP area or Scotland as a whole, in line with the expectations set out in the Community Empowerment Act and associated guidance. Each CPP will produce at least one Locality Plan; there is no fixed maximum number. |
| Neighbourhood Prevention Partnerships (NPPs) | Areas of most concentrated child poverty within Edinburgh where we will develop a partnership response and produce Locality Plans to support progress on outcomes. |

Table 14: Glossary terms

Appendix F: Bibliography

All references in the document are listed below. The references are hyperlinked in the text throughout the document for ease.

Legislation and statutory guidance

[Community Empowerment \(Scotland\) Act 2015](#) | Scottish Government, 2015

Used for: Section 1 (what the Edinburgh Partnership is and what it is required to do); Section 4 (Focus on Poverty and Inequality).

[Community Planning Statutory Guidance](#)

Used for: Section 4 (Focus on Poverty and Inequality)

[Fairer Scotland Duty Guidance for Public Bodies](#) | Scottish Government

Used for: Section 4 (Focus on Poverty and Inequality).

Edinburgh Partnership

[Edinburgh Partnership Annual Reports](#) | Edinburgh Partnership

Used for: Section 1 (achievements and progress made to date).

[Edinburgh Partnership Survey Results \(2023\)](#) | Edinburgh Partnership, 2023

Used for: Section 3 (People's experiences) and Section 8 (What do we know). Source for citywide satisfaction, belonging, and safety figures; deprivation gap in each of these measures.

[Edinburgh Partnership Data and Intelligence webpages](#) | Edinburgh Partnership

Used for: Section 3 (closing reference — further data and analysis).

[Edinburgh Partnership Commissioned Review of Welfare Rights and Dept Advice](#) | Edinburgh Partnership

[Edinburgh Partnership Board: Financial Governance Paper and agreed recommendations](#) | Edinburgh Partnership, March 2026

Used for: Section 4 (How we developed this plan – the Third Sector Review)

Edinburgh Poverty Commission

[A Just Capital: Final Report](#) | Edinburgh Poverty Commission, 2020

Used for: Section 1 (Why refresh — context for 2022 refresh).

[A Just Capital 2025: New Actions to End Poverty in Edinburgh](#) | Edinburgh Poverty Commission, 2025

Used for: Sections 1, 3, 6, and 7. Source for: poverty rate unchanged since 2020; 36,000 people to lift out of poverty by 2030; poverty becoming deeper; no pathway to ending poverty without resolving the housing crisis; one in three households in poverty due to housing costs; 61% of people in poverty in a working household; 15,000 people on in-work Universal Credit; JRF modelling — 60,000 children lifted out of poverty by increasing parents in work.

Population and demographics

[Scotland's Census 2022](#) | National Records of Scotland, 2022

Used for: Section 3 (Population demographics). Source for: total population 530,680; population growth since 2011; age breakdown; ethnicity data.

[Population Estimates Time Series Data](#) | National Records of Scotland, 2025

Used for: Section 3 (Population demographics table).

[Small Area Population Estimates: mid-2022](#) | National Records of Scotland, 2024

Used for: Section 3 (Population demographics — SIMD deprivation data; 26% of residents in most deprived 40% of Scotland).

[Tackling Child Poverty: Priority Families Overview](#) | Scottish Government

Used for: Section 3 (Population demographics — priority family types at greatest risk of poverty).

Health and outcomes data

[Vulnerabilities: applying All Our Health](#) | UK Government, 2022

[Community Planning Outcomes Profile \(CPOP\)](#) | Improvement Service / Scottish Government

Used for: Section 3 (Population outcomes). Source for: Edinburgh performance across 18 outcome indicators; 7 indicators where Edinburgh is not keeping pace with Scotland; data on most vulnerable communities.

[National Performance Framework](#) | Scottish Government

Used for: Section 3 (Population outcomes — CPOP indicators aligned with National Outcomes).

[NHS Lothian Core Public Health Data Set](#) | NHS Lothian

Used for: Section 3 (Population outcomes). Source for: life expectancy by SIMD quintile — 82.2 years (women) and 78.3 years (men) city average; 9-year and 12-year gap between most and least deprived areas.

[NHS Lothian Public Health Survey Results \(2023\)](#) | NHS Lothian, 2024

Used for: Sections 3, 6, 7, and 8. Source for: loneliness and deprivation; food insecurity by deprivation and ethnicity; fuel poverty by deprivation and ethnicity; mental wellbeing; educational attainment by deprivation; temporary contract employment by ethnicity; life satisfaction scores.

[Joint Strategic Needs Assessment — Adult Health and Social Care](#) | Edinburgh Integration Joint Board, 2025

Used for: Section 3 (introduction).

[Joint Strategic Needs Assessment — Children and Young People in Edinburgh](#) | NHS Lothian / Edinburgh Partnership, 2025

Used for: Section 3 (introduction).

Public Policy, Public Health frameworks and research

[Scotland's Population Health Framework 2025–2035](#) | Scottish Government, 2025

Used for: Section 3 (Poverty — building blocks of a good life). Section 4 (Focus on Poverty and Inequality — Public Health Priorities for Scotland).

[Proportionate Universalism: What is it, and how do we apply it?](#) | Public Health Scotland

Used for: Section 4 (Proportionate Universalism).

[Health Impacts Across Different Groups — Climate Change](#) | Public Health Scotland, 2025

Used for: Section 3 (Climate and sustainability) and Section 4 (Planning for Future Needs). Source for: deprived communities disproportionately affected by climate change.

[Scottish Health Equity Research Unit \(SHERU\) — Edinburgh research on poverty, employment and homelessness](#) | SHERU

Used for: Section 3 (Poverty). Source for: research on employment, homelessness, and young men in areas of high deprivation. Note: full findings are pending.

[The Christie Commission](#) | 2011

Used for: Section 5 (Our Priorities).

[Public Health Priorities for Scotland](#) | COSLA and Scottish Government, 2018

Used for: Section 8 (A good place to live).

Homelessness

[Homelessness in Scotland: Update to 30 September 2025](#) | Scottish Government, 2025

Used for: Section 6 (What do we know). Source for: 4,802 Edinburgh households in temporary accommodation including 3,640 children, as of September 2025.

Employment and poverty

[Children in relative low income, United Kingdom](#) | Leeds Observatory, 2018

Used for: Section 5 (Our Approach).

[Poverty and Income Inequality in Scotland 2021–24](#) | Scottish Government, 2025

Used for: Section 7 (What do we know). Source for: poverty rates by ethnic group 2019–2024 — 43% for Asian or Asian British; 50% for Mixed, Black or Black British and Other; 18% for White British.

[Labour Market Statistics for Scotland by Ethnicity 2023](#) | Scottish Government, 2024 | Scottish Government, 2024

Used for: Section 7 (What do we know). Source for: 13.8% employment gap between ethnically diverse and white populations in Scotland.

[Ethnicity-and-Employment-recent-data-Oct-23.pdf](#), Capital City Partnership, 2023

Children, young people, and education

[Participation Measure for 16–24 Year Olds](#) | Skills Development Scotland | Skills Development Scotland

Used for: Section 7 (What do we know). Source for: care-experienced young people less likely to be in positive destinations; 7% gap between best and worst performing wards.

