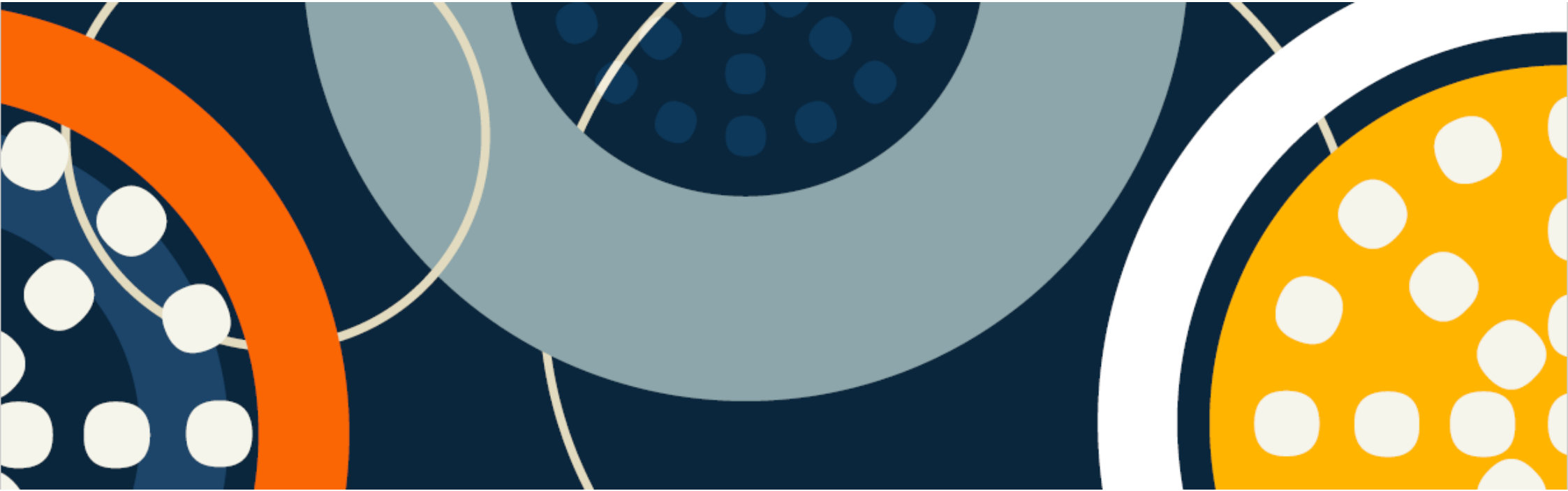


End Poverty in Edinburgh Annual Progress Report

2023



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Foreword

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

Building on the framework for action set by the Edinburgh Poverty Commission, this is the third annual report on how city partners are going about meeting that target, the progress made so far, and the challenges ahead.

We are proud of all the hard work that has gone on this year to help families through some of the most difficult circumstances imaginable for household budgets.

As city partners we have taken steps to help put more money directly into the pockets of people who need it most – delivering £20m of financial gains for people using the city’s money and welfare advice services.

We have helped people maximise their earnings from employment, by supporting 4,150 people into work or learning, and encouraging another above target uplift in the number of real living wage accredited businesses in this city.

We have built new social rented homes, helped people stay out of homelessness, seen a narrowing of our poverty related attainment gap, and worked hard to find new and innovative ways to use our resources to help people on low incomes in this city keep their heads above water during the ongoing cost of living crisis.

While doing all this, we are also building the foundations for longer term prevention of poverty, embedding Community Wealth Building principles in

our ways of working, and delivering transformation plans for integrated services that help individuals and families in Edinburgh find the help they need to prevent and alleviate the impacts of poverty on their lives.

These actions described in this report are the right things for us to do, and as the data and case studies included here demonstrate, they represent real progress and real improvements to the lives of people who are struggling to get by in this city. We are proud of those improvements, but we know that they come at a time when the risk of severe poverty in Edinburgh is rising, and when one in five children still grow up in poverty in Scotland’s most affluent city.

We have shown in the last three years that when we come together as a city, we can make a real difference for the people of Edinburgh. And we are committed to carrying on that work and continuing that path of improvement through the priority actions set out in this report. We hope that you will work with us to help deliver our vision of a city where no one’s life needs to be scarred by the experience of long-term poverty.

Councillor Cammy Day Council Leader, City of Edinburgh Council & Chair, Edinburgh Partnership	Dona Milne Director of Public Health and Health Policy NHS Lothian
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Executive Summary

This is the third annual report on the citywide response to the calls to action presented by the Edinburgh Poverty Commission in 2020. It provides an overview of progress made and a refreshed framework for continued work by the City of Edinburgh Council, NHS Lothian, and Edinburgh Partnership to meet the challenge set by the Commission to 'end poverty in Edinburgh', including a specific focus on child poverty actions.

In doing so, this report fulfils statutory requirements for the Council and NHS Lothian to co-produce an annual Local Child Poverty Action Report setting out partners' contributions towards meeting Scottish Government Child poverty targets.

Poverty in Edinburgh

The latest available data shows that an estimated **17% of people in Edinburgh were living in poverty in the period to 2022, including 20% of all children**. In line with national patterns these data indicate that poverty rates have remained relatively unchanged in recent years, despite the impact of the pandemic and the early months of the cost of living crisis in 2022.

Within these high level averages, analysis carried out by partners in 2023 has further deepened understanding of the higher risk of poverty among women, families with children, minority ethnic groups, and disabled families in the city. Poverty rates for some of these priority groups during 2022 were more than double the average for citizens as a whole.

Analysis provided in this report also demonstrates a long-term trend of increasing risk of very deep poverty across Scotland. Within Edinburgh these trends are demonstrated by evidence showing that some 10,000 Edinburgh families regularly skipped meals because they could not afford enough food during 2022, alongside evidence of a 50% year on year increase in clients seeking support for rent arrears through Citizens Advice Scotland.

Looking ahead, most analyses project a complex future outlook for poverty trends in the UK. On balance of risks, most estimates suggest that living standards and incomes across the UK are likely to decline during the period to 2024/25, with a likely upward pressure on headline poverty rates.

Actions to end poverty in Edinburgh

For the city to meet the headline 2030 targets set by the Edinburgh Poverty Commission and by Scottish Government will need:

- **All age poverty rates in Edinburgh to fall by 7 percentage points by 2030, and**
- **Child poverty rates to fall by 10 percentage points.**
- **This means lifting almost 36,000 people, including 8,900 children out of poverty over the next eight years.**

In the current context these are extremely challenging targets but, as the analysis in this report demonstrates, the experience and evidence from recent years shows that significant progress can be made on these metrics through effective and well targeted public policy interventions.

The Edinburgh Poverty Commission noted that, although city partners have many levers they can use to alleviate and prevent poverty in Edinburgh, the targets set for the city cannot be met without significant national policy intervention.

Towards this, the report reiterates calls for action by the commission, and a range of other partners for:

- The UK Government to take the steps needed to ensure that UK-wide social security systems provide an effective lifeline for people who are struggling to get by, and
- The Scottish Government to provide sufficient local funding to support delivery of new affordable and social rented homes in Edinburgh.

At the city level, partners in Edinburgh are committed to a refreshed framework of actions designed to respond to all the calls to action from the Edinburgh Poverty Commission. Built around four themes of work, this framework has informed delivery this year, and will continue to guide priorities for partnership working through the next few years:

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

This includes actions this year that have:

- Promoted the real Living Wage, with the number of accredited employers in the city rising to **677**, a rate of increase well ahead of annual targets with **390 workers supported to a pay rise this financial year alone so far**
- Launched plans for a new **Edinburgh Fair Work Charter**
- Supported **4,150 people into work and learning, including over 900 young people** through Council funded employability programmes
- Delivered a new focus on priority groups through employability support, including **25 new projects supported through the parental employment fund**
- Recorded an improvement in positive destinations from schools and a reduction in the **poverty related attainment gap**

- **Maximise support from social safety nets:** This includes actions this year that have:

- Helped low income people in Edinburgh achieve **total financial gains of £20.5m** through money and welfare advice services
- Delivered specialist support programmes targeted at priority family types, with **money advice support embedded** and referred through early years' centres, schools, midwives, health visitors, hospitals, and GP practices across the city
- Increased the number of people supported through **Free School Meal and Uniform Grant** programmes by 61% over the past three years through automation of application processes

- Delivered **£193m** for Edinburgh citizens through locally administered benefits such as housing benefit, DHP, and Council Tax Reduction
- Delivered **£2.1m of Scottish Welfare Fund** crisis payments for people in crisis in Edinburgh, alongside **£300k** of Council support for local foodbanks
- Delivered early intervention support to **prevent 386 households from homelessness** in Edinburgh
- Introduced a new **tenant hardship fund**, alongside wider supports like benefits checks, to support Council tenants who are struggling to pay their rent.

- **Reduce the cost of living:** This includes local actions this year that have:

- **Invested over £119m** in building new affordable homes and improving existing homes and neighbourhoods.
- Delivered **54 new social rented homes** and **148 homes for mid-market rent** through the Council's LLP
- Secured **£206k in savings** for Council tenants through Energy Advice Support
- Provided **subsidised childcare places** for working families in four areas of the city through Edinburgh's Affordable Childcare for Working Parents service

- **Make it easier to find help:** This includes local actions this year to:

- Established a new **Whole Family Support Project** team, and a new **Integrated Front Door Project** for early intervention and prevention
- Delivered place based pilot projects for early intervention and integrated support underway in **Craigmillar, Gorgie/Dalry, Liberton, and Craigroyston**
- Delivered **poverty, income maximisation, and homelessness prevention training** to housing officers, community centre staff, librarians, parent and family support workers, health visitors, police officers, midwives, family nurses and other workers.

End Poverty in Edinburgh Delivery Plan

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

Increase income from work and opportunity to progress

Maximise support from social safety nets

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

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

Reduce the cost of living

Make it easier to find help

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

CASE STUDY: DELIVERING JOINED UP SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES EXPERIENCING POVERTY

Some of the most impactful and transformative end poverty actions delivered in Edinburgh in recent years have been those which focus on building sustained trusted relationships with families who are struggling to get by, provide wraparound support that helps maximise access to social security entitlements, reduce living costs, build wellbeing, and help families plan for the future.

The **Maximise!** service - delivered as a partnership between **CHAI** and **Children 1st** - is one good example of this approach. Funded by the **Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal** and **City of Edinburgh Council**, the service offers a joined-up model of money advice, employability, and family support. Currently, the project works with families whose children attend Early Years Centres in 10 areas of concentrated poverty and deprivation in the city - Craigmillar, Granton, Greendykes, Fort, Moffat, Calderglen, Hailesland, Gilmerton, Sighthill and Stenhouse.

Case studies on clients such as “B” provide a clear example of this approach working in practice and the profound difference it can make for people’s lives.

When B first started receiving support through the Maximise project, she was a lone parent with a 3-year-old son who was being assessed for autism. She had recently separated from an abusive relationship and was socially isolated with a limited support network. B had stopped working when she had her son and she was feeling anxious, alone, and overwhelmed. She was in arrears on her rent, struggling to manage the rising cost of living, and finding it increasingly difficult to cope with her son’s behaviour.

The **Maximise! money advisor** was able to help B make a successful application for Adult Disability Payment – an application that anxiety and poor mental health had previously made it difficult to complete on her own. This provided **a financial gain of £5,291 per year for the family**. Alongside this, the advisor explored other financial support that B could access to help her buy things like a washing machine, a new bed for her son, and some much-needed sensory toys. Through grant applications to organization such Edinburgh Trust and Vocal, B was able to secure **a total of £1,550** for the items she needed.

Alongside financial support, the Maximise! Team also provided **family wellbeing support** to B to help her and her son. This included working with Early Years support teams to help increase the number of childcare hours available as well as practical support around the home, support to attend medical appointments, help to access disability aids both at home and at nursery as well as support to help B better understand her son’s needs and improve her communication with him.

As a result of this support, B started to feel that she was in a much better place and expressed a wish to do something for herself, such as part time work or a course, and to start to think about her own future. Working with the **Maximise! Employability advisor**, B was able apply for and was accepted on a part-time course at Edinburgh College that will help her take first steps towards building a future career.

