

The Edinburgh Community Plan 2018-2028: June 2026 Refresh

The Edinburgh Partnership's Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP)

Our vision

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

Why this plan matters

Edinburgh is a successful city – but not everyone benefits equally:

1. 1 in 5 children are growing up in poverty
2. Some areas have much poorer health than others, with life expectancy differing by **over 20 years depending on where you live**
3. Rising living costs (housing, energy, food) are affecting more households than ever

The plan explains how **40+ organisations** across the city will work **together** to reduce poverty and inequality across Edinburgh, so that people have:

1. **Enough money to live on**
2. **Access to work, learning and training**
3. **A good place to live**



THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

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

530K people live in Edinburgh...

89,000

people, including 18,000 children living in poverty in Edinburgh

21 years

difference in the life expectancy between the richest and most deprived parts of the city

1 in 3

Edinburgh households in poverty are in that situation because of high housing costs

61%

of people living in poverty in Edinburgh are in a household where someone is working

4,802

Families living in temporary accommodation, including 3,640 children (September 2025)

+15%

More people going without food, heating or a safe place to sleep since 2019

Who we are

The Edinburgh Partnership

Over 40 organisations working together including: City of Edinburgh Council, NHS Lothian, Police Scotland, voluntary and community organisations, and businesses and education providers.



Our purpose

To make sure that people who face the greatest disadvantage have the same chances in life as everyone else, and to reduce people's need for crisis support.



Our approach

To focus on a small number of high-impact priorities and tackle the root causes of poverty and inequality – primarily by acting early, before problems get worse.



Our plan

Sets out what we can only achieve by working together – actions that go beyond what any single organisations can do alone, and that require genuine partnership.

Three areas where we act together

Set with communities and partners in 2017-28. Updated data confirms these remain the right focus.

1



Enough money to live on

Helping people maximise their income and tackling the causes of financial hardship – including high housing costs that push people into poverty.

2



Access to work, learning and training

Giving people – especially those who face the biggest barriers the support they need to find good work, gain skills and build a stable future.

3



A good place to live

Making sure people can access affordable, safe homes and neighbourhoods, and find the right help close to where they live.

Enough money to live on



What we know

- 89,000 people — including 18,000 children — are living in poverty in Edinburgh
- Edinburgh is the least affordable city in Scotland to buy a home — average prices are around seven times average wages
- 1 in 3 households in poverty are there because of high housing costs
- Having a job is not enough — 61% of people in poverty live in a household where someone is working
- 15,000 people in work still need Universal Credit to top up their wages
- More people are going without food, heating or shelter — this has risen 15% since 2019

What we will do

- Make sure people get the same high-quality money and benefits advice wherever they are in Edinburgh
- Build more homes — aiming for 52,000 by 2035, including 36,000 that are genuinely affordable
- Train staff across the city to spot and prevent homelessness early
- Make it easier for families to find and afford childcare
- Help single parents understand and claim child maintenance payments they are entitled to
- Teach children and young people about money and finances through schools and community groups



Access to work, learning and training

The barriers people face

- People from Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities are far less likely to be in secure, well-paid work
- Poverty rates reach 50% for people from Mixed, Black or Black British backgrounds
- Only 31% of people in the most deprived areas have a degree — compared to 65% elsewhere in the city
- African workers in Edinburgh are nearly three times more likely to be on a temporary contract than white workers
- Young people leaving care are less likely to be in a job, training or education when they leave school
- People dealing with homelessness, ill health or involvement in the justice system often can't get the help they need

What we will do

- Help more people get online and build digital skills, starting with those who need it most
- Create a one-stop hub for young people to find jobs and training — with extra support for young people leaving care
- Connect mental health support with employment services so health problems don't put work out of reach
- Expand English language and employment classes for people who have recently moved to Edinburgh
- Create clearer routes into good jobs for people from Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities
- Work with employers to promote fair pay, secure contracts and good working conditions
- Support people leaving prison to find stable work and stay out of the justice system



A good place to live

What the data tells us

- Women in the most deprived parts of Edinburgh live 9 years less than those in the wealthiest areas — for men, it's 12 years
- More than 1 in 4 people in the most deprived areas struggle with low wellbeing — compared to 1 in 10 elsewhere
- Only half of people in the most deprived areas feel safe walking home after dark
- Just 68% are satisfied with their neighbourhood — compared to 95% in the least deprived areas
- The effects of climate change fall hardest on people who are already struggling
- We now have five local partnership areas focused on neighbourhoods with the highest levels of child poverty

What we will do

- Work with residents in the five priority neighbourhoods to design local action plans based on what communities say they need
- Develop a shared plan to strengthen community relations and prevent tensions from escalating
- Create clear routes to stable housing for people leaving prison
- Deliver on our climate commitments — making homes more energy efficient, improving transport and protecting against flooding
- Make sure local economic opportunities benefit the people who live in each area
- Develop a citywide strategy so all children have access to play, leisure and creative activities
- Take a joined-up approach to community safety, hate crime and exploitation

Acting early, not just reacting

Every action in this plan is categorised by how early we are stepping in. This helps communities see where our shared effort is going.

Prevention

Stop problems before they start

Example: building more affordable homes

Early intervention (Act early)

Help people as soon as difficulties arise to stop it getting worse and avoid crisis.

Example: community mental health support

Mitigation (Manage)

Help when things are hard to make sure people get the best possible help.

Example: tackling hate crime

Targeted action: focusing help where it's needed most

Joined up services: making support easier to access

How we know we are making a difference

Communities told us clearly: we need to be better at showing what we have achieved. This plan introduces four-way accountability, reported every three months.

Are we delivering?

We track progress against every action in the plan. Reports go to the Management Group and Edinburgh Partnership Board every three months. Progress will be shared publicly so you can see what's changing.



Are people's lives improving?

We measure the real difference our work makes — to people's incomes, health, safety and how they feel about where they live.



How does Edinburgh compare?

We track city-wide measures like child poverty, crime rates and life expectancy against Scottish averages. Results are published on our website.



What do communities say?

For work that is harder to measure in numbers — like building trust or changing a neighbourhood feel — we collect stories and feedback.



What happens next

This refresh runs until 2028, but work is already underway on the next plan. What we are holding in view for the next plan:



Homelessness

Over 4,800 families in temporary accommodation – the scale of the crisis goes beyond this plan.



Children's and school readiness

Too many children are starting school without the foundations they need to thrive.



Community relations

Growing pressures in our city and beyond mean we need a stronger focus on bringing communities together.



Exploitation

Children and adults being exploited need better-coordinated protection across all partners.



Alcohol and drugs harms

The links between addiction, poverty and homelessness need a fuller, more joined-up response.



Young people's mental health

The scale of the challenge means this must be a central part of the next Community Plan.



Cost of living

Financial pressures on households continue to change – we will adapt our response as they do.



Climate change

Making sure the move to a greener economy does not leave behind those who are already struggling.

Stay informed

Information about progress on this plan and getting involved in shaping the future can be found on the [Edinburgh Partnership website](#).

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.