Housing

[Housing Prices in Edinburgh](#) | Office for National Statistics, 2026

Used for: Section 8 (What do we know). Source for: average house price in Edinburgh approximately six times average gross annual earnings; Edinburgh least affordable city in Scotland to buy a home.

[Labour Market Profile](#): City of Edinburgh Office for National Statistics, 2022

Used for: Section 8 (What do we know). Source for: average house price in Edinburgh approximately six times average gross annual earnings; Edinburgh least affordable city in Scotland to buy a home.

Place and health inequalities

[Public Health Priorities for Scotland, 2018](#) | Scottish Government

Used for: Section 8 (Priority 3 introduction). Cited as the source for the built environment as a key determinant of health.

[Health Equity in England: The Marmot Review 10 Years On](#) | Institute of Health Equity | Marmot M. et al., 2020 Health equity in

England: The Marmot Review 10 years on. London: Institute of Health Equity

Used for: Section 8 (Priority 3 introduction). Cited for built environment and health determinants.

Child maintenance

Better for Everyone: Transforming Child Maintenance (2025)

Used for: Section 6 (What do we know). Source for: 210,000 children lifted out of poverty if child maintenance paid to all entitled children across the UK; 20,000 in Scotland.

Employment outcomes in Edinburgh

Attainment figures by SIMD deprivation in Edinburgh

Used for: Section 7 (What do we know). Data point flagged in draft as outstanding — confirm figures and source before publication.

Equality and impact assessment

Integrated Impact Assessments — City of Edinburgh Council | City of Edinburgh Council

Used for: Section 4 (Integrated Impact Assessment).

EP Board – 10 June 2026

Item 7a

Appendix B: Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)

Complete as a record of your assessment.
Read the IIA guidance before completing this template.

| |
|---|
| Title of proposal |
| Edinburgh Partnership's Community Plan 2018–2028: Refresh (our Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP)) |
| Purpose of proposed work |
| <p>On 9 September 2025 the Edinburgh Partnership Board agreed that the Community Plan 2018–2028 would be refreshed for the remainder of its term, ahead of the new plan being developed for 2028–2038. The themes of the Community Plan (1. Enough money to live on; 2. Access to work, learning and training; 3. A good place to live), developed in 2018, will remain the same, but the actions to support improvement in outcomes across these themes have been reviewed as the partnership moves towards a preventative and early intervention approach to addressing poverty and inequality.</p> <p>The refresh updates the Edinburgh Partnership's shared action register to reflect current needs, shifts the focus of partnership working further towards prevention and early intervention, and introduces for the first time a performance measurement framework to evidence progress and impact against agreed outcomes. The refresh also establishes Neighbourhood Prevention Partnerships (NPPs) in the five areas of most concentrated poverty in Edinburgh, Wester Hailes, Restalrig, Liberton, Craigmillar, and Pilton; each with a Locality Plan, bringing the Edinburgh Partnership into compliance with the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 requirement to have current Locality Plans in place.</p> <p>This IIA builds on and provides updates to the 2018 IIA. It addresses an open audit action and brings the partnership into compliance. The strategic context is set by the Edinburgh Partnership's overarching vision: that Edinburgh is a thriving, connected, inspired and fair city, where all forms of poverty and inequality are reduced.</p> |
| Lead officer, name, job title, service and department |
| Insert text |
| Additional colleagues: name, job title, service and department |
| Insert text |
| Date |
| 06.05.2026 |

Briefly describe public involvement in this proposal to date and planned

Extensive community engagement was carried out in 2018 for the original Community Plan and its associated IIA. This IIA builds on that foundation with updated engagement specifically for the refresh.

The Third Sector Interface and Equalities and Rights Network (EaRN) sought the views of the third sector on the proposed refresh actions, drawing on expertise from 30 organisations working directly with Edinburgh's communities. Participants took part in roundtable discussions exploring how well the proposed actions align with current community needs, what may be missing, what impact they would like to see, any risks of adverse effects, and other relevant factors.

Sessions were also held with the Lothian Association of Youth Clubs (LAYC) Youthwork Managers and the Edinburgh Partnership Board to review the refresh actions. Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations' Council (EVOC) supported further engagement across its networks.

Planned engagement: An Edinburgh Partnership Community Engagement Strategy is being developed as a priority action on the Board's workplan. This will include proposals for meaningful community engagement in both the ongoing delivery of the refresh and the development of the new Community Plan for 2028–2038. Engagement with communities in the five NPP areas will be a central component of developing the Locality Plans for each area. Lived experience and community voice will be built into both the delivery and monitoring of the refresh.

Impacts

1 Equality impacts

We want to ensure our proposals are fair for everyone. Consider potential positive and negative impacts of your proposal on groups/people with [protected characteristics](#). Assessment of impact means we consider the needs of everyone with an “intersectional lens.” This means looking at the impact that different protected characteristics and other factors can have on people.

Consider if your proposal will help:

- prevent discrimination
- advance equal opportunities by reducing disadvantage and meeting different needs, and
- foster good relations by encouraging inclusion and understanding.

Consider if your proposal could impact on groups/people with protected characteristics. Tick all that apply

| | Negative impact | Positive impact | No impact |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|-----------|
| 1. Age | | ✓ | |
| 2. Disability | | ✓ | |
| 3. Gender reassignment | | ✓ | ✓ |
| 4. Marriage and civil partnership | | ✓ | ✓ |
| 5. Pregnancy and maternity | | ✓ | |
| 6. Race | | ✓ | ✓ |
| 7. Religion or belief | | ✓ | ✓ |
| 8. Sex | | ✓ | |
| 9. Sexual orientation | | ✓ | ✓ |
| 10. Care experienced children and young people | | ✓ | |

Use the text box below to describe the differential impacts you have identified on each of the groups/people with protected characteristics. Consider any intersectional impacts.

Note: Race is ticked for both positive impact and negative risk. This reflects the predominantly positive impact of targeted actions for minority ethnic communities, including refugees and migrants, alongside the identified risk that engagement barriers and dispersed poverty may mean some communities are harder to reach. Mitigating actions are recorded at Section 9.

While Edinburgh is the wealthiest city in Scotland, it is estimated that almost 78,000 people are living in relative poverty, representing approximately 15% of the population and as many as 1 in 5 children. The population is growing (by 36,100 since the 2011 census), getting older and more ethnically diverse; the areas experiencing the highest levels of deprivation are growing fastest, with most population growth occurring in the groups with the highest health and social care needs. Poverty rates in Edinburgh have remained largely unchanged in the past five years. Like Scotland as a whole, Edinburgh remains some way off meeting its 2030 poverty reduction targets.

Lone parents (nine in ten of them women), disabled people, carers, and people from minority ethnic backgrounds are more likely to be in poverty than others in the city. This plan focuses on working with all communities experiencing poverty and inequality to improve outcomes, provide equity of access to support, and increase community cohesion. It is therefore expected to have a positive impact on all groups with protected characteristics.