These days, B describes feeling like she is going back to her ‘old self’ and is finally moving past the trauma she had experienced. She is now able to do things more independently and is less reliant on others for support. She is more financially secure, has a more organized home and has created a safer space for her child to live and play in. She is getting out more, mixing with other parents and planning the future for herself and her son.

Introduction

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

Building on the framework for action set by the [Edinburgh Poverty Commission](#), this is the third annual report on progress towards meeting that challenge. The report sets out:

- An overview of the latest data and evidence on changing trends in poverty in Edinburgh
- A review of actions delivered in 2023 by the Council, NHS Lothian, and the Edinburgh Partnership across each of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission calls to action, as well as
- Planned priority actions for partners during the next 12 months

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



What do we mean when we say 'End Poverty'?

In making its calls to actions, the Edinburgh Poverty Commission noted that:

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

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

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

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

- **Fewer than 10% of children and fewer than 10% of adults are living in relative poverty at any given time**
- **No-one lives in persistent poverty**
- **No one has to go without the basic essentials they need to eat, keep clean and safe, and stay warm and dry, and**
- **No one feels stigmatised, abandoned, or treated with less respect by the city as a result of their income.**

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

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

Strategic context

These local targets and the actions needed to deliver them are embedded throughout the strategic plans and governance frameworks of the Council, the Edinburgh Partnership, and NHS Lothian. This report draws these end

poverty actions together into a single plan, refreshed, and updated every year. In doing so, the report aims to provide a single, comprehensive view of the steps being taken across the city in response to the challenge and calls to action set by the Edinburgh Poverty Commission.



In March 2023 the **City of Edinburgh Council** approved a refreshed [Council Business Plan](#) to guide its work over the period 2023 to 27. This plan reiterated the target to ‘end poverty by 2030’ as one of three headline priorities to drive budget and service decision making. The plan incorporates priority actions to promote fair work, strengthen approaches to prevent poverty and homelessness, improve access to decent homes people can afford to live in, and improve attainment and achievement rates for children who grow up in poverty.

The [Edinburgh Partnership Community Plan for 2022-28](#) drives partnership-wide actions needed to end poverty, including actions to ensure people have enough money to live on, can access work, learning and training opportunities, and have a good place to live.

In 2023 the **Edinburgh Children’s Partnership** developed a new **Edinburgh Children’s Services Plan for 2023-26**, with a refreshed focus on tackling child poverty and ensuring that all of Edinburgh’s children and young people enjoy their childhood and achieve their potential. The plan includes actions to reduce the costs needed for children, young people, and families to fully participate in the city, ensure all services and staff are aware of, and supported to participate in poverty prevention and awareness training, and make sure future service commissioning is informed by a poverty lens and a rights-based approach.

The [NHS Lothian Strategic Development Framework](#) (LSDF) in 2022 sets out the role the NHS plays as an Anchor Institution in the region as being “central to our contribution towards improving population health and wellbeing and tackling poverty and inequalities”. The LSDF also includes a focus on children and young people, and within this a focus on addressing, with specific actions to improve non-medical family support, and access to mental health support for children, young people, and their families.

Governance and Co-ordination

A multi-agency officer working group is responsible for developing, agreeing, and sharing the findings of this report. In doing so, the group, which comprises lead officers from relevant agencies, works to connect and coordinate end poverty actions throughout this planning framework.

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

Before submission to Scottish Government, in line with the requirements of the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act, the report is scrutinised and approved by City of Edinburgh Council, Edinburgh Partnership Board, and NHS Lothian. Key dates in this approval process include:

- City of Edinburgh Council, Policy and Sustainability Committee, 24 October 2023, and
- Edinburgh Partnership Board, 12 December 2023.

Alongside development of this report, the officer working group also leads on:

- Developing and communicating the evidence base on poverty trends across Edinburgh
- Facilitating and strengthening anti-poverty networks across the city, through a programme of monthly learning and networking sessions (Edinburgh Poverty Network – see case study)
- Supporting and participating in national anti-poverty campaigns, such as Challenge Poverty Week
- Working with the Improvement Service and poverty leads in other local authorities to share experience and learn from others on what works to reduce poverty in Scotland, and
- Developing and facilitating cross partner funding bids to Scottish Government and independent funders for additional resources to support the actions set out in this report.

The group also leads and supports ongoing engagement across the city to improve the city's response to poverty related challenges.

In 2023 this included supporting work carried out with the Improvement Service on an analysis to consider how we could best use the resources available in Edinburgh to reduce child poverty in the city.

Based on this analysis the Improvement Services worked with a range of local partners to organise a workshop held in June 2023 which looked at both the local and national picture of child poverty, before focusing on local actions and priorities,

As a result of the workshop, the Edinburgh Children's Partnership has signed up to a set of commitments focused on enhancing its offer around child poverty work. The workshop also informed the refresh of the end poverty in Edinburgh framework described in this annual report.

CASE STUDY: EDINBURGH POVERTY NETWORK

The **Edinburgh Poverty Network** is an informal meeting series launched in 2021 and open to all organisations and projects working to end poverty in the city.

Virtual meetings are held monthly and take a themed approach focusing on areas of common challenge, and common interest.

Themes discussed during 2023 have included:

- How to maximise the impact and use of Community Benefits Clauses
- Homelessness prevention in Edinburgh
- The impact of poverty on women and girls
- Best practice in empowering citizen voices in the development and delivery of end poverty actions
- Tackling poverty related stigma
- Small area, place based approaches to poverty prevention
- Problem debt in Edinburgh
- Supporting parents into employment

Meetings include presentations from local partners and Scotland wide specialists, alongside evidence from citizens highlighting lived experience of the issues under discussion. Breakout sessions then give attendees the chance to reflect, discuss, share experiences and challenges, and build connections between the many strands of work progressing in the city toward the shared goal of ending poverty in Edinburgh.

If you would like to join a network session, or would like to suggest a topic for discussion, please contact us at policyandinsight@edinburgh.gov.uk using the subject line '**Edinburgh Poverty Network**'

Poverty in Edinburgh: What the data tells us

The Edinburgh Poverty Commission set the city a challenge to end poverty in Edinburgh by 2030, and identified four specific targets which would define success against this goal. **Appendix 1**, and associated figures provide an overview of current progress towards these (and other Scottish Government) targets, using the most up to date information available.

For most data points, it should be noted that the latest official estimates still relate to the period to Spring 2022 and do not yet give a clear and full picture about the impact on poverty cost of living challenges. In line with Scottish Government guidance, where possible data are presented as three-year rolling averages to maximise reliability.

For this analysis, then, data on headline targets is augmented with information from a range of sources, national and local, to provide an overall picture on progress to date towards meeting Edinburgh Poverty Commission targets, and evidence behind the recommended priorities for action.

“THE POVERTY THRESHOLD”

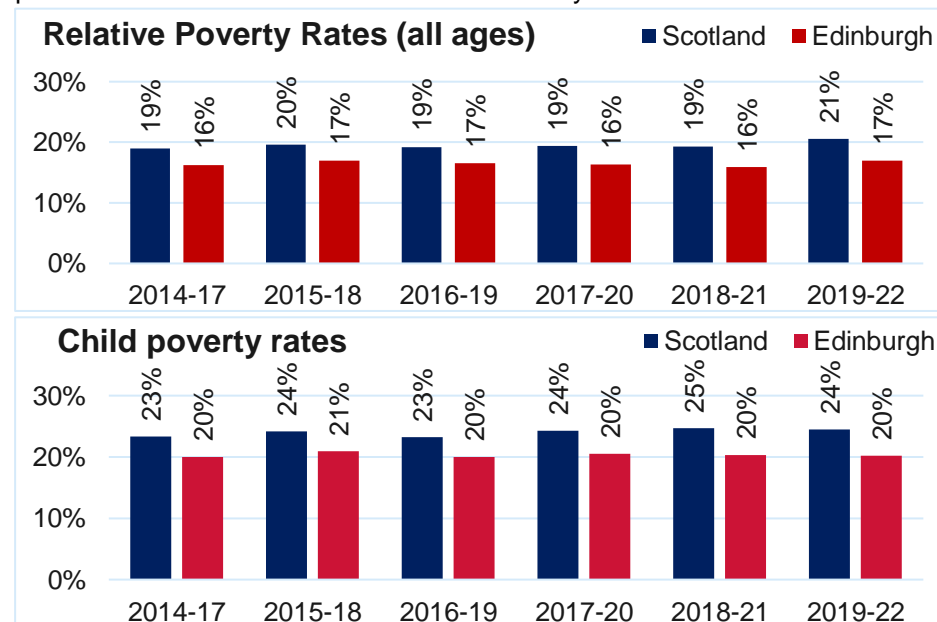
Poverty in Scotland is usually measured in terms of ‘relative poverty after housing costs’. On this definition, people are considered to be ‘in poverty’ if their equivalised net disposable household income is below 60 percent of the UK median after tax and housing costs.

In Scotland in 2022 this meant that a couple with 2 children are in poverty if their household income after tax and housing costs falls below £485 per week (£25,300 per annum), or £174 pw for a single person with no children (£9,100 per annum).

Trends in headline poverty rates remain unchanged...

An estimated **17% of people** in Edinburgh were living in poverty in the period to spring 2022, accounting for over 80,000 individualsⁱ. These included over 17,000 children, **or 20% of all children in the city**. 12% of all Edinburgh residents had been living in poverty for three of the past four years.ⁱⁱ

These data indicate little change in poverty rates in recent years, despite the impact of the pandemic and the early months of the cost of living crisis in 2022. Analysis by the Institute for Fiscal Studies and other agencies note that this trend reflects the effectiveness of temporary government interventions to support incomes, including the £20 Universal Credit weekly uplift, cost of living crisis payments, emergency legislation to protect renters, as well as the permanent introduction of the Scottish Child Payment.



Looking ahead, most commentators describe a complex picture for poverty trends across the UK. Inflation remains stubbornly high and is not projected to return to target levels until 2025 at the earliest. The withdrawal of temporary measures mean that support available from the benefits system will fall in the coming year, even if benefit rates are updated in line with inflation. Local housing allowances, which were raised during the pandemic, are frozen in cash terms as the cost of housing continues to rise.

Taken together, Resolution Foundation estimates suggest that living standards and income for the poorest households across the UK are likely to decline during the period to 2024/25, with consequent upward pressure on headline poverty ratesⁱⁱⁱ.

...but the experience of poverty is becoming more severe over time...

Research published by Joseph Rowntree Foundation in 2023^{iv} demonstrated a long-term increase in the proportion of low-income households who are experiencing very deep poverty. Using an income-based definition, the researchers showed that **46% of low-income households were living in 'very deep poverty' in 2020**, compared to 27% in 1997.

This long-term trend shows that headline poverty data can mask significant changes in the experience of poverty in people's lives. In Edinburgh over recent years this has been demonstrated by increasing evidence pointing to more severe forms of poverty, including increasing numbers of citizens regularly going without basic essentials such as food and shelter.

In 2022, Scottish Government data estimated that **11% of households in poverty were experiencing 'very low' food security** – meaning that meals were skipped, or food intake reduced because the family could not afford enough food^v. In Edinburgh, this rate would be the equivalent of almost **10,000 people**.

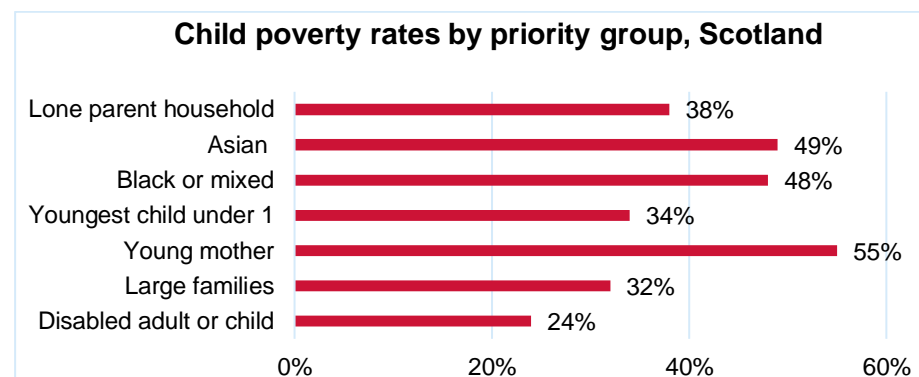
Evidence from local advice providers shows an increasing prevalence of people seeking advice for severe hardship and financial distress. Citizen's Advice Scotland data shows a **50% increase in the number of people**

seeking support for rent arrears, with an 11% increase in people seeking foodbank referrals in the past year across Scotland^{vi}.

