



# THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

## Addressing Food Poverty

### 1. Executive Summary

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- 1.1 This paper sets out the proposed approach to addressing food poverty, taking account of learning from the response to the Covid-19 pandemic, and earlier frameworks and approaches.
- 1.2 The proposed approach has two strands: improving the level and security of people's incomes to reduce the need for emergency food provision; and the development of a wider food strategy which encompasses the provision of food in an individual or global crises, as well as the role of food as part of a wider network of local support for wellbeing, building community and individual resilience.
- 1.3 In doing so, the approach aims to play a core part of meeting the calls to action made to the partnership by the Edinburgh Poverty Commission and align with other partnership priorities on income maximisation and family support being taken forward by the LOIP Delivery Group.
- 1.4 The next steps proposed are to convene a working group to develop a draft strategy for consultation, including underpinning principles and shared outcomes.

### 2. Recommendations

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- 2.1 It is recommended that The Edinburgh Partnership approve:
  - 2.1.1 The development of an Edinburgh Partnership Food Poverty Strategy which will:
    - be led by stakeholders
    - take a strategic approach to the distribution of funding, including future crisis funding
    - take a cash first approach to ending food poverty in Edinburgh, and
    - meet the recommendations of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission
  - 2.1.2 The next steps:
    - identify a working group of key stakeholders
    - scope and develop a food poverty strategy, identifying underpinning principles and shared outcomes
    - consult on the draft strategy
    - refine model and action plan for consideration by the Edinburgh Partnership at its December 2021 meeting

### 3. Main Report

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- 3.1 This paper sets out the proposed approach to addressing food insecurity, taking account of the learning from Edinburgh's response to the Covid-19 pandemic and the findings and recommendations of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission, as well as from earlier frameworks and approaches taken within the city.
- 3.2 The need for action is recognised in the End Poverty Edinburgh Delivery Plan, which makes the commitment to *develop and continue partnership working with EVOC and 3rd Sector to ensure a co-ordinated approach to contact and delivery of support activities and to assess long term service delivery options to address food insecurity.*
- 3.3 The Edinburgh Partnership considered a paper (4c) at its December 2020, describing the Council's crisis response to financial and food insecurity: a cash-first approach, in line with Scottish Government guidance and Poverty Commission recommendations, and food delivered through a contract with EVOC. It noted that work is also being planned to engage with partner organisations on future service provision, including tackling food insecurity, and this work is described below.

#### **Context**

- 3.4 Food insecurity ranges from worrying about running out of food, to actually running out of food and experiencing hunger because of a lack of money or other resources and other fixed costs such as high rents. Factors such as education, experience, confidence and family circumstances contribute, but poverty is the main cause of food insecurity. Low pay, insecure work, and inadequate and unreliable social security provision mean that people can often be unable to put food on the table.
- 3.5 Food insecurity was evident before the Covid-19 pandemic. The Scottish Health Survey (2018/2019) found that nearly one in three single parents reported that they had been worried they would run out of food in the previous 12 months and 12% of all single parents said they had run out of food due to a lack of money or other resources. Covid-19 has highlighted and multiplied an existing problem.
- 3.6 The Integrated Framework to Tackle Health Inequality (2013-14)<sup>1</sup> promoted the development of food and health networks for practitioners working in areas of deprivation and with vulnerable groups. Around this time, there were 20 food banks in the city.
- 3.7 The Scottish Government takes a human rights approach to tackling food insecurity, founded on principles of dignity and respect, as part of the overall strategy to tackle inequalities and build a fairer, more equal Scotland. Its strategic approach is threefold – increasing incomes, providing a dignified, cash-first

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<sup>1</sup> produced by the Health Inequalities Standing Group of the Edinburgh Community Health Partnership



response to people in crisis and co-ordinating action on food policy, as set out in [Good Food Nation](#) (2018).

- 3.8 [Edible Edinburgh](#) is the city's food partnership. Members of the partnership include [Nourish Scotland](#), [Edinburgh Food Social](#), [Edinburgh Community Food](#) as well as The City of Edinburgh Council, University of Edinburgh and Edinburgh College. The partnership's vision encompasses food poverty as well as economy, environment, health and fair trade, and their [Sustainable Food City Plan](#) includes raising awareness of food poverty and its causes and pressing for change at UK, Scottish and local level.
- 3.9 The approach to addressing food poverty proposed in this paper will be done in alignment with the work of Edible Edinburgh and its working groups.

### **Scope**

- 3.10 Food provision spans a wide range of policy areas, including economy, welfare, wellbeing, community development, transport, supply, cultivation and sustainability. The focus proposed for this response to food insecurity is on people being able to afford and have ready access to food, and food as part of a wider package of supports available to people in community settings. It sits alongside the Council's Food Growing Strategy, which is under development.

### **Current position**

- 3.11 Partners support income maximisation and provides financial advice and support in a variety of ways:
- The Advice Shop, which in 2020, made financial gains for citizens of £8.8M, an average of over £2,300 per household, through DWP, HMRC and local authority payments;
  - The Council's Transactions Team, which administers a range of financial supports to people – free school meals and the related Winter Support Fund (supporting 7,420 children during the Christmas holiday), clothing grants (to 7,834 pupils during 2020), the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (around 36,500 recipients), the Scottish Welfare Fund (with spend of around £3M between April and December 2020) and Discretionary Housing Payments (almost £4.5M paid in 2020-21 up to 31 December);
  - The jointly funded Maximise! Programme<sup>2</sup> which provides a holistic service to pupils' families to including providing advice to maximise income, reduce debt, resolve housing issues and gain employment.