Differential impacts by protected characteristic

Age: Older residents, including those aged 65+, who represent 15% of Edinburgh's population, may benefit from actions to improve social connection through community centres and to increase uptake of benefit entitlements. Early years and school-age childcare is a cross-cutting theme; actions to improve equity of uptake of relevant services directly benefit young children and their families. Young people furthest from employment will benefit

from the Youth Employability Hub and dedicated pathways to positive destinations post-school.

Disability: Disabled people face higher poverty risk in Edinburgh. Actions on income maximisation, welfare rights, and debt advice under the Housing Partnership will positively impact disabled people not currently receiving entitled benefits. Actions to adapt engagement approaches for neurodivergent groups, ensure venues are accessible at varied times and days, and use formats covering a wide spectrum will increase inclusion.

Gender reassignment: Trans and non-binary people face heightened risk of poverty, isolation, and discrimination. The community cohesion strategy and actions to address hate crime will have a positive impact. The inclusive framing across all community provision benefits this group.

Marriage and civil partnership: No direct differential impact identified. General positive impacts from income maximisation and housing actions apply across all households.

Pregnancy and maternity: Lone parents and families with a child under one, as well as larger families (three or more children), will benefit positively from actions to improve accessibility of childcare and income maximisation support. Actions to increase uptake of Tax-Free Childcare and the Child Poverty Accelerator Fund (CPAF) will benefit pregnant women and those with young children.

Race: People from minority ethnic backgrounds, including refugees and asylum seekers, face disproportionate poverty risk. Actions are specifically targeted at these communities, including increased availability of ESOL provision and training opportunities through the Community Learning and Development Partnership, targeted actions to address poverty through benefit uptake, and measures to respond to hate crime through a joined-up approach to reporting and recording. There is a structural risk that some communities, particularly newly arrived migrant communities and those with English as an additional language, may be seldom heard in engagement processes, facing structural barriers to participation. Mitigating actions are included at Section 9.

Religion or belief: Actions on community cohesion, hate crime reduction, and inclusive community provision will have a positive impact, particularly for communities that face discrimination on grounds of religion or belief. According to Scotland's Census 2022, 45% of Edinburgh's population state no religion; the Community Plan's secular framing of universal access ensures inclusivity across all beliefs.

Sex: Women are disproportionately affected by poverty in Edinburgh, as elsewhere. Nine in ten lone parents are women; women are more likely to be in low-paid or part-time work; and women bear a higher proportion of unpaid caring responsibilities. Actions on income maximisation, child maintenance payments, CPAF funding, and childcare directly benefit women. The Equally Safe strategy and public health approach to violence against women and girls (VAWG) are reflected in the prevention framing of the refresh.

Sexual orientation: LGBTQ+ people face higher rates of poverty, mental ill-health, and social isolation. The actions on community cohesion, hate crime response, community mental health, and inclusive community provision will positively impact this group. According to Scotland's Census 2022, 7.6% of Edinburgh's population aged 16 and over identify as

LGB+, the highest proportion of any Scottish council area, and 0.77% identify as trans or have a trans history.

Care experienced children and young people: Care experienced young people face significantly higher risks of poverty, homelessness, involvement in the justice system, and poor outcomes across multiple life domains. Actions on voluntary throughcare, community support for those transitioning from care and the justice system, financial literacy, youth employability, and community mental health all have a direct positive impact on this group.

Intersectional impacts

People affected by poverty and inequality frequently have one or more protected characteristics. The intersectional lens reveals that the groups most at risk; for example, minority ethnic lone mothers, care experienced young people with disabilities, or refugee families with limited English face compounding disadvantages that single-characteristic analysis would miss. The citywide approach and diverse range of actions are designed to address this. Some actions are specifically targeted at communities of place or interest to maximise impact for those experiencing multiple disadvantages simultaneously.

Following engagement feedback, there is a specific commitment to develop a joint Edinburgh Partnership community cohesion strategy, recognising the potential for social divisions arising from differential standards of housing within communities, inadequate support when people move housing, and the lack of consideration of whether areas are suitable in terms of support, amenities, and social connections. This risk is most acute for communities and households who share multiple protected characteristics.

Evidence

Use the text box below to summarise what evidence you have used to inform this IIA. Where possible, include links if the documents are published. Show how you have used your evidence in making your assessment of potential impacts.

Example: A proposal to increase charges will impact women more than men as we know women are more likely to be vulnerable to poverty. The [Gendered Nature of Poverty briefing note](#) provides an overview of this issue and why it matters.

Evidence could include the results of any relevant consultation/engagement. If further evidence is required, please note how it will be gathered.

Population and poverty data

[Edinburgh by Numbers 2024](#)

Provides a detailed demographic breakdown of Edinburgh's population including age, sex, ethnicity, disability status, caring responsibilities, and poverty rates. Used to contextualise the scale and nature of inequality and identify groups most at risk. Note: the disability figure (self-reported limiting long-term health conditions) reflects the broad statutory definition under the Equality Act 2010.

Equalities framework

[City of Edinburgh Council Equalities and Diversity Framework 2021](#)

Sets out the Council's equality commitments and outcomes. Used to align the Community Plan actions with existing equality obligations and to identify gaps in provision for specific protected characteristic groups.

Poverty analysis

[Edinburgh Poverty Commission: 2025 Calls to Action](#)

Edinburgh is not on track to meet its headline 2030 poverty reduction target. Meeting that target requires lifting around 36,000 people, including 8,000 children, out of poverty by 2030. Used to strengthen the evidence base for the urgency and direction of actions.

Lone parent poverty

[Better for Everyone Full Report 2025 \(OPFS/Robertson Trust\)](#)

Identifies factors key to sustaining people in poverty, including the disproportionate impact on lone parents and their children across the life course. Particularly relevant to the gendered analysis of poverty and actions targeting lone parents.

Child poverty strategy

[UK Government Child Poverty Strategy 2025](#)

Identifies structural factors driving child poverty and their impact across life stages. Informs actions on childcare, benefit uptake, and early intervention.

Strategic needs assessment

Edinburgh Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Update (March 2025); Housing Need and Demand Assessment

Highlights significant unmet need across mental health, exploitation, homelessness, and poverty, disaggregated by area and population group. Used to identify which groups are most affected and where targeted action is most needed.

Deprivation data

[Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020](#)

Used to identify the five NPP areas as locations of most concentrated poverty. Also confirms that more people in Edinburgh live in poverty outside the five NPP areas than within them, shaping the engagement mechanism for non-designated areas.

LGB+ and trans population data

[Scotland's Census 2022: Sexual Orientation and Trans Status or History](#)

Edinburgh has the highest proportion of LGB+ residents of any Scottish council area (7.6% of those aged 16 and over), and 0.77% of Edinburgh's population aged 16 and over identify as trans or have a trans history. Used to ensure accurate population data underpins the equality analysis for sexual orientation.

Community engagement

Roundtable sessions with EaRN, EVOG, LAYC, Edinburgh Partnership Board (2025–26) and the original community engagement carried out for developing the plan in 2018, directly informed the development of the action register and the identification of risks and gaps. Findings used throughout this assessment to ensure lived experience evidence shapes impact analysis.