Advice providers also report an increasing trend in people seeking support for problem debt. The total amount of debt owed by clients seeking advice from Citizen's Advice Edinburgh each year is, on average, **£3.5 million, or some £4,000 per client**^{vii}.

Women and families in priority groups are at most risk of poverty in Edinburgh...

More than 80% of all children in poverty in Scotland come from households in Scottish Government identified priority groups. Such families are at a far higher risk of poverty than the population at large – with poverty rates in some cases more than double the average for all household types.



Building on these statistics, analysis carried out in Edinburgh in 2023 points to the **higher risk of poverty faced by women**. The analysis shows that women's poverty is closely linked to child poverty, given the greater role women play as primary caregivers for children and also results from inequalities in the workplace and in earnings from work. Overall, the data show that women are more likely to be poor – particularly when they are lone parents or young mothers, more likely to experience 'very deep' poverty and food insecurity because of a lack of money, more likely to be in low paid, part

time or insecure work, and more likely to reduce paid work to allow for caring responsibilities.

Partner agencies in Edinburgh have also carried out new analysis in 2023 on the impact of poverty on **people with disabilities** and on people from **Black and Minority Ethnic communities**. These analyses found evidence that:

- Disabled people experience additional barriers to employment and fair work, as well as a pay gap, challenges in education that make it harder to gain the same skills and qualifications as nondisabled people, as well as higher living costs (arising from specialist equipment, transport costs, and energy costs).
- On average families with a disabled adult or child need **an additional £1,100 per month** to have the same standard of living as a non-disabled household.
- Black and minority ethnic people in Scotland fare worse in the labour market than white counterparts in terms of pay, employment, in-work poverty, and income security. Minority ethnic households also have higher housing costs due to being disproportionately represented in the private rented sector.
- **More than 25%** of Black and Minority Ethnic working adults spend over a third of their income on housing compared to just over 10% of white workers.

...and spatial inequalities in poverty risk and life chances Edinburgh are wide.

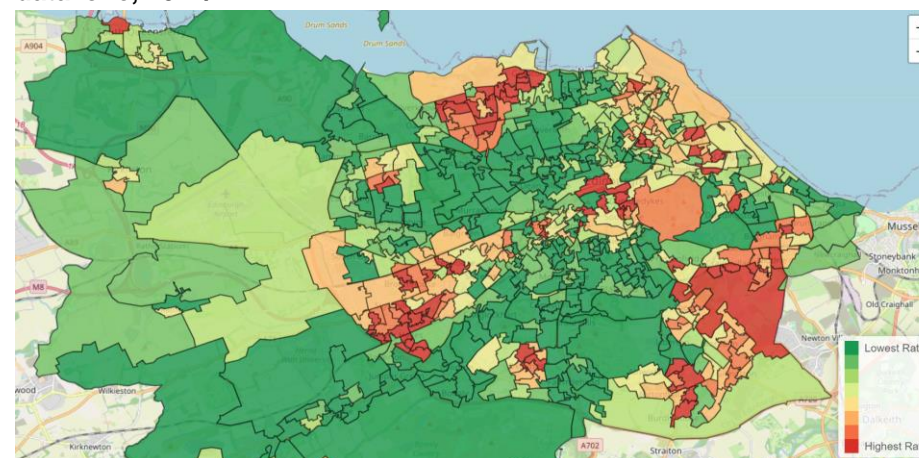
Data published in 2023 by [DWP](#) illustrates the wide inequalities in child poverty risk across small areas in Edinburgh. At electoral ward level, children who live in areas such as Sighthill/Gorgie or Liberton/Gilmerton are **five times more likely** to grow up in poverty than children who grow up in Morningside.

These local variations in poverty risk are apparent even at micro geographies in the city, with many datazones where poverty rates of 30% or above are recorded (marked in red in the chart below), sharing boundaries and

neighbourhoods where average poverty rates are below 10% (marked in deep green).

Notably, the data show that evidence of poverty, often severe poverty, is found in all four of the cities' localities, and in every electoral ward in the city. This evidence confirms at the local level findings across Scotland that show that even in the most affluent areas of Scotland, an average of 1 in 10 households experience poverty.

Child Poverty rates (before housing costs), City of Edinburgh by datazone, 2021/22



CASE STUDY: CONNECTED COMMUNITIES EDINBURGH

Launched in October 2023, the **Connected Communities Edinburgh Grants Programme** is a 3-year funding programme with a budget of **£3.5m per annum**.

Drawing together funding from City of Edinburgh Council, NHS Lothian, and Police Scotland, the programme aims to fund projects across Edinburgh which can deliver:

- Positive learning outcomes for disadvantaged children, young people, and families in Edinburgh
- Positive health & wellbeing outcomes for children, young people & families in Edinburgh, and
- Youth and children's work which can deliver positive educational, wellbeing, employment, and other outcomes for young people in Edinburgh.

The programme has been designed to support local, community-based organisations whose services are informed by local knowledge and intelligence. Within this framework, the programme aims to encourage a wide variety of proposals offering community led solutions towards a collective goal of reducing the outcome gap for those who experience the greatest inequality in this city.

In doing so, all applicants will be required to demonstrate the impact that their project can make towards the Council, and the city's, aim to **End poverty in Edinburgh**, as well as an assessment of the project's likely impact on people with priority and protected characteristics.

The programme has been developed by the Council in partnership with EVOC and Lothian Association of Youth Clubs (LAYC).

CASE STUDY: UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is a UK Government programme designed to foster growth and development in local communities across the United Kingdom.

Managed by **City of Edinburgh Council** and **Capital City Partnership**, Edinburgh's approach to implementing the UKSPF has a focus on inclusion and transparency, aligning to our end poverty plan, and reaching out to Edinburgh's increasingly diverse population.

By harnessing **£12.4m of UKSPF** funding to address local needs and aspirations over **3 years**, the programme is investing in the people and the places that make our communities thrive. A total of 41 projects have been awarded funding across the city, with a significant focus on community cohesion, skills infrastructure, and wellbeing. Where projects support individuals, the programme management office will be able to track and report on their impacts in terms of poverty alleviation, income maximization and job entry.

Examples of projects funded by the UKSPF in Edinburgh include:

- **The MacMillan Skills Hub**: helps people to access to training, career advice and job opportunities
- **Making Work Work**: supports women returning to the labour market
- **Works4Women**: an employability programme that supports women who have experienced domestic abuse
- **Cyrenians - Good Food Programme**: a food redistribution project providing surplus food from the food industry to around 20,000 families a week, alongside a Cook School, and community pantries.

Actions to End Poverty in Edinburgh

“Poverty in Edinburgh is real, damaging and costly – but despite the powerful currents that threaten to drive us further off course, there is enough determination in the city to embrace the twin challenges of solving poverty and reducing carbon emissions over the next decade.”

Dr Jim McCormick, Chair of Edinburgh Poverty Commission

Against the context of falling incomes, rising costs of living and other challenges described above, the challenge of meeting Edinburgh’s poverty goals is clear.

For the city to be on track to meet the 2030 target levels set by the Edinburgh Poverty Commission and by Scottish Government will need:

- **All age poverty rates in Edinburgh to fall by 7 percentage points by 2030, and**
- **Child poverty rates to fall by 10 percentage points**
- **This means lifting almost 36,000 people, including 8,900 children out of poverty over the next eight years.**

These are sobering targets, but evidence and evaluation of policy interventions demonstrates that effective and well targeted public policy can make significant steps towards meeting them.

Calls to action for national governments

The Scottish Government’s evaluation of the cumulative impact of its own Bright Starts Better Futures Plan, for instance, shows that the combined effects of all delivery actions (including delivery of local actions such as those included in this report) are expected to reduce **child poverty across Scotland to 19% by 2023/24**. This estimate is above the Government’s own interim targets for its plan but is an estimated reduction of 5.5 percentage

points from current levels and now incorporates an assessment of the impact of deteriorating macro-economic conditions in recent years.

If replicated evenly across Scotland, and all other things being equal, this trend would reduce child poverty rates in Edinburgh to 16% in 2023/24 (currently 20%) **and lift an estimated 4,000 children out of poverty in this city**, almost half of the total required by 2030.

These findings, alongside the evident impact of social security and other temporary policy introductions during the pandemic and cost of living crisis demonstrate the powerful impact that policy levers held by national governments can have on poverty levels across the country.

It is for that reason that the Edinburgh Poverty Commission noted that, although city partners have many levers they can use to alleviate and prevent poverty in Edinburgh, the headline targets set for the city cannot be met without significant national policy intervention.

In particular, the Commission made a call to action, reiterated in this report, and reiterated in the past year by a range of national partners, for:

- **The UK Government** to ensure that UK-wide social security systems provide an effective lifeline for people who are struggling to get by. This means actions such as ensuring Local Housing Allowances are set at levels that reflect the cost of housing in Edinburgh, and removal of UK social security features such as such as the five-week wait, the two-child cap, and the benefit cap, and
- **Scottish Government** funding to support delivery of new affordable and social rented homes in Edinburgh. Almost one in three families in Edinburgh in poverty are pulled below the water line solely due to their housing costs. Helping to solve the city’s housing crisis will go a

long way to delivering on the government's own affordable housing ambitions for the country as a whole.

The delivery of these actions would have a profound impact on the targets noted above and provide a strong platform for local actions to concentrate on improving the life chances of people and communities in Edinburgh.

A framework for local delivery

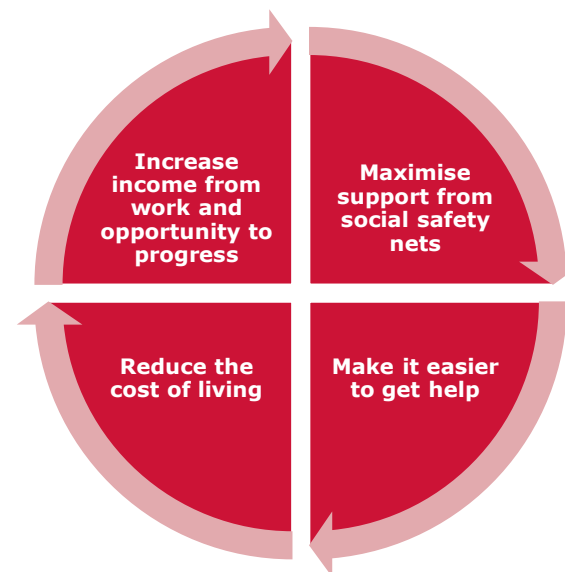
"To end poverty in the city, the pre-condition and the single biggest transformation Edinburgh could achieve would be to make the experience of seeking help less painful and confusing more humane, and more compassionate." **Edinburgh Poverty Commission**

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

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

- Provide targeted support for rising energy costs
- Improve access to affordable childcare, and
- Improve digital inclusion and access to affordable transport

- **Make it easier to find help** - this includes local actions to:
 - Deliver integrated, 'no wrong door' approaches to service delivery and prevention of poverty
 - Provide the support people need, in the places they live and work, and
 - Deliver poverty awareness training programmes that addresses stigma and supports public sector workers public to put prevention of poverty at the heart of everything they do.



The next chapter in this report provides an overview of progress against delivery of actions in this framework during the 12 months to the end September 2023. Appendix 2 provides a full assessment of progress against each of the calls to action made by Edinburgh Poverty Commission.

CASE STUDY: END POVERTY EDINBURGH CITIZEN GROUP

End Poverty Edinburgh is a group of citizens with real experience of poverty in this city. The group was formed in 2020 during the latter stages of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission as a legacy group, tasked with holding the baton in the long-term movement to end poverty in Edinburgh, continuing to raise awareness of poverty, influence decision-making, and hold the city to account for the commitments it has made.

The group is supported by the Poverty Alliance and with funding secured through independent funders and Edinburgh's UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan.

During the past year End Poverty Edinburgh members have contributed to over 40 meetings, including regular meetings with **elected officials** – local and national, addressing meetings of the **Edinburgh Partnership**, engaging in collaborations with organisations such as **Turn2Us**, **Edinburgh Community Food** and **Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations Council**, as well as monthly planning and co-ordination meetings.