Please record any mitigating actions for any negative impacts identified, at Section 10 of this template

2 Human Rights impacts

The Council must act compatibly with Human Rights legislation. Think about what kind of impact the proposal may have on people in terms of [Human Rights](#). Use the text box below to describe which Human Rights Articles are relevant, which groups are affected and what the potential impacts are.

Article 2, First Protocol — Right to Education: actions to improve secondary school pupils' attendance and positive destinations post-school directly engage this right. Engagement sessions highlighted the importance of recognising the needs of children and young people in care or non-traditional settings, and ensuring a holistic approach that addresses the conditions for learning, adequate food, feeling safe, sufficient sleep, and mental health and resilience rather than focusing on attendance in isolation. Actions on community mental health, financial support for families, and youth and children's work directly address these conditions.

Article 4 — Freedom from Slavery and Forced Labour: Actions are being developed by partners to better understand and respond to exploitation in the city. The Community Plan takes a public health approach to exploitation, recognising that poverty and inequality are key drivers. Actions to improve community safety, support pathways out of exploitation, and develop joined-up responses to trafficking and modern slavery align with the obligations under this article.

Article 8 — Respect for Private and Family Life, Home and Correspondence: This article includes the right to participate in essential economic, social, cultural, and leisure activities. In some circumstances, public authorities must help people enjoy their right to a private life, including the ability to participate in society. Actions that actively seek to provide support and improve accessibility to housing, education, benefits, childcare, and leisure provision have a positive impact on those groups most at risk of exclusion. In response to concerns raised in engagement sessions, measures are taken to ensure all groups are included: adaptations for neurodivergent groups, provision in venues accessible to all at varied times and days, and use of formats, languages, and communication tools covering a wide spectrum of audiences.

Article 14 — Protection from Discrimination: Actions in the Community Plan refresh aim to have a positive impact on groups who face higher levels of inequality and deprivation, including disabled people, older people, women, carers, minority ethnic communities, and groups at greater risk of poverty. The intersectional analysis underpinning this IIA recognises that many individuals face cumulative disadvantage as a result of having more than one protected characteristic. The commitment to equity of access and targeted action for the most disadvantaged directly addresses the substance of this article.

Evidence

Use the text box below to summarise what evidence you have used to inform this IIA. Where possible, include links if the documents are published. Show how you have used your evidence in making your assessment of potential impacts.

Evidence could include the results of any relevant consultation/engagement. If further evidence is required, please note how it will be gathered.

All actions have been reviewed in relation to each article of the Human Rights Act 1998. The following evidence base was used:

Edinburgh Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Update (March 2025): Identifies significant unmet need across education, mental health, exploitation, and housing, each directly relevant to Articles 2, 4, and 8. Used to confirm that current service provision does not adequately meet rights obligations for the people most at risk.

Scottish Government GIRFEC Framework: The Getting It Right for Every Child approach is rights-based and underpins the Children's Partnership actions. It provides a direct link between the early intervention approach and obligations under human rights legislation. [View the GIRFEC framework](#)

Equally Safe: Scotland's strategy to prevent and eradicate violence against women and girls: Underpins the Community Plan's approach to exploitation, domestic abuse, and community safety. Directly relevant to Article 4 and Article 8. [View the Equally Safe strategy](#)

Community engagement sessions with EaRN, EVOC, LAYC, and Edinburgh Partnership Board (2025–26): Directly informed the identification of rights-relevant issues, in particular the conditions required for children to be in a receptive state to learn (Article 2) and the importance of accessible, inclusive community provision for all groups (Article 8).

Please record any mitigating actions for any negative impacts identified, at Section 10 of this template

3 Children's Rights impacts

The Council must act compatibly with Children's Rights legislation. Think about what kind of impact the proposal may have on children and young people in terms of [Children's Rights](#). Use the text box below to describe which Children's Rights Articles are relevant, which groups are affected and what the potential impacts are.

Relevant UNCRC Articles and Community Plan actions

Article 6 — Life, Survival and Development: Deliver Best Start in Life actions, including actions to improve equity of uptake of relevant services and to address child poverty. Actions to encourage breastfeeding and improve P1 healthy weights aim to increase equity of outcomes for all children and may particularly benefit families facing the greatest barriers.

Article 18 — Parental Responsibilities and State Assistance: Actions to increase uptake of the Tax-Free Childcare programme, ensure parents access available financial support, and deliver the Child Poverty Accelerator project. Actions to increase the number of families attending community-based family learning programmes. Efforts to increase take-up of child maintenance payments and maximise entitled benefit uptake for single parents, the majority of whom are women.

Article 24 — Health and Health Services: Actions to address child poverty, encourage breastfeeding, and improve P1 healthy weights aim to increase equity of health outcomes for all children. Actions to commission community mental health interventions for children and young people directly address this article.

Article 26 — Social Security: Actions focused on improving uptake of benefit entitlements for families, aimed at addressing poverty and inequality, will benefit children living in poverty.

Article 27 — Adequate Standard of Living: Actions to increase housing capacity and prevent homelessness may improve living conditions for families in temporary accommodation or at risk of homelessness. The community cohesion strategy addresses the risk of inadequate support for families moving to new areas.

Article 28 — Right to Education: Actions to strengthen community mental health support and develop inclusive youth and children's work may improve engagement in learning and increase equity of outcomes. Actions to improve secondary school attendance are framed holistically to address wider factors including mental health, food security, and feeling safe.

Article 29 — Goals of Education: Actions to commission community mental health interventions for children, provide young people with more opportunities to achieve youth awards, improve financial literacy, and work in partnership with DWP to establish a Youth Employability Hub to increase visibility of youth employability services. Ongoing work with education colleagues to improve positive destinations post-school through dedicated pathways. Delivery of training for youth and children's work staff to support safe, engaging, and quality provision.

Article 31 — Leisure, Play and Culture: Co-ordinate the development and delivery of an Edinburgh Play Strategy that increases equitable access to informal learning, play, leisure, and culture opportunities for children and young people.

Article 35 — Abduction, Sale and Trafficking: Actions will be developed by partners to better understand and respond to exploitation in the city, including child exploitation. The public health approach to exploitation underpins the community safety and justice actions.

Article 40 — Juvenile Justice: Actions to improve community support through provision of voluntary throughcare for people in, and recently involved in, the justice system. Services will be accessible, flexible, and integrated with justice services, delivering improved outcomes for individuals, including young people with justice system experience.

Evidence

Use the text box below to summarise what evidence you have used to inform this IIA. Where possible, include links if the documents are published. Show how you have used your evidence in making your assessment of potential impacts.

Evidence could include the results of any relevant consultation/engagement. If further evidence is required, please note how it will be gathered.

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment: Children and Young People in Edinburgh (June 2025), NHS Lothian Public Health: <https://services.nhslothian.scot/publichealth/wp-content/uploads/sites/105/2025/06/JSNA-Edinburgh-CYP.pdf> — Provides detailed evidence of need and inequality for children and young people in Edinburgh across health, education, poverty, and wellbeing domains. Used throughout to identify which UNCRC articles are most directly engaged and to assess the significance of impacts.

UNICEF UNCRC Summary: https://www.unicef.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/UNCRC_summary-1_1.pdf — Used as the reference framework for identifying relevant articles.

UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2024/1/contents> — Used to ensure the IIA reflects the full legal obligations on public authorities to act compatibly with incorporated UNCRC requirements, not just as best practice guidance.

Scottish Government GIRFEC Framework: The Getting It Right for Every Child approach is rights-based and underpins the Children's Partnership actions.

Please record any mitigating actions for any negative impacts identified, at Section 10 of this template

4 Socio-economic disadvantage impacts

The Council has a duty to consider how it can reduce inequalities of outcome caused by [socio-economic disadvantage](#), when making strategic decisions. However, to support the Council's Business Plan priorities, the Council considers it best practice to consider the potential impact that all relevant proposals may have on people experiencing socio- economic disadvantage and how inequalities of outcome can be reduced.

Consider if your proposal could impact on any of the below groups? Tick all that apply.

| | Negative impact | Positive impact | No impact |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Low income – cannot afford to maintain regular payments such as bills, food, clothing | | ✓ | |
| Low/no wealth – enough money to meet basic living costs and pay bills but have no savings to deal with unexpected spends and no provision for the future | | ✓ | |
| Material deprivation – being unable to access basic goods and services, ie home contents insurance, repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm winter coat | | ✓ | |
| Area deprivation (including communities of interest and communities of place) – where you | | ✓ | |

| | Negative impact | Positive impact | No impact |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------|
| live, where you work, visit or spend a continuous amount of time can all have an impact ie rural areas, accessibility of transport, education and employment impact, people who have experienced homelessness and/or the asylum system, those who share an identity and/or protected characteristic | | | |
| Socio-economic background – disadvantage that can arise from parents' education, employment and income, social class in other words. | | ✓ | ✓ |

Use the text box below to describe the impacts you have identified on each of the groups above, and how you can reduce inequalities of outcome?

Note: Area deprivation is ticked for both positive impact and negative risk. The NPP model creates an intentional focus on the five most deprived areas. However, more people in Edinburgh live in poverty outside those five areas than within them. Without a robust mechanism for non-designated areas, the refresh risks concentrating partnership resource in ways that do not adequately address dispersed poverty. Mitigating actions are recorded at Section 9.

Low income and low/no wealth

The proportion of people in Edinburgh who are destitute, who had to go without basic essentials such as food, shelter, heat, light, clothing, and toiletries, rose by 15% between 2019 and 2023. Levels of persistent poverty have also risen in the most recent period. Actions within the Community Plan are directly aimed at maximising income, including income maximisation, debt advice, and welfare rights support under the Housing Partnership. Actions to increase benefit uptake are targeted at all groups in receipt of benefits, and those not currently receiving benefits to which they are entitled. Actions to move people from low-income to fair, sustainable work, and to support employers to deliver fair work practices, directly address low income and wealth building.

Material deprivation

Actions to develop a digital inclusion network aim to improve service visibility and uptake of support services, developing skills, knowledge, confidence, and access to resources. Actions to improve accessibility to childcare and income maximisation services provide direct support to families experiencing material deprivation. Actions to improve community provision through Community Centres, adapting programmes to meet local need, provide affordable access to social connection, learning, and leisure for those who could not otherwise afford it.

Area deprivation

Local Neighbourhood Prevention Partnerships (NPPs) are to be established in five areas representing a significant proportion of the city's most deprived citizens: Wester Hailes, Restalrig, Liberton, Craigmillar, and Pilton. A Lead Coordinator, Partnership Group, and workplan will be implemented in each area, with an associated Locality Plan addressing

Place and Wellbeing Outcomes. These areas share challenges of poverty, health, educational, and economic participation outcomes, while also having varying demographics and community assets, providing a useful starting point for developing a city-wide approach to prevention.

Engagement sessions raised concerns about how areas of the city outside the five NPP areas, whose residents may also be significantly impacted by poverty and deprivation, will be supported. In response, there is a specific action to develop mechanisms to support non-NPP areas to develop locality plans if they wish, and to scope options for a single landing page to collate existing resources of support: physical hubs, community anchors, and online resources. The Place Partnership standing item mechanism will provide a route for communities out-with designated areas to engage with Edinburgh Partnership priorities.

Socio-economic background

People with lower literacy and numeracy levels may benefit from actions under the Local Employability Partnership (LEP) and Community Learning and Development (CLD) Partnership to increase upskilling and training opportunities. Actions on financial literacy as well as actions to increase community support for those transitioning from care and the justice system may benefit young people at greater risk of exploitation. The Edinburgh Fair Work Charter supports employers to provide fair, well-paid, and secure employment, addressing the intergenerational transmission of socio-economic disadvantage.

Evidence

Use the text box below to summarise what evidence you have used to inform this IIA. Where possible, include links if the documents are published. Show how you have used your evidence in making your assessment of potential impacts.

Evidence could include the results of any relevant consultation/engagement. If further evidence is required, please note how it will be gathered.

[LOIP Annual Report and Poverty Report 2024/25](#): Demonstrates that the experience of poverty in Edinburgh has become more severe and more complex for many people. The proportion of people who are destitute rose by 15% between 2019 and 2023. Levels of persistent poverty have risen in the most recent period. Used directly to strengthen the case for the Community Plan's focus on income maximisation and preventative action.

[Edinburgh Fair Work Charter](#): Provides the framework for actions on fair work practices in the Community Plan. Used to connect Priority 2 actions to the Fairer Scotland Duty on reducing socio-economic disadvantage through employment quality.

[Fairer Scotland Duty guidance](#): Used to confirm that the Community Plan refresh is a strategic decision to which the Duty applies, and to structure the written assessment accordingly.

Review of Welfare Rights and Debt Advice in Edinburgh; SIMD 2020; Edinburgh Poverty Commission 2025 Calls to Action; Child Poverty statistics: Used together to establish the geographic and population distribution of socio-economic disadvantage in Edinburgh, including the critical finding that dispersed poverty affects more people than concentrated poverty in the five NPP areas.

Please record any mitigating actions for any negative impacts identified, at Section 10 of this template.

5 Climate and nature impacts

The Council has a [duty](#) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, adapt to the impacts of climate change, incorporate the principles of sustainability into decisions and actions, and ensure a just transition (just transition only applies to climate mitigation or adaption projects).

Consider if your proposal could impact on any of the below? Tick all that apply.

| | Negative impact | Positive impact | No impact |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Climate Mitigation - opportunities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions | | ✓ | ✓ |
| Climate Adaptation - opportunities to prepare for future changes in our climate | | ✓ | ✓ |
| Just Transition – opportunities to ensure a fair shift to a low carbon economy that doesn't disadvantage people or increase inequality | | ✓ | |
| Nature Recovery Impacts | | ✓ | ✓ |
| Overall Sustainability | | ✓ | ✓ |

Use the text box below to describe the impacts you have identified on each of the sections above and then consider how you can reduce greenhouse gas emissions, adapt to the impacts of climate change, incorporate the principles of sustainability into decisions and actions, and ensure a just transition. Also consider any cumulative effects of climate change on people.