End Poverty Edinburgh have provided media interviews on television and radio, contributed to written pieces online, and presented at various events to spread awareness and increase their reach. In doing so, the group have added two new members and will continue to expand membership going forward.

Key highlights for the group during the year have included:

- Campaigning alongside third sector organisation **Dad's Rock**, highlighting the living conditions experienced by some citizens in their social housing
- Supporting and being a core member of development groups for community sector led city projects such as the **Collaboration Against Poverty in Edinburgh** (CAPE) and the **Regenerative Futures Fund** (see case study)
- Attending First Ministers Questions and meeting **MSPs Anas Sarwar & Pam Duncan-Glancy**
- Attending and addressing participants at the **First Ministers anti-poverty summit in May 2023**
- Hosting the groups' first bespoke event to bring together anti-poverty groups across Edinburgh as well as a **citizen led Conference** held during **Challenge Poverty Week 2023** which highlighted critical issues related to poverty identified and shared by those with lived experience themselves, as well as suggest potential solutions and interventions.

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



Progress and Priorities

A: Increasing incomes from work and opportunities to progress

Action	Progress in 2023 and priorities for 2024
<p>Promoting fair work that provides dignity and security</p>	<p>Edinburgh's economy in 2023 provides strong growth in jobs and very low rates of unemployment. Within this context, however, an estimated 28,000 people still work in jobs that pay below a real Living Wage, 13,000 residents are in work but still reliant on Universal Credit, and an estimated 12,000 Edinburgh workers are employed through zero hours contracts.</p> <p>Within this context, the Edinburgh Living Wage Action Group in 2023 have continued their work to promote fair work and the take up of Living Wage Accreditation among city employers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of September 2023, a total of 677 Edinburgh businesses are real Living Wage employers, including City of Edinburgh Council, NHS Lothian and all other members of the Edinburgh Partnership • During the first five months of financial year 2023/24, the city has recorded 60 new living wage accreditations, well ahead of the city's target of 100 new accreditations per annum. As a direct result of these new accreditations a total 390 workers have received a pay rise this financial year alone so far • In November 2022, the group received the Outstanding Leadership Award at the Living Wage Scotland annual awards • In May 2023, the group hosted representatives from across the UK at the first national Living Wage Places conference • In November 2023, the group will be celebrating Living Wage Week 2023 with an event to support third sector employers in Edinburgh overcome challenges to embed Fair Work practices in their sector. <p>In support of this work, in 2023 the City of Edinburgh Council also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduced a new mandate to ensure that all new Council suppliers for regulated contracts were committed to paying a real Living Wage. As of September 2023, some 82% of all regulated suppliers pay a real Living Wage. • Launched plans for a new Edinburgh Fair Work Charter to provide guidance and support for employers and policy makers in the city. This charter will be further developed through consultation and engagement during 2024 • Supported Edinburgh Trades Unions in development of a local hub for employment rights and advocacy advice in Craigmillar • Supported the work of the Living Hours campaign and begun analysis to consider the potential steps needed for the City of Edinburgh Council to become a Living Hours employer. Further work on all these actions will continue in 2024. <p>During 2024 a key priority for the Council and Edinburgh Partnership will be the further development of Community Wealth Building in Edinburgh, including actions to further promote fair work and just labour markets.</p>

Action	Progress in 2023 and priorities for 2024
<p>Helping people to access and progress in work</p>	<p>Over the last year Council funded programmes provided employability and skills support for 4,150 people, including 903 young people through the No One Left Behind programme. In addition to these, NHS Lothian's Partnership and Place team also promote and support NHS employability programmes using local networks to raise awareness.</p> <p>Using additional Scottish Government investment, parental employment support in the city has been extended, with twenty-five projects now operating with a range of specialisms including services for new Scots, parents from ethnic minority backgrounds and young parents.</p> <p>The Promising Young People programme offers a six-month placement paid at living wage to up to 20 care experienced. young people.</p> <p>Capital City Partnership and Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership are working together to connect people to jobs in Health and Social Care. The approach focuses on local community engagement, supported through bi-monthly neighbourhood recruitment fairs to highlight the quality vacancies and benefits on offer as well as additional employability guidance and advice tailored to the roles to increase candidate confidence and outcomes.</p> <p>Employability provision across all programmes is tasked with securing fair work for their clients. For procured all age services where data is available 74% of job entries recorded in 2022/23 were sustained for 6 months and 82% paid the real living wage.</p> <p>Programmes in the past year have delivered a clear focus on support for parents and families from priority groups, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting 696 lone parents, 87 families with a mother under 25; 46 families with a child aged under one year; 157 large families; 1,085 families with a disabled parent; and 1,206 minority ethnic families. • Investing £280,350 on projects which primarily work with people from Ethnic Minorities or New Scots (compared with £52,492 in 2017/18). • Maximise Early Years is working in partnership with ten Early Years Centres in the City and in 22-23 supported 102 families with 199 children, this resulted in overall financial gains of £159,434 alongside employability support and family wellbeing support. <p>Alongside these, the Whole Family Equality Project recognises that ethnically-diverse families may be disadvantaged in the labour market and less likely to be in higher paid employment. The project takes a holistic, person-centred approach, blending income maximization, family support and employability support. The Citizens' Panel associated with the project has influenced Council spend, commented on the Council's Equality and Diversity policy and will this year be part of the Scottish Government's budget scrutiny panel.</p> <p>Over the next 12 months, priorities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reaching over 800 parents to support them into work or to progress within work • Building on the work of End Poverty Edinburgh and the Whole Family Equality Project's Citizens' Panel to increase meaningful participation of people with lived experience in employability service design and evaluation • Developing a charter for employers, providers and delivery partners with principles and guidelines aimed at reducing the negative attitudes, stereotypes, and discrimination that people living in poverty can face when accessing employability services.

Improve attainment, achievement, and positive destinations for young people who grow up in poverty

Edinburgh Learns for Life strategy aims to raise attainment and achievement for everyone by providing learning that matches each persons' interests and aspirations and closing the poverty related attainment gap to give every young person the chance to have opportunities to progress. Key to delivering this ambition are actions to build an education workforce which is knowledgeable and skilled in addressing the adverse impacts of poverty and inequalities, from early years onwards.

Data gathered during 2022-23 shows that:

- Attendance levels at school remain challenging: 11% of pupils in primary schools and 20% of secondary pupils had low levels of attendance (less than 85%)
- The attainment gap is reducing - the difference between the most and least deprived areas in the city is at the lowest level in 5 years across most attainment gap measures
- Positive destinations from school: at 96.1% rates are above the Scottish average, and the gap between the most and least deprived areas has reduced from 5.1% to 3.2%

Actions over this year have continued to build the foundations needed to shift the entrenched, adverse impacts of poverty by changing culture, building knowledge, understanding and effective practice, and reshaping the way that services are delivered. Actions include:

- Providing **early years support** to make sure that children get the best start in life, ensuring that supply meets demand, and relaunching Terrific Twos, for eligible two-year olds
- Building professional knowledge and skills for continued improvement of school attendance and attainment through our **Edinburgh Teachers' Charter** and **Leadership for Equity** courses. 29% of school leaders have now participated in the Leadership for Equity Programme, against a target for 2023 of 20%. During 2024 the goal is to raise this to 40% of school leaders
- Building a network of expert Head Teacher Associates to shape the strategy for closing the poverty-related attainment gap
- Supporting **care experienced children and young people** through the We Matters team, Place2Think provisions set up in 4 High Schools, and the 'Key to Potential' partnership work with Cyrenians, supporting 14 care experienced young people across 6 high schools to enter and sustain positive destinations.
- Establishing the **Wider Achievement and Lifelong Learning Service** with a focus on reducing poverty and inequality. It spans all ages, with services including Youth and Children's Work and Adult and Family Learning, Outdoor Learning and Adventure Education and Parent/Carer Support and Family Wellbeing.
- Continuing free/low cost outdoor learning/adventure opportunities for all young people, and established **Edinburgh Youth Action (EYA)** so that young people from all backgrounds can influence policy
- Continuing to deliver the flagship **Discover programme** offering families support during school holidays, and helping young people to re-engage with school when the new term starts. The process for schools to recommend families to has been reviewed to make it as easy as possible; and work is ongoing to increase the proportion of families who take up Discover.
- Delivering ongoing liaison with schools to provide weekly updates and support for pupils whose families are experiencing homelessness and who have moved into **temporary accommodation** (between 20 and 40 children per week)

Action	Progress in 2023 and priorities for 2024
<p>Improve attainment, achievement, and positive destinations for young people who grow up in poverty</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through Edinburgh’s UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan, funding was secured for the CHAI Advice In Schools Project offering income maximization, housing, and employability advice to families with school age children at 16 schools across Edinburgh. <p>Priorities for 2024 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing to develop staff skills and professional learning, targeting groups including early years staff, pupil support assistants and newly qualified teachers • Implementing the Wider Achievement Framework for schools and developing city wide youth and children’s work opportunities based on need • Using data more effectively to track attainment, attendance and achievement and respond effectively to any gaps highlighted • Discover More! – securing new funding to widen the opportunities and engagement to term time for parents and carers who are at work and cannot attend the holiday programmes. Funding applications to the Scottish Governments Child Poverty Accelerator Fund were made during Autumn 2023 to seek additional resources to support a test of change for this project. • Develop Multiply (UK Shared Prosperity Funded programme) offering numeracy and literacies for adult learners targeting people on low income or not in work

B: Maximising support from social safety nets

Action	Progress in 2023 and priorities for 2024
<p>Maximise uptake of benefits entitlements and other income support</p>	<p>During 2022/23, advice providers in Edinburgh helped people achieve a total financial gain of over £20.5m. This included a number of key specialist support programmes targeted at families in priority groups, and/or embedded and referred through health, school, and early year support services. Examples of outcomes delivered by key income maximization and money advice projects in Edinburgh include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Edinburgh Consortium (funded by EIJB grants) supported 11,710 people resulting in over £7.6m in financial gains • The Council’s Advice Shop supported 3,100 clients to a total financial gain of £6.7m • Granton Information Centre’s Family Friendly Advice Project supported 139 families referred from midwives creating £99,400 financial gains • The Growing Families project, for families supported by Health Visitors, supported 72 families leading to financial gains of £140,800 • Maximise! Edinburgh’s Intensive Family Support Service continued across the city, offering family support, and giving parents/carers the opportunity to access money advice, training, and employability in early years centres and schools. The Early Years service supported 102 families with 199 children, resulting in overall financial gains of £159,434. The schools service supported 211 families with a result of £638,994 financial gains, moving to welfare rights and debt advice only from March 2023. • FAIR, The Action Group, LCiL Grapevine Service and VOCAL combine expertise on informal carer and welfare benefits and connect people a range of support and resources for disabilities. The Action Group’s Black and Ethnic Minority Advice Service (BEMAS) is dedicated to BAME carers with disabled children. Together, these services generated £2.9m for 2,003 households. • During 2022-23, through its Anchors programme, the NHS Lothian Charity committed more than £200,000 per annum over five years to fund hospital-based income maximisation services at six hospitals across Lothian. In the first nine months of the service, 583 people were seen by welfare advisers at the Edinburgh hospitals who secured guaranteed client financial gain of £388,026 with a further £198,570 awaiting assessment. <p>Partnership work during 2023 has concentrated on securing and coordinating resources for money, debt and welfare advice across Edinburgh. This has included securing funding through Edinburgh’s UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment plan to increase capacity in welfare rights and debt advice services in recovery hubs, community mental health, schools and the financial inclusion service that works with families alongside health visitors.</p> <p>Priorities for 2024 focus on continuing to respond to the recommendations of the review of welfare rights and debt advice services in Edinburgh, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting up the Joined up for Advice Network, to share resources and training, and develop a charter • Further developing the city’s cash first approach through collaboration between all money and welfare advice – during Autumn 2023 an application to support this priority was made to the Scottish Government’s Tackling Child Poverty Cash First Fund.