Climate Mitigation and Adaptation

The refresh does not itself generate greenhouse gas emissions. Relevant actions with climate mitigation and adaptation benefits include: design of interventions to mitigate flooding; delivery of heritage adaptation and energy retrofit pilots to test innovative approaches to adapting World Heritage Site buildings and infrastructure; and use of the Climate View Platform to move to a dynamic monitoring system for tracking delivery of actions against the breakdown of city emissions. Increasing opportunities to access fair, well-paid jobs and training, and decreasing household expenditure on transport to those jobs by improving specific public transport services, also contributes to emissions reduction.

Just Transition

The refresh specifically includes a just transition action: taking a strategic approach to the retrofit of social housing, supporting a move towards net zero that directly benefits the most economically disadvantaged residents by reducing fuel poverty. Developing a business case for an integrated regional transport network to enhance connectivity by sustainable modes of transport will improve access to employment for those currently excluded by

transport costs. Cumulative effects of climate change on people in poverty, including increased fuel poverty, flooding risk in deprived areas, and health impacts from heat and air quality, are disproportionate. The Community Plan's just transition actions are designed to ensure that the shift to a low carbon economy does not further disadvantage those already facing the greatest hardship.

Nature Recovery

Actions to restore the Burdiehouse Burn Valley Park wetland and to establish a new Source to Ocean Action Recovery (SOAR) working group to provide city-wide leadership on ocean recovery, identifying opportunities for ocean literacy, coastal adaptation, and habitat restoration, directly address nature recovery. A coastal change adaptation plan is being developed. These actions also provide community benefits through improved green and blue spaces accessible to deprived communities.

Overall Sustainability

Working in partnership to develop and present for approval a Good Food Nation Plan in accordance with the Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022 contributes to food system sustainability. Developing a map of climate-related volunteering opportunities encourages awareness-raising and community participation in climate and nature action. These actions connect the social and environmental dimensions, recognising that sustainability outcomes are most equitable when communities most affected by inequality are actively involved.

Use the text box below to describe the impacts you have identified on nature.

Actions aimed at reducing damaging emissions: Measures to improve and integrate public transport and make it more accessible, with a view to decreasing private car use. Use of the Climate View Platform to move to a dynamic monitoring system for tracking delivery of actions against the breakdown of city emissions.

Actions to restore areas where nature has been damaged: Restoration of the Burdiehouse Burn Valley Park wetland. Development of a coastal change adaptation plan.

Actions to raise awareness and improve opportunities for restorative impact: Develop a map of volunteering opportunities relevant to climate and nature. SOAR working group to increase ocean literacy and identify coastal adaptation and habitat restoration opportunities.

Evidence

Use the text box below to summarise what evidence you have used to inform this IIA. Where possible, include links if the documents are published. Show how you have used your evidence in making your assessment of potential impacts.

Evidence could include the results of any relevant consultation/engagement. If further evidence is required, please note how it will be gathered.

Edinburgh 2030 Climate Strategy: <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/climatechange>; **The City Plan 2030; The City Housing Strategy; The City Mobility Plan and City Centre Transformation Strategy; Edinburgh Strategic Sustainable Transport Study; Net**

Zero Edinburgh Leadership Board reporting; Edinburgh Nature Emergency Declaration 2023: <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/news/article/13571/council-declares-nature-emergency>

These documents were reviewed to identify specific actions with climate and nature implications and to confirm that the strategic direction of the refresh is consistent with the Council's environmental obligations. The refresh as a planning document does not itself generate significant environmental impacts; however, individual actions relating to housing retrofit, transport, and nature recovery will be subject to appropriate environmental assessment through their delivery processes.

Please record any mitigating actions for any negative impacts identified, at Section 9 of this template

6 Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA)

Could your proposal result in significant environmental effects? If yes, you may need to complete a Strategic Environment Assessment? Information is available on the [Scottish Government SEA website](#).

| | |
|-----|----|
| Yes | No |
|-----|----|

7 Consumer Duty

The Council has a duty to consider consumers' interests when making strategic decisions. If this applies to your proposal, you may need to complete a [consumer duty impact assessment](#). Information is available on the [Consumer Scotland website](#).

| | |
|-----|----|
| Yes | No |
|-----|----|

8 Communications

Record how you will communicate information about this proposal change to those with different communication needs using [inclusive communications guidance and resources](#).

The refreshed Local Outcomes Improvement Plan 2018–2028 will be made available through all partner websites and distributed via local press and community channels.

Accessibility: All documents will be accessibility-checked in Word to highlight and address accessibility issues. Any images, charts, and tables will be provided with alt text. A summary document of the Plan will also be created. Plain English will be used as much as possible throughout, and a glossary will be included to explain terms without acronyms.

Language and format: Community-facing materials will be developed in partnership with anchor organisations and in community languages relevant to Edinburgh's population.

Digital access cannot be assumed: communications will include non-digital routes, particularly for communities in NPP areas where digital exclusion is higher.

Children and young people: Age-appropriate communications will be developed for children and young people in line with UNCRC Article 12 rights to be heard and to receive information in an accessible format.

The Partnership is committed to the National Standards for Community Engagement. Communities most affected by poverty and inequality should shape our work, not just receive it. We will develop a Communications and Engagement Plan outlining how Partners and community can be involved in the implementation and monitoring of this refresh.

A Communications and Engagement Plan will also be prepared to for the development of the next Community Plan.

Finally, a Participation Strategy will be codesigned to agree how Partners and community members will be involved in the Edinburgh Partnership and the decisions it makes on an ongoing basis moving forward.

9 Contractors

Is any part of this proposal to be carried out wholly or partly by contractors and if so, how will equality, human rights, children's rights and climate and nature issues be addressed?

The Community Plan is delivered through a partnership of statutory and third sector organisations. The third sector plays a significant delivery role across multiple actions, particularly in relation to community engagement, income maximisation, youth services, and exploitation response.

Partner organisations and third sector providers are not contractors in a procurement sense but share delivery responsibility. Edinburgh Partnership members are required to ensure that equality, human rights including children's rights, and sustainability requirements are embedded in how actions are delivered, regardless of which organisation leads.

Where external contractors are engaged by any partner in delivering actions, the Council's terms and conditions of contract require compliance with equal opportunities and the public sector equality duty, and contractors must assist in achieving sustainability commitments in line with the Council's Sustainable Procurement Policy.