Action	Progress in 2023 and priorities for 2024
Maximise uptake of benefits entitlements and other income support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewing the city’s preventing problem debt action plan • Developing a commissioning specification for Edinburgh Integration Joint Board grants, which fund around a third of advice service provision • Continuing improvement programme for Council money and welfare advice services • Delivering a targeted outreach programme of communication and support activities to promote uptake of benefits entitlements.
Deliver well targeted cash first and local crisis support programmes	<p>The Council delivers direct cash and crisis support to low-income families in need in a range of ways and administers one-off funding from the Government to support people through the cost of living crisis.</p> <p>During 2023 the Council has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued to make it easier for people to access support by automating entitlements for free school meals and clothing grant awards. Over recent years these improvements have seen a significant increase in access to this support, with over 9,000 free school meal payments made in 2022/23, a 61% increase over the number of payments made in 2019/20. • Delivered £162m in housing benefit, £24m in Council Tax Reduction and £7.5m in Discretionary Housing Payment funding to low income families in Edinburgh • Administered the Scottish Welfare Fund in Edinburgh, including 31,647 Crisis Grant applications to a total value of £2.1m, and 8,380 Community Care Grants, to a value of £2.096m • Administered the Central Government Energy Fund with payments totalling £23,600 for 590 claimants and £9,200 alternative Fuel Payments across 46 claimants • Provided funding to Foodbanks including £96k to distribute energy payments and £209k for food crisis support. <p>During 2024 the Council will deliver take up campaigns for national and Scottish Social Security Agency benefits and payments, and undertake targeted promotion of Scottish Welfare Fund and other Council administered benefits and support schemes.</p> <p>Alongside this work, The Edinburgh Partnership approved the Ending Poverty Related Hunger in Edinburgh strategy in March 2023. The aim of the strategy is that no one in Edinburgh needs to go hungry due to a lack of money, and when people do fall into food crisis, Edinburgh networks aim to give a cash first approach to providing support. Where emergency food provision is needed, people can also access wider support in ways that are safe, dignified, respectful, and prevent future need. A steering group has been set up to implement the strategy, which is underway and will continue throughout 2024.</p>
Help people to prevent homelessness and other crises	<p>Edinburgh has a significant housing and homelessness crisis. Over the last year, 3,287 households were assessed as homeless, a 37% increase on 2021-22 levels and on 31 March 2023, 4,431 were in temporary accommodation, 25.7% of which was unsuitable. During the year, 860 households with a child under 17 moved into temporary accommodation. This major disruption can have a huge impact on children’s education, with longer distances to get to school, not having a place to study or access to digital devices, or regular meals because there are no cooking facilities.</p>

Action

Progress in 2023 and priorities for 2024

Help people to prevent homelessness and other crises

The Council's **Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan** sets out our approach to preventing homelessness where possible, and for those people who become homeless, helping them to move into settled accommodation quickly. Key actions are to identify people at risk at an earlier stage and provide support, including income maximisation and managing debt.

During the past year:

- The Council's Partnership and Prevention Officer has continued to develop training for internal and external staff to use their conversations with people to identify people at risk of homelessness, delivering 32 training sessions to 354 people
- The Income Maximisation Capacity Building Officer trained 751 front line staff on welfare benefits, so that they can promote income maximisation with their clients
- We have introduced a tenant hardship fund, alongside wider supports like benefits checks, to support Council tenants who are struggling to pay their rent
- We have implemented new software to improve the management of rent arrears, enabling housing officers to contact and support tenants who are struggling with rent payments more quickly
- Improved support for first-time and new tenants to sustain a tenancy: review of Tenant Information Pack underway to make sure that tenants get the information they need from the start; visits to new tenants re-introduced to identify and address any issues early.

As a result of this work, homelessness was prevented for:

- 302 households by our Private Rented Sector (PRS) Team, and
- 84 households in Council tenancies by our Multi-Disciplinary Team (85% of households who engaged with the team); however, with engagement levels at 56%, this is an area for improvement

Schools and health visitors are alerted to all under 5's and school aged children in temporary accommodation with their family, to make sure that the family are linked into services and that young people are supported with their wellbeing and education.

We have increased the amount of suitable temporary accommodation (which meets specified standards) by increasing the use of Private Sector Leasing (PSL), Homeshare accommodation and commissioning additional long term supported accommodation service for men over the age of 35 with a history of homelessness and long-term alcohol misuse.

Priorities for 2024 include continued delivery of the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan, with an increase in the level of engagement of households with the multi-disciplinary team (currently 56%) alongside ongoing work with partners to prepare for potential forthcoming homelessness prevention duties for public sector bodies.

C: Reducing the Cost of Living

Action	Progress in 2023 and priorities for 2024
<p>Deliver decent homes that people can afford to live in</p>	<p>The Council is the largest affordable housing developer in the city and is planning to invest around £1.7 billion over the next 10 years to improve existing homes and estates and deliver the Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing. Progress in 2023 has included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing the supply of affordable housing – the Council increased its ambition to reach 25,000 new affordable homes; by 31 March 2023, 8,301 homes had been approved for site start and 6,911 affordable homes had completed (since 2017). During 2022/23 the Council Invested over £119m in building new affordable homes and improving existing homes and neighbourhoods. In 2022/23 54 new social rented homes and 148 homes for mid-market rent completed through the Council's LLP and a further 1,000 were in design or pre-construction • Securing additional funding for affordable homes – an additional £10 million was spent in the Affordable Housing Supply Programme in 2022/23, the highest allocation the Council has received in a single year. The 2023/24 capital investment programme for affordable housing is the largest ever approved capital budget (£173m), and an additional £10m has also been requested for 2023/24. • A 3% Council rent increase was approved by Full Council in February with the potential to support the delivery of 2,400 new council social rented homes and bring 86% of existing homes up to statutory energy efficiency standards, and a Tenant Hardship fund was introduced for council tenants struggling to meet housing costs' • Regulating short term lets – the scale of short term lets in the city, involving an estimated 14,000 properties, adds pressure to the supply of affordable properties. During this year, the Council continued to prepare for the implementation of Scotland's short-term licensing scheme, a legal requirement for short term let operations from 1 October 2023. • Rent control – The Council continues to engage with Scottish Government to inform the approach taken to introducing national rent control and local measures, including participating in the Scottish Government's rent control working group • Delivering the Council's Housing Service Improvement Plan - continued investment in digital technology to improve tenant experience, by improving online reporting for repairs which is now available 24/7, freeing up capacity for tenants who choose to use telephone or face to face • Affordable Housing Contributions: Edinburgh's City Plan 2030 outlines proposals for new minimum affordable housing contributions for new developments in Edinburgh. The proposal to increase from 25% to 35% is being considered by the Scottish Government with earliest potential full adoption in the first half of 2024 <p>Priorities for 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue dialogue with Scottish Government to reinforce the need for additional funding and to inform the approach taken to introducing rent control • Improve processes to make empty homes available to new tenants more quickly. • Consult with Council tenants on investment priorities and rent options to support the development of the 2024/25 Council budget (Oct - Dec 23)

Action	Progress in 2023 and priorities for 2024
<p>Provide targeted support for rising energy costs</p>	<p>Rising energy costs in recent years have increased the urgency for additional support to help households on low incomes in Edinburgh avoid having to face the impossible choice of whether to heat their homes or feed their families. In the short term this has meant providing support with fuel costs. Over the longer term it means taking the steps needed to make properties more fuel efficient.</p> <p>Actions during the past year have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving housing quality, prioritising investment in the most deprived and socially disadvantaged areas, for property retrofit to help those most at risk of fuel poverty and properties most in need of investment due to their existing fabric and energy performance. Work on all ten blocks within the Whole House Retrofit pilot programme will start 2023/24. • Energy Advice Service secured savings for Council tenants of more than £206,000 in 2022/23 - around £428 for each household engaged • Home Energy Scotland delivered energy advice at NHS vaccination sites to 3,027 people, who received and completed their 'Keeping Warm for Less this Winter' Prescription, which includes top tips, advice, and signposts; and 188 further referrals made including 70 referrals to Warmer Homes Scotland. • The Council's warm and welcoming initiative was developed to support people through the winter months with a wide range of opportunities for local people to visit, connect with others and take part; easily accessible advice and information was available to provide additional support where needed. <p>Work on all these initiatives will continue during 2024 with the Warm and welcoming approached reviewed to make it more accessible and more relevant all year round.</p>
<p>Improve access to affordable childcare</p>	<p>The cost of childcare is rising and is one of the main barriers for parents, particularly women and lone parents, who want to work. As such, childcare costs are a key barrier to allowing families to escape from poverty and progress.</p> <p>Actions to address this issue during the past year, and for continued delivery in 2024, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued delivery of the Council's Early Years Expansion Plan, working towards ensuring that support is flexible enough to meet the needs of families, and that there are enough places across providers to meet the demand • Delivery of Edinburgh's Affordable Childcare for Working Parents service, supporting low-income working parents with subsidised childcare in four areas of deprivation in Edinburgh. We have reviewed this service and developed a model for next year so that parents who want to access the service will get support from the Council's advice service teams to obtain Universal Credit funding towards childcare costs, and to make sure they are maximising all financial support that could be available to them, and if appropriate, refer them for Council-funded subsidy and employability support. • Funding provision of creche places for parents engaged in training for employment

Action	Progress in 2023 and priorities for 2024
<p>Improve access to affordable childcare</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding the development of an interactive map of childcare services for parents along with an investigation into a flexible childcare booking system – in response to findings from parents that an often confusing landscape when trying to find childcare provision was a factor adding to the stress of entering employment.
<p>Improve digital inclusion and access to affordable transport</p>	<p>A lack of digital skills and access can have a huge negative impact on a person’s life, affecting their ability to learn, apply for jobs, access training opportunities, and engage with many public services. The Council and partners offer a range of supports for people to get access and to develop the skills needed. Key actions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued delivery of the Council’s Digital and Smart City Strategy, and its implementation actions under the themes of digital skills and inclusion Establishing an Edinburgh Partnership subgroup with core principles and terms of reference agreed to underpin a charter on digital inclusion to ensure equity of access for workforces and the public across Edinburgh. As a part of this work, People Know How are organising a conference which will be held on 6 December 2023. Upgrading the People’s Network Service across all libraries with 155 computers, with improved connectivity and more reliable access available. Continued improvement to library service offering will be explored during 2024. Providing the Get Online Digital Skills Programme with volunteers supporting people to improve their digital skills on a 1-2-1 basis Delivering the Empowered Learning programme completed the delivery of over 44,000 devices to learners across the city <p>The cost and ease of transport across the city can also be a barrier to people’s ability to hold down jobs and access educational opportunities. Towards addressing this, through delivery of the City Mobility Plan, the Council continues to implement actions to support sustainable, affordable travel, with a governance board being created to oversee key implementation decisions; and group of lead officers created to oversee co-ordination and implementation of action plans. Overall, the City Mobility Plan aims to deliver a public transport network in Edinburgh that provides high quality infrastructure to deliver competitive journey times to the right areas of the city as well as transport options that are accessible and affordable for those that wish to use it when they want to use it.</p> <p>Towards this, in 2024 work will include finalising the Public Transport Action Plan and the City Mobility Plan review to identify any further actions to support affordable travel choices.</p> <p>New Scottish Government schemes now allow people under 22 to travel for free on bus services across Scotland. Whilst this scheme is welcomed, at present it does not extend to the tram network. The Council will continue to work with the Scottish Government on the Fair Fares Review to extend this scheme to include Light Rail.</p> <p>Work is also underway to assess Council employee postcode data for home and workplace to find out if there are any gaps in public transport, taking account of shift times. Findings will be shared Lothian buses to consider options to address gaps.</p>

D: Making it easier to find help

Action	Progress in 2023 and priorities for 2024
<p>Deliver integrated, 'no wrong door' approaches to service delivery and prevention of poverty</p>	<p>A key call to action from the Edinburgh Poverty Commission was for <i>“the design and delivery of a new operating model for all public services so that all public workers are focused and empowered to put prevention of poverty at the heart of everything they do”</i>. Towards this long-term challenge, actions delivered during this year have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of the Whole Family Support programme and appointment of a team to deliver it. The project will transform supports to children and families in Edinburgh in line with the ambition to #KeepThePromise, so that there will be no wrong door for support, and effective, early identification of children and young people who are at risk, with more consistent use of GIRFEC by all stakeholders • Establishment of a new Integrated Front Door service for adult and children’s social care. This project represents the first phase of a longer term programme to deliver a fully integrated cross council poverty prevention approach with a single point of contact for all support services including family and household support, housing and homelessness support, employability support, income maximisation, welfare and money advice services. • Building on the work of the Edinburgh Wellbeing Pact and Thrive Edinburgh, Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership have begun work on a new Prevention and Early intervention Strategy to improve health and wellbeing in Edinburgh • Approval of plans for a new Edinburgh Partnership transformation and improvement programme. • Development of a new Edinburgh Children’s Partnership Plan that commits to informing service commissioning with a rights-based approach and a poverty lens, and ensuring that new commissioned work with children, young people and families should seek to establish systems for the collection of data relating to the Scottish Government’s six priority family groups: (lone parent families; families with a disabled adult or child; larger families (with 3 or more children); minority ethnic families; families with children under the age of 1; and families with mothers under the age of 25), in order to provide better information on how well our services are reaching families most likely to be living in poverty <p>This work represents a portfolio of actions needed to drive significant public sector reform in Edinburgh. Over the long term, these projects provide an important framework to ensure systems of support in Edinburgh are genuinely integrated in ways that allow for early identification of families in need of support, and effective interventions that prevent harm and support improved outcomes for people and services.</p>