10 Actions

Record your actions in the table below. Actions may include:

- mitigations to reduce or eliminate negative impacts
- advancing equality of opportunity and fostering good relations
- addressing cumulative impacts

- collecting additional evidence
- financial implications
- risks
- any other actions.

| Actions | Who will take them forward (name and job title) | Deadline for progressing | Review date (add name and job title) |
|---|--|---------------------------------|--|
| Codesign an Edinburgh Partnership Participation Strategy, including details mechanisms for NPP areas and those communities out-with these designated areas. Ensure the strategy specifically addresses how communities with barriers to engagement (including language, digital exclusion, insecure immigration status, and distrust of statutory services) will be reached and can be involved in the Edinburgh Partnership. | Community Planning Support Team (CPST)/Place Partnership | In progress | September 2026 (Sarah Finnegan Strategy Manager) |
| Develop clear community-facing materials explaining the Place Partnership standing item route for communities out-with the five NPP areas. Materials to be in plain language, free of acronyms, and available in community languages relevant to Edinburgh's population. | CPST/Place Partnership | June 2026 | September 2026 (Sarah Finnegan Strategy Manager) |
| Complete disaggregated equality data analysis for the five NPP areas to inform Locality Plan development, including data on protected characteristics. Use findings to ensure Locality Plans address differential impacts on specific groups within each area. | Place Partnership/ Data and Intelligence Working Group | June 2026 | December 2026 (Sarah Finnegan Strategy Manager) |

| | | | |
|--|-------------------|-------------|---|
| Ensure the Community Plan performance measurement framework includes disaggregated outcome data for protected characteristic groups where data is available. Review data gaps annually and develop a plan to address them through improved data collection. | CPST | In progress | September 2026 (Sarah Finnegan Strategy Manager) |
| Work in partnership to develop a joint Edinburgh Partnership Community Cohesion Strategy, including a joint definition, mapping of current challenges, good practice, prevention-led approaches, and mitigation protocols. Specifically address the risk of community division arising from differential housing standards and inadequate transition support when people move housing. | CSJP | | Edinburgh Partnership Board |
| Develop mechanisms to hold within the Edinburgh Partnership any locality plans for communities out-with the five NPP areas, who want to develop their own plans. | Place Partnership | In-progress | September 2026 (Sarah Finnegan Strategy Manager) |

11 Monitoring impact

Monitoring ensures that your proposal is effective and any issues are addressed.

Record your actions in the table below. Actions may include:

- how impacts on protected characteristics will be monitored, once the proposal has been introduced and implemented
- how IIA agreed actions will be monitored
- review process and timescales
- officer responsible.

| Actions to monitor impact of proposal | Who will take them forward (name and job title) | Deadline for progressing | Review date (add name and job title) |
|---|--|---------------------------------|--|
| Each Strategic Partnership to produce quarterly progress reports using agreed progress indicators and impact/change indicators, including disaggregated data for protected characteristic groups where available. | Strategic Partnership Lead/Chairs | In progress | Julie Dickson (Policy and Insight Officer – quarterly) |
| Edinburgh Partnership Board to produce annual Community Plan progress report evidencing against outcomes, incorporating CPOP indicators disaggregated by geography and protected characteristic. | | | Sarah Finnegan (Strategy Manager June 2027) |
| Monitor the Place Partnership standing item mechanism to track engagement and response for communities outwith the five NPP areas, including recording of issues raised and partnership responses. | Place Partnership Secretariat (TBC) | | Crawford McGhie and Yvonne Kerr (Place Partnership Chair and Vice-Chair) |
| Annual review of this IIA in line with Community Plan performance reporting cycles, to check continued relevance and update evidence base as new data becomes available. Review to include consideration of any new equality, human rights, or environmental obligations. | CPST | | Sarah Finnegan (Strategy Manager June 2027) |
| Monitor delivery of IIA recommended actions (Section 9) and report progress to Edinburgh Partnership Board as part of the annual reporting cycle. | | | Sarah Finnegan (Strategy Manager June 2027) |

12 Next steps

Elected members must have access to IIAs in order to scrutinise them before making decisions. You must:

- share the IIA with them (this can be at draft stage for an APM meeting)

- complete the [committee report](#) with:
 - a summary of the identified impacts at section 7 of the committee report template: key policies
 - actions to address them at section 5 of the committee report template: next steps
- provide a link to the published IIA or attach as an appendix.

13 Quality assurance and approval

Complete the quality assurance checklist.

Send the quality assurance checklist and your completed IIA to your Head of Service for approval.

14 Authorisation

| |
|-----------------------|
| Name and title |
| Edinburgh Partnership |
| Date |
| June 2026 |

15 Publication

Send the approved IIA template to the relevant contact for publication. Ensure the title of the IIA is clear and concise, without acronyms and the content, layout and language style is [inclusive and accessible](#).

The City of Edinburgh Council:

- integratedimpactassessments@edinburgh.gov.uk to be published on the [Council website](#)

Edinburgh Integration Joint Board/Health and Social Care:

- sarah.bryson@edinburgh.gov.uk to be published on the [EH&SCP website](#)

Keep a copy of your template for a period of at least three years (longer if needed for business reasons).

Item 7a: Community Plan refresh

Appendix C: Community Voice

The original 2018-2028 Edinburgh Community Plan was developed through research by Public Health and engagement with partners and communities, including targeted work with groups whose voices are often underrepresented. That engagement shaped our vision and three core priorities (Enough money to live on, Access to work, learning and training opportunities and A good place to live), which remain at the core of this plan.

Acknowledging that no one organisation can represent ‘the voice’ of all, we have outlined below the ways in which we gathered community voice for this refresh. As we are updating (refreshing) the current plan, rather than developing a brand-new plan, formal consultation was not required. However, the EP is committed to meaningful engagement. The updated actions in this plan have been developed with more than 40 organisations and informed by a review of data, evidence and recent engagement activity by partners and incorporates the voices of people with lived experience of poverty and inequality.

As ever, and in line with best practice, we were keen to learn from engagement undertaken by partners to avoid duplication and participation fatigue. This is especially important as we will be undertaking robust community engagement and consultation later this year and in 2027 to support the development of the new Community Plan, Locality Plans and a Participation Strategy for the EP. The development of actions for this refresh has involved community voice as follows:

Children’s Partnership:

As part of the development of the Children's Services Plan 2026-29, a robust consultation process was followed which included consultation with children and young people. Ten groups of children, young people and families from a diverse range of ages and backgrounds were approached to give their priorities for the plan and feedback was analysed to pull out themes. These have been included as actions within the Children’s Services Plan, with core actions also incorporated in the Community Plan refresh. In addition, the Childcare Short-life Working Group actions, which will be led by the Children’s Partnership have been developed through engagement with partner organisations supporting families, people working across and leading change within, the childcare sector (including early years, private and parent led settings, childminding and school age provision), and direct engagement with families.

Community Safety and Justice Partnership (CSJP):

The Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan (CJOIP)’s priority themes align with the National Strategy for Community Justice and activity undertaken is informed by regular feedback obtained through ongoing, direct engagement with people who use justice services. Entry and exit questionnaires and peer mentoring including peer led groups, ensure that the voices of lived experience of the justice system are incorporated into service delivery and design. Key activities from the CJOIP requiring partnership delivery have been included this refresh. Additional actions were informed by recommendations of an internal working group, (hate crime), a data and policy review and insights from across the partnership (community cohesion, exploitation) and the positive impact and feedback from colleagues and youth on the ongoing work around bonfire night.

Edinburgh Community Learning and Development Partnership (ECLDP):

Priorities incorporated into the ECLD Partnership Plan were informed by Community Centre Management Committee engagement, Adult Learners Forum engagement on

opportunities for learning, and Youth Work engagement undertaken by City of Edinburgh Council in 2024 and 2025, with further engagement with youth planned for the mid-point of the plan. This work, alongside the workshop led by LAYC (below) has informed the ECLDP actions within the LOIP refresh.

Housing Partnership:

Actions led by the Housing Partnership are informed (or shaped) by interactions with the public that the organisations that participate in this group represent. Actions are also based on significant research and strategies, including the Housing Emergency Action Plan.

The Child Poverty Accelerator Fund is supporting two projects embedded into this refresh. The first focusses on child maintenance: Recent research undertaken by the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) identifies that if child maintenance was paid to all children currently not receiving what they are entitled to, 210,000 children would be lifted out of poverty across the UK, including 20,000 in Scotland. ([IPPR, 2025](#)). Expanding on the pilot project led by Fife Gingerbread this project will be supported by a parent panel, providing ongoing expertise based on their lived experience, in addition the working group incorporates partner organisations providing direct support to parents. The second focuses on benefits take up among minority ethnic communities, a need identified through a combination of input from End Poverty Edinburgh (who have talked about the kinds of communication and engagement which do and don't work) and research evidence of unmet need.

An action around food need in temporary accommodation is the result of gaps observed by Edinburgh Food Project from people in temporary accommodation.

Local Employability Partnership (LEP):

The LEP has measures in place to ensure that lived experience is captured by partners and informs agreed actions, including those in the refreshed Community Plan. For example, Capital City Partnership, which leads the LEP, works with a group of low income, ethnically diverse people to inform service design. Recognising that there's always room for improvement, the LEP has a working group focused on lived experience at present.

Net Zero Edinburgh Leadership Board (NZELB): Some actions are statutory requirements (e.g. the Good Food Nation Plan), others were informed by research, engagement and consultation undertaken by individual Partners e.g. the volunteer map action, Restore the Burn, the development of an integrated regional transport network, the Coastal Change Adaptation Plan and heritage adaptation and energy retrofit pilots.

Place Partnership:

Actions to establish a Living Well Locally approach, including developing Neighbourhood Prevention Partnerships (NPPs) with 5 communities across the city were informed by engagement with partners and communities in 2024/25 for the Transformation and Improvement Program. It tested recommendations to develop this new approach to community planning at a local level with stakeholders between June and October 2024. Over 200 participants took part including those from Strategic Partnerships, Local Community Planning Partnerships, city wide and local voluntary sector organisations, Edinburgh Association of Community Councils, community councils, Edinburgh Tenants Federation, and neighbourhood networks. Elected members were invited to all the locally based sessions and provided with separate briefings as requested. Feedback supported a

shift towards targeted place-based working and more community and voluntary sector engagement in service design and delivery, building on existing local networks to ensure a wide variety of community voices are heard and involved in codesign. This encapsulates the ethos of the Neighbourhood Prevention Partnerships (NPPs). The Edinburgh Poverty Commission's interim report, codesigned with people experiencing low income and poverty, also recommended this approach be progressed.

In addition, in February 2026, the Third Sector Interface (TSI) and The Equality and Rights Network (EaRN) sought views from 30 community organisations through roundtable discussions, exploring how well the proposed actions align with community needs, what is missing, the risks of adverse effects (informing our updated Integrated Impact Assessment, IIA), and what impact participants would like to see.

Members of the Lothian Association of Youth Club's (LAYC) Youth Work Manager's Forum, representing 15 youthwork organisations, undertook a similar exercise, also in February 2026, focused on actions related to youth and children's work.

Edinburgh Partnership Board members participated in a workshop in March 2026 to identify gaps, flag actions of relevance to their organisations, and highlight where they would want to be involved.

Lastly, the people that lead the seven thematic partnerships within the Edinburgh Partnership met with the Edinburgh Poverty Commission in April 2026 to review their findings and recommendations as they relate to the Community Plan and to agree where these are incorporated into actions for this refresh, and/or the new Community Plan from 2028 onward.



Edinburgh Partnership Data and Intelligence Update, June 2026

1. Executive Summary

1.1 This paper provides an update on the current and proposed work of the Edinburgh Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Data and Intelligence Working Group (DIWG), including proposed work to inform the new Edinburgh Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP 2028-38).

2. Recommendations

2.1 The Board is recommended to:

2.1.1 Note the local data and intelligence currently available on the [Edinburgh Partnership Data and Intelligence Pages](#)

2.1.2 Note examples of the recently completed and ongoing work of the DIWG.

2.1.3 Agree the proposed timeline, whereby ongoing data and intelligence work on Employment and Health and Community Safety and Justice is completed prior to exploration of further work required to support the new LOIP 2028-38.

3. Main Report

3.1 Background information in relation to data and intelligence work for the Edinburgh CPP was provided to the Edinburgh Partnership Board (EPB) meeting in [Item 5.2 of the March 2025 EPB meeting papers](#).

3.2 Over the past year the DIWG has continued to meet quarterly. The proposed [Edinburgh Partnership Data and Intelligence Pages](#) were published, and the first annual review of these pages was recently completed, with updates planned by the end of June 2026.

3.3 The information collated within the Data and Intelligence pages was used to provide the overview of population needs that informed the LOIP refresh for 2026-26, as well as having been used to provide background information to inform the re-establishment of the Community Safety and Justice Partnership.

3.4 The previously conducted Child and Young People's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) has directly informed the new Edinburgh Children's Services Plan 2026-2029, as well as indirectly informing the development of the next phase of Edinburgh's Connected Communities Grant Programme.

3.5 A partnership JSNA on Employment and Health (in response to a recommendation from one of the Local Employability Partnership (LEP) summits,



THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

as well as to commitment employment and health cities within the EHSCP Strategic Plan) is near completion.

- 3.6 Partnership work has begun to scope a JSNA on Community Safety and Justice (CSJ), with a further workshop scheduled for 8th June. This will explore what additional data and intelligence is required in order to deliver the CSJ actions committed to within the LOIP refresh, as well as to inform the development of a broader Community Safety / Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy.
- 3.7 Members of the DIWG have also been supporting the development of the Neighbourhood Prevention Partnership evaluation plan, as well as linking with national work being led by Public Health Scotland in relation to the development of a Core Data Set and related guidance to further support JSNA and wider data and intelligence work within local CPPs.
- 3.8 The DIWG is also committed to support the development of the new LOIP 2028-38. It is proposed that a workshop is held in late summer / early autumn, once findings and recommendations from the Employment and Health and Community Safety and Justice JSNAs are available. Findings from the three recent partnership JSNAs, will be brought together with other recent EHSCP JSNA findings, as well as with the data and intelligence work that has already been carried out to inform other Partnership workplans for Housing, Community Learning and Development and Net Zero Partnerships, including findings from community participation work. This will allow exploration of what additional data and intelligence work, including further community participation, is required in order to inform the new LOIP.

4. Contact

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