Action	Progress in 2023 and priorities for 2024
<p>Provide the support people need, in the places they live and work</p>	<p>Actions carried out in 2023, and for further development in 2024, towards building a city in which people in all parts of Edinburgh have local, safe, welcoming community spaces within walking or pram-pushing distance where they access the right support for them include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewing and updating the Council's 20-Minute Neighbourhood Strategy to build on existing good work and identify new opportunities to support inclusive, safe, resilient, and connected neighbourhoods across Edinburgh • Delivering an ongoing work programme within Liberton focused on improving the outcomes of the most vulnerable children, young people, and their families. Local workshops, developed and delivered in partnership with Council and LAYC/EVOC, clearly identified priority areas of work, and an action plan will be developed moving forward, with further community engagement planned. • Development of a whole systems approach in Craigmillar, working in partnership with Public Health, the Council's 20 Minute Neighbourhood Team, Education, Children and Families and A Place in Childhood. This piece of work will focus on all the areas crucial to ensuring somewhere is a good place to live whether that be physical or social. This is a collaborative piece of work involving a range of partners and is a good example of joining up agendas to increase capacity and make best use of shared resource across teams. This work is being taken forward through the Edinburgh Partnership board and commenced in September 2023. • Development of Teams Around the Learning Community pilots in Liberton and Craigoyston High Schools. Incorporated within Edinburgh Partnership local tests of change, the project aims to identify children and families in need of support at an early stage and provide easy access to holistic support (e.g. family support, income maximisation, employability and housing), tailor learning to the needs and interests of the young person, and develop more effective and collaborative ways to use Pupil Equity Funding • In Gorgie/Dalry a new Citizen Space Pilot was established in January 2023, with a team of four customer advisers supported by an advisor from Citizens Advice Edinburgh, providing easy access to support on housing, neighbours, benefits and council tax; the team take on actions and follow them up, rather than referring the person on to another team or service
<p>Deliver poverty awareness training programmes that addresses stigma, and supports public sector workers public to put prevention of poverty at the heart of everything they do</p>	<p>Building on the successful 1 in 5 child poverty awareness programme developed in Edinburgh schools, during the past year work has progressed on new wider programmes of training and support to help workers across a wide range of public sector roles to be empowered and enabled to prevent poverty in Edinburgh.</p> <p>This work has included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of poverty prevention and Money Counts Training for Council and partner agencies. These sessions aim to raise awareness of the scale, causes and impact of poverty in Edinburgh, and to help workers across a range of services to build the skills needed to ask customers about money worries and how to help citizens who are struggling to get by. • Delivery of this programme during 2023 included work with housing officers, community centre business support staff, librarians, parent & family support workers, OTs and carers, Health visitors, midwives and family nurses and other workers across the Council, NHS Lothian and Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 90% of participants in training reported they were more aware of the causes and impact of poverty in Edinburgh ○ 75% were more confident to have a conversation with people about their money worries

Action

Progress in 2023 and priorities for 2024

- 91% were to feel more informed about where to access information and support around money worries.
- Developing a new **Edinburgh Children's Partnership Plan** that commits members to ensuring
 - all services and staff are aware of, and supported to participate in 'Money Counts' training, or equivalent, ensuring a baseline level of knowledge and awareness and increasing staff confidence in engaging with service users around this subject
 - all services and staff are aware of, and know how to signpost and / or refer their patients or clients into income maximisation services available across the city, and
 - Reducing the costs for children, young people and families to fully participate in the city - for example through increasing uptake of free under-22 bus travel, free library membership, free Active Schools and Edinburgh Leisure programmes, and the free culture and nature offers provided by Edinburgh's museums, galleries and green & blue spaces

During the next 12 months further development of this work will include:

- Reviewing and updating training materials, including improvement of online training resources
- Prioritising training to support key frontline workers to support early intervention and prevention of poverty
- Explore opportunities for sharing resources and training capacity between the Council, NHS, Health and Social Care Partnership and third sector
- Aligning poverty awareness training with wider programmes to ensure public sector workers are prepared and supported to deliver expected new requirements through upcoming Homelessness Prevention duties
- Aligning development of the programme with the update of Edinburgh's Pupil Equity Framework and the 1in5 programme in schools.

CASE STUDY: POLICE SCOTLAND

As a member of the Edinburgh Partnership, **Police Scotland** are committed to leading actions needed to meet the city's end poverty goals.

During 2023 these actions have included:

- Continued commitment to being an accredited real **Living Wage employer**
- Delivering **Poverty Awareness, Trauma informed and Anti-Stigma** training for officers to raise understanding around the underlying causes of vulnerabilities and behaviours and how these may impact on life chances
- Providing funding to support community based initiatives focused on supporting the most vulnerable. Examples include **The Beat Hunger Campaign**, where officers worked with partners to provide food crisis support alongside accessible income maximisation, health, and educational support
- Providing **targeted opportunities** for career support and guidance for care experienced young people interested in joining the Police
- Active involvement in supporting **local youth work** activities aiming to address inter-generational inequalities and support positive life trajectories and outcomes.

Delivering our **Public Health Policing Approach** acknowledging the impact of poverty on behaviours and life choices. This includes outreach programmes working alongside peer-mentors with lived experience of the criminal justice system, improving access to income maximisation advice, and supporting people's sustainable transition into education, training, and work.

CASE STUDY: REGENERATIVE FUTURES FUND

The **Regenerative Futures Fund** is a project led by EVOC during 2023 with the aim of developing of a **new £15m pooled fund** to provide long term sustainable resources for anchor community organisations in Edinburgh.

The fund is being set up to resource collectives, communities, and organisations over a ten-year period. This longer-term funding is designed to enable the deep work needed to address the root causes of poverty in a sustainable way and to create spaces for people to collectively imagine and build towards a regenerative and just future for Edinburgh.

In doing so, the project recognizes the potential of Edinburgh's social sector to play a leading role in long term transformational change in the city and aims to address some of the core structural challenges that act as barriers to success. These include short term funding programmes that drive short term thinking, the challenges marginalized groups face in accessing funding, and funding that tackles symptoms but not root causes.

During 2023 diverse community voices have shaped the fund design through a collaborative process. The collaboration has included local residents, community organisations, activists, funders, local and national government.

Regarding fund raising, the aim of the programme is to raise 'new' money where possible, while also encouraging partners to use existing funds differently to leverage in support from independent funders, public money, philanthropy, and private sector.

On current timelines, the fund is planned for a formal launch during the first half of 2024.

Appendix 1: Progress measures

Table A1 Progress against headline Edinburgh Poverty Commission and Scottish Government Targets			
Edinburgh Poverty Commission Targets^{viii}	Baseline	Latest data	Change
1. Fewer than one in ten children and fewer than one in ten adults are living in relative poverty at any given time	<i>2018-21</i> 16% (all ages); 20% (children)	<i>2019-22</i> 17% (all ages); 20% (children)	+1% (all ages); Stable (children)
2. No one has to go without the basic essentials they need to eat, keep clean and safe, and stay warm and dry	<i>2020</i> 4% (all ages); 5% (children)	Not yet available ^{ix}	NA
3. No-one lives in persistent poverty.	<i>2016-20</i> (Scotland data only) 12% (all ages) 16% (children)	<i>2017-21</i> (Scotland data only) 12% (all ages) 18% (children)	Stable (all ages) +2% (children)
4. No one feels stigmatised, abandoned, or treated with less respect by the city as a result of their income.	No data yet available	No data yet available	No data yet available
Scottish Government Child Poverty 2030 Targets^x			
Fewer than 5% of children should live in absolute poverty	<i>2016-19</i> 21% (Scotland data only)	<i>2019-22</i> 21% (Scotland data only)	Stable
Fewer than 5% of children should live in combined low income and material deprivation	<i>2016-20</i> 13% (Scotland data only)	<i>2019-22</i> 11% (Scotland data only)	-2%

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

Fair Work that provides enough to live on	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Unemployed Edinburgh citizens ^{xii}	6,900	12,500	9,000	7,100
Universal Credit claimants ^{xiii}	14,425	37,935	32,423	34,538
No. Living wage accredited employers in Edinburgh ^{xiv}	334	422	526	640
Edinburgh Employers Recruitment Incentive – uptake of places (all ages)	28	43	144	104
No One Left Behind Funding: number of young people who were supported	168	161	266	903
Number of people supported by City of Edinburgh Council funded employability programme	3,719	3,761	3,842	4,148
% of Council suppliers of new regulated tendered contracts that are committed to paying real living wage in delivering Council services	70%	79%	82%	82%
A decent home we can afford to live in	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Total number of applicants on EdIndex register	23,998	20,564	21,013	23,550
Demand for social housing – number of active bidders	7,099	7,213	6,339	11,150
Average bid per property	203	201	140	185
Number of affordable homes approved	1,930	1,285	1,251	734
Number of affordable homes completed	1,443	1,087	1,041	1,215

Homes for social rent completed - total		252	247	451
Homes for social rent completed – local authority		92	70	54
Number of households assessed as homeless	3,355	1,929	2,399	3,287
Number of households who seek housing advice who do not go on to present as homeless	1,708	1,521	1,288	1,143
The number of households in temporary accommodation (at 31 March)	3,570	4,431	4,722	4,431
Percentage of households in unsuitable temporary accommodation (as at 31 March)	22%	25.1%	25.3%	25.7%
income security that provides a real lifeline	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Council Advice Shop – number of individual welfare rights clients in year	3,800	5,752	3,720	3,075
Council Advice Shop - total financial gain	£ 11,497,227	£ 8,524,682	£ 6,971,968	£ 6,725,935
Council tax reduction scheme – average caseload per year	32,467	35,282	32,946	31,327
Discretionary housing payments	7,427	8,205	7,806	7,766
Number of free school meals payments in school year	5,950	8,828	8,994	9,576
Number of clothing grant awards in school year	5,337	8,301	9,773	9,013
Scottish Welfare Fund – no. applications for Crisis Grants	16,367	35,923	32,616	31,647
SWF – no. applications for Community Care Grants	5,377	8,320	8,503	8,450

Opportunities that drive justice and boost prospects^{xv}	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
% parents receiving funded Early Learning and Childcare through their preferred location	-	-	92.4%	-
% parents receiving funded Early Learning and Childcare through their preferred model of delivery.	-	-	74.1%	-
Low attendance: % of Primary pupils whose attendance is less than 85%	-	10.6%	14.0%	12.6%
Low attendance: % of Secondary students whose attendance is less than 85%	-	17.2%	19.1%	20.3%
Literacy (all pupils) - The % of pupils in Primaries 1, 4 & 7 who achieve their expected Curriculum for Excellence level	-	73.8%	77.0%	-
Literacy (Lowest SIMD Quintile) - The % of pupils in Primaries 1, 4 & 7 who achieve their expected Curriculum for Excellence level	-	57.3%	62.5%	-
Numeracy (all pupils) - The % of pupils in Primaries 1, 4 & 7 who achieve their expected Curriculum for Excellence level	-	80.4%	83.0%	-
Numeracy (Lowest SIMD Quintile) - The % of pupils in Primaries 1, 4 & 7 who achieve their expected Curriculum for Excellence level	-	65.1%	71.4%	-
Attainment (all pupils) - The % of secondary school leavers achieving one or more qualifications at SCQF level 6 (Higher or equivalent)	71.1%	72.6%	68.4%	-
Attainment (Lowest SIMD Quintile) - The % of secondary school leavers achieving one or more qualifications at SCQF level 6 (Higher or equivalent)	51.1%	50.6%	44.9%	-

Positive destinations for school leavers - all pupils	92.5%	95.1%	96.1%	-
Positive destinations for school leavers - Lowest SIMD Quintile	88.9%	91.7%	94.7%	-
Connections in a city that belongs to us	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Proportion of people living in areas with low levels of public transport	31%	-	39%	-
No. CEC homes connected to fibre-to-the-property (FTTP) infrastructure	1,515 (7.7%)	8,917 (45%)	15,449 (83%)	17,075 (91%)
Equality in our health and wellbeing^{xvi}	2017-2019	2018-2020	2019-2021	20220-2022
Average male life expectancy (years at birth)	78.4	78.2	78.0	77.8
Average male healthy life expectancy (years at birth)	65.0	64.2	62.9	Not available
Male HLE as a proportion of LE (%)	82.9%	82.2%	80.7%	Not available
Average female life expectancy (years at birth)	82.5	82.4	82.4	82.2
Average female healthy life expectancy (years at birth)	66.3	66.5	66.3	Not available
Female HLE as a proportion of LE (%)	80.4%	80.7%	80.5%	Not available
Inequalities in 0-74 years mortality rate (deaths per 100,000, EASR)- difference between the most and least deprived areas ^{xvii}	534.6	539.3	547.2	Not available
	2015-2019	2016-2020	2017-2021	2018-2022
Inequalities in Male life expectancy – difference in years between the most and least deprived areas	11.9	11.8	11.8	Not available

Inequalities in Female life expectancy – difference in years between the most and least deprived areas	8.6	8.7	9.3	Not available
	2017-2019	2018-2020	2019-2021	2020-2022
Healthy Male Life Expectancy: percentage of life spent in good health	84.6%	82.2%	Not available	Not available
Healthy Female Life Expectancy: percentage of life spent in good health	78.8%	80.7%	Not available	Not available
	2018	2019	2020	2021
Inequalities in 27-30 months check for new speech and language concerns- difference (percentage points) in proportion with suspected new concerns between the most and least deprived areas*	11.3	8.4	7.6	8.0
	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
(Mild to moderate) MH prescriptions- percentage of population prescribed drugs for anxiety/depression/psychosis	15.2%	15.5%	15.1%	16.1%

Appendix 2: Responding to Edinburgh Poverty Commission Calls to Action

Introduction

Following publication of the final Edinburgh Poverty Commission report in September 2020, City of Edinburgh Council and the Edinburgh Partnership agreed two plans to embed and progress local actions needed to end poverty in Edinburgh. These included:

- [The City of Edinburgh Council End Poverty in Edinburgh Delivery Plan – 2020-2030](#), which set out actions to be led by City of Edinburgh Council, and
- [Edinburgh Poverty Commission – Calls to action for Edinburgh Partnership](#), which set out actions to be embedded within delivery of the Edinburgh Community Plan.

These actions are now embedded within and delivered through the strategic plans and governance frameworks of the Council, the Edinburgh Partnership, and NHS Lothian.



This report draws these end poverty actions together into a single plan, refreshed, and updated every year. In doing so, the report aims to provide a single, comprehensive view on the steps being taken across the city in response to the challenge and calls to action set by the Edinburgh Poverty Commission.

In total, across the Council, NHS Lothian and other Edinburgh Partnership bodies, these plans identified almost 50 individual actions for delivery either as bespoke projects or as part of existing or forthcoming mainstream plans and strategies.

This annex provides a line of sight from the action updates provided in the main report by providing a point of reference with the calls to action from the Poverty Commission. Where progress is described in the main report, the relevant section and any key documents are stated; and for other actions, a brief update of progress and next steps is described.

To provide clarity on organisational leads and responsibilities, each action is flagged as either:

- **CEC** – City of Edinburgh Council lead
- **NHS** – NHS Lothian Lead
- **EP** – Edinburgh Partnership lead (but incorporating further Council and NHS Lothian involvement)

Call to Action: Cross cutting strategic actions & The right support in the places we live and work	Status update
<p>Agree that the Council and Edinburgh Partnership will commit to working collectively towards the aim of ending poverty in Edinburgh by 2030 as defined by the four targets set by the Commission (CEC, NHS, and EP)</p>	<p>Complete End poverty targets embedded within the Council Business Plan and Edinburgh Partnership Local Outcome Improvement Plan</p>
<p>Meet with the new End Poverty Edinburgh citizen group to agree ways of working together and define new opportunities for citizens to co-design and influence change in the city. (CEC and EP)</p>	<p>In progress End Poverty Edinburgh Group meets regularly with senior elected members and have participated in Edinburgh Partnership discussions during 2023.</p>
<p>Publish an annual report on actions taken to deliver against Edinburgh Poverty Commission findings (CEC, NHS, and EP)</p>	<p>In progress This is the third annual report on council and partnership actions to deliver Edinburgh Poverty Commission calls to action.</p>
<p>Establish a dedicated Council Poverty Prevention team to lead planning, monitoring, and reporting of Council actions in this report (CEC)</p>	<p>Complete Dedicated officer resources within the Council's Policy and Insight team lead the monitoring and reporting of Council and partnership actions. Further details are provided in the Governance and Co-ordination section of this report.</p>
<p>Develop a new End Poverty Edinburgh innovation fund to resource innovation in support of the actions described by the Edinburgh Poverty Commission. (EP)</p>	<p>In progress The Regenerative Futures Fund is a project led by EVOC during 2023 with the aim of developing a new £15m pooled fund to provide long term sustainable resources for anchor community organisations in Edinburgh. See box in main report for further details.</p>
<p>Adopt a partnership approach to considering the impact on people in poverty of budget decisions made by individual organisations (EP)</p>	<p>In progress Initial scoping undertaken and discussed by Edinburgh Partnership's Local Outcome Improvement Plan delivery group. Further work is needed to develop a robust and practical partnership framework.</p>
<p>Design and deliver a new operating model for all public services in Edinburgh so that all public workers are focused and empowered to put prevention of poverty at the heart of everything they do (CEC and EP)</p>	<p>In progress Full update provided in main report section 'Making it easier to get help'. Further Edinburgh Partnership actions forthcoming during 2024 through the development of a new Edinburgh Partnership Transformation and Improvement Programme.</p>

Call to Action	Status update
Fair Work that provides dignity and security	
Maintain accreditation as a Living Wage Employer (CEC, NHS, and EP)	<p>In progress Accreditation has been maintained since 2016.</p> <p>All Edinburgh Partnership member organisations are accredited real Living Wage employers.</p> <p>Update provided in main report, section: “Increase income from work and opportunity to progress”</p>
Establish Edinburgh as a Living Wage City (CEC)	<p>Complete Accreditation secured in November 2021. Update provided in main report, section “Increase income from work and opportunity to progress”</p> <p>See also Fair Work, Gig Economy, and Living Hours City update, August 2023</p>
Launch and deliver a new Edinburgh Guarantee For All programme (CEC)	<p>In progress Update provided in main report, section “Helping people to access and progress in work”</p>
Deliver the ‘No One Left Behind Edinburgh’s Employer Recruitment Incentive’ (EERI), helping people of all ages with the greatest barriers to employment get jobs and stay in jobs. (CEC)	<p>In progress Update provided in main report, section “Increase income from work and opportunity to progress”</p>
Develop and commission a new Blended Employability Service, providing improved access to flexible employability support across the city (CEC)	<p>In progress Update provided in main report, section “Increase income from work and opportunity to progress”</p>
Deliver the Council Sustainable Procurement Strategy, and actions to increase living wage accredited suppliers (CEC)	<p>In progress Update provided in main report, section “Increase income from work and opportunity to progress”</p> <p>Further information in the Sustainable Procurement Strategy Annual Report March 2023</p>
Deliver the Council Sustainable Procurement Strategy, and actions to increase, and improve monitoring and delivery of, community benefits offered by suppliers –	<p>As above</p>

Call to Action	Status update
Fair Work that provides dignity and security	
aiming to achieve the target of 1 FTE job with training for a person from a targeted group (where appropriate) for every £1m of procurement spending by 2025 (CEC)	Further information in the Sustainable Procurement Strategy Annual Report March 2023
Review best practice and embed appropriate Community Wealth Building approaches into a revised Edinburgh Economy Strategy developed to drive Council actions for a sustainable economic recovery. (EP & CEC)	In progress Community Wealth Building embedded in Council Business Plan , Economy Strategy , and Edinburgh Partnership work. Further updates planned in 2024.

Call to Action	Status update
A decent home we can afford to live in	
In partnership with city stakeholders, write to and seek a roundtable with Scottish Government (SG) ministers and directors for discussion of the additional funding requirements for housing in Edinburgh the Commission highlights (CEC)	In progress Update provided in main report, section “ Deliver decent homes that people can afford to live in ”
Deliver Edinburgh’s Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP), including actions to Prevent Homelessness, transform temporary accommodation and move away from the use of unsuitable accommodation, support people to access settled accommodation as soon as possible, and reduce the number of people rough sleeping in the city. (CEC)	In progress Update provided in main report, section “ Maximise support from social safety nets ” See also Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan - Annual Update on Progress
Deliver City Plan 2030 outlining new minimum affordable housing contributions for new developments in Edinburgh (CEC)	In progress Update provided in main report, section “ Deliver decent homes that people can afford to live in ” See also Affordable Housing Policy Update 2023
Deliver this Council’s commitment to build 25,000 social and affordable homes (CEC)	In progress Update provided in main report, section “ Deliver decent homes that people can afford to live in ”

Call to Action	Status update
A decent home we can afford to live in	
	See also Affordable Housing Policy Update 2023
<p>Deliver the annual Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget Strategy, investing in improving existing Council homes and neighbourhoods - including delivering energy efficient, low carbon homes, development of new and existing homes blended together to create a local identity and a sense of pride in communities, and well-designed, green, open spaces that encourage residents to be active and socialise.</p> <p>(CEC)</p>	<p>In progress Update provided in main report, section “Deliver decent homes that people can afford to live in”</p> <p>See also 2023/24 Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme</p>
<p>Continue to deliver the Housing Service Improvement Plan, ensuring that the frontline housing service is visible, responsive, and effective</p> <p>(CEC)</p>	<p>In progress Update provided in main report, section “Deliver decent homes that people can afford to live in”</p> <p>See also Housing Service Improvement Plan – Six-monthly Update</p>
<p>Following Scottish Government legislation expected to come into force from April 2021, develop, consult, and agree upon local implementation of the new licensing and planning controls for regulation of short term letting in Edinburgh</p> <p>(CEC)</p>	<p>In progress Update provided in main report, section “Deliver decent homes that people can afford to live in”</p> <p>For further information, please see: Short Term Let Enforcement in Edinburgh.pdf</p>
<p>Seek discussions with private rented tenants, landlords & Scottish Government to address concerns rising private sector rents (CEC)</p>	<p>In progress Update provided in main report, section “Deliver decent homes that people can afford to live in”</p>

Call to Action	Status update
Income security that offers a real lifeline	
<p>Deliver priority proposal to deliver embedded income and family support services to a wider range of community settings across Edinburgh (EP)</p>	<p>In progress Update provided in main report, section “Maximise uptake of benefits entitlements and other income support “See also Local Outcome Improvement Plan Annual Report 2022-2023</p>

Call to Action	Status update
Income security that offers a real lifeline	
Continue to deliver high quality money, debt and welfare advice through the Council's Advice Shop service (CEC)	In progress Update provided in main report, section “ Maximise uptake of benefits entitlements and other income support ” See also, Annual Performance Report 2022/23
Continue to deliver actions to administer Scottish Welfare Fund crisis and community grants (CEC)	In progress Update provided in main report, section “ Maximise uptake of benefits entitlements and other income support ”
Deliver a programme of appropriate targeted outreach and promotion of Scottish Welfare Fund and other Council administered benefits and support schemes. (CEC)	In progress Update provided in main report, section “ Maximise uptake of benefits entitlements and other income support ”
Deliver priority proposals to expand the ‘1 in 5’ programme to all Council staff, redesign of materials to meet the needs of varying staff groups, with an objective to establish appropriate awareness raising sessions for all directorates (CEC)	In progress Update provided in main report, section “ Deliver poverty awareness training programmes that addresses stigma, and supports public sector workers public to put prevention of poverty at the heart of everything they do ”
Working with city stakeholders, seek dialogue with appropriate UK and Scottish Government ministers on the findings of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission in regard to Social Security Policy and implementation. (CEC)	In progress Examples include officer participation at 2023 sessions of the May 2023 UK Government Work and Pensions Committee inquiry into Benefit levels in the UK .

Call to Action: Opportunities that drive justice and boost prospects	Status update
Continue the delivery and development of core existing plans and strategies aiming to ensure pupils thrive at school and close the attainment gap, including – Edinburgh Children's Services Plan, Education Improvement Plan 2020-23, and the Edinburgh Learns Equity Framework (CEC)	In progress Update provided in main report, section “ Improve attainment, achievement, and positive destinations for young people who grow up in poverty ” See the Local Authority Standards & Quality Report 2022-23 .
Develop and deliver the Learning for Life Programme aiming to create a world class learning city where everyone's skills, knowledge, creativity and relationships with people and places are equally valued.	In progress Update provided in main report, section “ Improve attainment, achievement, and positive destinations for young people who grow up in poverty ”

Call to Action: Opportunities that drive justice and boost prospects	Status update
(CEC)	See the Local Authority Standards & Quality Report 2022-23 .
<p>Develop actions to provide inclusive, equitable, valuable learning opportunities for everyone.</p> <p>(CEC)</p>	<p>In progress Update provided in main report, section “Improve attainment, achievement, and positive destinations for young people who grow up in poverty”</p> <p>See the Local Authority Standards & Quality Report 2022-23.</p>
<p>Develop actions to use a place-based approach to build collaborative and sustainable learning communities and networks</p> <p>(CEC)</p>	<p>In progress Update provided in main report, section “Provide the support people need, in the places they live and work”</p> <p>See the Local Authority Standards & Quality Report 2022-23.</p>
<p>Develop actions to co-create the environments where learners can lead and shape their own learning</p> <p>(CEC)</p>	<p>In progress Update provided in main report, section “Improve attainment, achievement, and positive destinations for young people who grow up in poverty”</p> <p>See the Local Authority Standards & Quality Report 2022-23.</p>
<p>Work with school communities in target areas (beginning with core projects in Granton and Westerhailes), and their partners to define curriculum rationales which will then lead to clear, equitable pathways into further education and the world of work. (CEC)</p>	<p>In progress Update provided in main report, section “Provide the support people need, in the places they live and work” See the Local Authority Standards & Quality Report 2022-23.</p>
<p>Expand mentoring schemes in Edinburgh, to reach every school in the city with effective screening and matching to support looked after and struggling young people to improve engagement with learning (EP)</p>	<p>In progress Mentoring programmes in place in Edinburgh schools and other educational settings. Further work would be required to scope business case for full expansion.</p>
<p>Expand and develop the 1 in 5 programme as a regular, mandatory training action for all school staff, aiming to improve and reinforce understanding of poverty and inequality across all schools (CEC)</p>	<p>In progress Update provided in main report, section “Deliver poverty awareness training programmes that addresses stigma, and supports public sector workers public to put prevention of poverty at the heart of everything they do”</p>
<p>Develop and deliver training to pastoral staff in all schools as part of the 1 in 5 programme, responding to the evidence of high levels of school absence as well as anxiety and depression among children in temporary accommodation. (CEC)</p>	<p>In progress Update provided in main report, section “Improve attainment, achievement, and positive destinations for young people who grow up in poverty”</p>

Call to Action: Opportunities that drive justice and boost prospects	Status update
<p>Develop Professional Learning with a focus on Leadership for Equity (LfE) to build expertise, practices and skills in leading improvements aimed at achieving equity. (CEC)</p>	<p>In progress See the Local Authority Standards & Quality Report 2022-23.</p>
<p>Host a roundtable with Edinburgh Independent Schools to explore and agree new partnership actions to overcome inequality and improve inclusion across Edinburgh (CEC)</p>	<p>Complete First roundtable with Independent Schools was held in 2021. Actions included commitment of schools such as George Watson's college to full Living Wage accreditation.</p>
<p>Explore opportunities to review individual school catchment areas as part of school development and building programmes (CEC)</p>	<p>In progress Opportunities for catchment review have continued to be brought forward to the Education Children and Families Committee as they arise. 3 statutory consultations are upcoming.</p>
<p>Deliver across all schools, a new online tracking system that highlights poverty related attainment gaps, allowing schools to respond to these with targeted support (CEC)</p>	<p>In progress See the Local Authority Standards & Quality Report 2022-23.</p>
<p>Deliver Early Years Expansion to 1140 funded hours and ensure early years provision is flexible enough to meet the needs of families (CEC)</p>	<p>In progress Update provided in main report, section “Improve attainment, achievement, and positive destinations for young people who grow up in poverty” See the Local Authority Standards & Quality Report 2022-23.</p>
<p>Target PEF on actions to allow schools to continue to address poverty-related barriers, including inequity of digital access and reducing the cost of the school day (CEC)</p>	<p>In progress Update provided in main report, section “Improve attainment, achievement, and positive destinations for young people who grow up in poverty” See the Local Authority Standards & Quality Report 2022-23.</p>
<p>Develop and implement a plan to reduce the poverty related attainment gap in literacy and numeracy including recruiting Closing the Gap teachers (CEC)</p>	<p>In progress Update provided in main report, section “Improve attainment, achievement, and positive destinations for young people who grow up in poverty” See the Local Authority Standards & Quality Report 2022-23.</p>

Call to Action: Connections in a city that belongs to us

Status update

Deliver a new Edinburgh Economy Strategy developed to guide Council actions to support a sustainable economic recovery for the city post Covid, including the renewal of Edinburgh's cultural sector (CEC)

In Progress New [Edinburgh Economy Strategy](#) published in 2021. Progress update planned for January 2024. New Culture Strategy published in 2023 provides additional actions on promoting inclusion in Culture in Edinburgh.

Develop plans to design and embed a 20-minute neighbourhood approach to new developments, and planning of services in Edinburgh (CEC)

In Progress Improve digital inclusion and access to affordable transport **"Provide the support people need, in the places they live and work"**

Deliver a City Mobility Plan (CMP), with actions to reduce the day to day cost of travel for families in Edinburgh (CEC)

In Progress Update provided in main report, section **"Improve digital inclusion and access to affordable transport"**

Deliver the Council Digital and Smart City Strategy actions to improve digital inclusion and provide support for citizens to gain digital skills and the confidence to use them, including: (CEC)

In Progress Main update provided in main report, section **"Improve digital inclusion and access to affordable transport"**

i) ensuring connectivity is available in community spaces including libraries, schools, and early years settings

Additional actions include work under way to improve online forms based on customer feedback, including making links that make it easier to tell the Contact Centre when a service hasn't been delivered as expected. Priorities for 2024 include further expansion of customer satisfaction surveys to help shape future options to expand digital services and use technology to serve citizens.

ii) ensuring citizens can access resources within our libraries

iii) ensuring citizens can access learning opportunities to further their digital skills

iv) ensuring that digital literacies are embedded into all aspects of the curriculum

v. fostering positive relationships between families and early years settings/schools allowing for support opportunities to be identified

In Progress Update provided in main report, section **"Maximise uptake of benefits entitlements and other income support"**

vi) providing equity of access to digital resources for all learners in schools

vii) ensuring low cost affordable broadband is available for Council tenants

viii) working with third sector partners to promote access to affordable digital equipment

ix) ensuring that citizens on low incomes are involved in the design and development of digital services that matter to them

Call to Action: Connections in a city that belongs to us	Status update
<p>Edinburgh Partnership members to collaborate with other partners to provide ‘single gateway’ easy access to free and concessionary travel, simplifying highly fragmented schemes already available via schools, employability programmes and Job Centres and to combine resources to develop a zero-interest loan scheme to allow low-income passengers to buy long-term travel passes and thus benefit from the lowest fares. (EP)</p>	<p>Actions yet to be developed. Updates on affordable transport actions are provided in main report, section “Improve digital inclusion and access to affordable transport”</p>
Call to Action: Equality in our health and wellbeing	Status update
<p>Continue Council and Edinburgh Partnership responses to the impacts of the Covid outbreak, including (EP, CEC & NHS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • management of key frontline service delivery in line with government and public health guidance • provide crisis support for people affected by Covid, including contact support for vulnerable citizens, welfare checks and grant support for self-isolating citizens • Review and develop approaches to make best use of Scottish Government funding to address financial hardship as a result of Covid 	<p>Complete Pandemic recovery actions now embedded as part of mainstream delivery.</p>
<p>Develop and continue partnership working with EVOC and 3rd Sector to ensure a coordinated approach to contact and delivery of support activities and to assess long term service delivery options to address food insecurity (EP)</p>	<p>In Progress Update provided in main report, section “Deliver well targeted cash first and local crisis support programmes”</p>
<p>Deliver priority proposal to invest in the expansion of the ‘Discover’ programme, working with families to reduce food anxiety, build skills and address social isolation (CEC)</p>	<p>In Progress Delivery of Discover! programmes continue. Update provided in main report, section “Improve attainment, achievement, and positive destinations for young people who grow up in poverty”</p>

Call to Action: Equality in our health and wellbeing

Status update

Develop and enhance NHS-led partnerships and services (NHS)

In Progress NHS Lothian is established as an Anchor Institution and accredited Living Wage employer, with close links with employability partners to support NHS Lothian general and specific employability initiatives.

Key actions delivered by the Edinburgh Partnership and Place Team during 2023 have included integrating a Child Poverty Focus into Children’s Services Partnership; joint-funding and working with Council and Police Scotland to allocate and support management of Connecting Communities Edinburgh Fund; developing referral pathways from midwifery, health visiting and family nurse practitioners to income maximisation support, and leading the ‘standards’ workstream within the food poverty strategy

As part of their role within the Edinburgh Partnership, NHS Lothian lead the ‘Creating good places to live’ workstream of Edinburgh’s Local Outcome Improvement Plan.

Further updates provided in the main report, section **“Increase income from work and opportunity to progress”** and **“Maximise uptake of benefits entitlements and other income support”**

Fully establish the Edinburgh Partnership and Place team within Public Health (NHS)

Complete The Edinburgh Partnership and Place team was established within Public Health during 2022/23.

Further develop the use of public health data with community planning partners (NHS)

In Progress Key actions delivered during 2023 include improvements to children and young people core datasets, support for development of the Local Outcome improvement Plan performance framework and providing bespoke analysis on the impact of poverty on people with disabilities.

Endnotes

ⁱ 2021 estimates of all age and child poverty in Edinburgh are derived from datasets published by End Child Poverty Coalition - [Child Poverty Statistics - End Child Poverty](#). For a full analysis of methodology used to produce Edinburgh level poverty estimates, please see https://edinburghpovertycommission.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/20200930_Poverty_in_Edinburgh-Data_and_evidence.pdf

ⁱⁱ <https://data.gov.scot/poverty>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.resolutionfoundation.org/publications/living-standards-outlook-summer-2023/>

^{iv} [Poverty in Scotland 2023 | JRF](#)

^v <https://data.gov.scot/poverty>

^{vi} Source: Citizens Advice Scotland

^{vii} Source: City of Edinburgh Council

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

^{ix} Estimates are drawn from biannual JRF/Heriot Watt University study Destitution in the UK. Next update is due for publication on 26th October 2023.

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

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

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

^{xiii} Universal Credit claimant numbers via [DWP](#)

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

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

^{xvi} Data sources for health inequality data:

- [Life Expectancy in Scotland | National Records of Scotland \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](#). Note that 2022 data are based projections and treated as provisional.
- [Healthy Life Expectancy in Scotland | National Records of Scotland \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](#)
- Mortality rates calculated by NHS Lothian Public Health Intelligence using NRS deaths data held by Lothian Analytical Services
- 27-30 month review data based on CHSP-PS and extracted from PHS Discovery
- MH Prescriptions (% population prescribed drugs for anxiety/depression/psychosis) via [ScotPHO profiles tool](#).

^{xvii} This measure- the absolute gap- describes the absolute difference between the extremes of deprivation (SIMD 1 and SIMD 5). These are different figures to those presented in the last report, based on SII, which due to technical issues could not be updated. More information about the absolute gap can be found in the Scottish Government's Long-term Monitoring of Health Inequalities report ([Annex 1: Technical Notes - Long-term Monitoring of Health Inequalities March 2023 report - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#))