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<sup>2</sup> The City of Edinburgh Council, the Edinburgh Health & Social Care Partnership and the Capital City Partnership

- Programmes such as 1 in 5, reducing the cost of the school day, and Discover, providing meals, fun learning and access to advice and support to around 200 families during school holidays, with demand growing.
- 3.12 Desk-top mapping and discussion with stakeholders showed that there are around 130 organisations and projects with some level of food provision across the city.
- 3.13 Assessing levels of need and gaps in coverage is not straightforward, because communities within Edinburgh vary in whether they engage with supports and initiatives in their immediate area, and where there is little take up, projects tend to cease.
- 3.14 There is a range of models of food-related organisations across the city, with examples described below. The ethos, principles and approaches to provision varies, with some being free to all, independent of circumstances, and some criteria based.
- 3.15 Edinburgh Community Food receive funding from the Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership, and operate city-wide providing cooking skills, support for entry to the hospitality industry (employability approach); nutrition; healthy eating on a budget; supporting community health projects and the nine food co-operatives in the city.
- 3.16 The Cyrenians work with hard-to-reach and vulnerable groups, including homeless people, helping people to shop healthily on a budget and cook; social cooking and eating; community cook clubs; learning or relearning skills.
- 3.17 Community health projects, funded by the Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership are mostly food-related (cooking on a budget, nutrition, hygiene, food skills) and include Restalrig Community Café, Westerhailes health agency and Bridgend Farm House.
- 3.18 Food Banks: there are two broad models – those which only provide food and Food Banks Plus which provide support with the underlying problems e.g. income maximisation, welfare advice, employability, morbidity; and community meals. The Council co-ordinates the Food Bank network with representation from a number of the food banks in the city.

### **Learning from Covid and earlier approaches**

- 3.19 The response to Covid-19 provided the opportunity for flexible, rapid responses from new and existing providers, and highlighted a range of challenges and opportunities, and valuable learning for the development of a long-term strategy.
- 3.20 Key lessons included:
- Food networks have a valuable role to play through co-ordination, expert knowledge and an understanding of the communities they serve



- The need for clarity of roles and responsibilities; governance and operational processes e.g. referral routes, eligibility for funding and funding routes – this clarity is essential to building trust and effective partnership working which support co-ordination and the effective use of resources
- The challenges of balancing flexibility with accountability; this includes the need for an approach to monitoring and data collection which recognises the stigma which people may feel, and helps to understand the scale and types of need, which in turn, shapes future provision
- The need for a framework of good practice principles, spanning the approach to working with people in a dignified and empowering way to food hygiene and manual handling
- The importance of engaging with communities, taking account of what “local” provision means to them, as administrative boundaries of localities can mean little; find out what they need/want; understand the needs of the range of groups including older people and people from BAME groups.

### **The way ahead**

- 3.21 The proposed approach has two strands.
- 3.22 Firstly, building income security, recognised by the Edinburgh Poverty Commission as being key to replacing the need for food provision.
- 3.23 Secondly, the development of a food strategy which will encompass emergency provision for communities and individuals and the wider approach to food as part of an integrated approach to health and wellbeing which helps to build individual and community resilience.
- 3.24 The proposal is to work with partners and key stakeholders to agree a framework which will guide future provision and funding, and end the need for foodbanks, which is:
- cash first
  - based on dignity principles, and an agreed approach to access criteria
  - clear roles and responsibilities of all parties, with clear referral routes
  - building individual and community resilience;
  - value for money
  - informed by the participation of the End Poverty Edinburgh citizen group

### **Next steps**

- 3.25 Identify a working group of key stakeholders
- 3.26 Scope and develop a food poverty strategy, identifying underpinning principles and shared outcomes



- 3.27 Consult on the draft strategy
- 3.28 Refine model and action plan for consideration by the Edinburgh Partnership at its December 2021 meeting

#### 4. Contacts

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Appendix 1– List of current providers of food support

## APPENDIX

Name	Post code	Supported By
About Youth	EH11 4JH	
Assembly Festival	EH8 9JU	
B healthy Together	EH11 3RH	
Baking Club	EH4 4EL	Living Well NE
Basics Bank (Foodbank) Granton Baptist		
Beginners cooking group	EH4 2SA	
Blythswood Care	EH17 8AS	Trussell Trust
Breakfast Club P5-S1	EH5 2HF	Spartans CFA
Bridge 8 Hub Paddle Café	EH11 4NE	GoBeyond
Brigdgend Farmhouse	EH16 4TE	
Brookie Club	EH4 4PD	<b>Pilton Equalities Project</b>
Broughton	EH3 6NE	Trussell Trust
Brunstane Nursery Community Pantry	EH15 3BE	Cyrenians Community Grocer
Bruntisfield Evangelical Church	EH10 4JU	
Bump to Buggy	EH4 4PX	
Calders Community Flat	EH11 4JH	GoBeyond
Calton Welfare Services	EH6 8RD	
<b>Caring in Craigmillar</b>	EH16 4NX	
Carrubbers Christian Centre	EH1 1SR	City Mission Soul Food
Central Hall	EH3 9BP	City Mission Soul Food
Children's gardening and cooking group	EH4 4RW	
Chummy Club	EH5 1NX	<b>Pilton Equalities Project</b>
City of Edinburgh Methodist Church	EH8 9BX	City Mission Soul Food
Clermiston	EH4 7BS	Trussell Trust
Coffee and Chat at the Salvation Army	EH5 1BZ	Salvation Army
Community Cafe at Muirhouse Millenium Centre	EH4 4RW	
Community Cafe at North Edinburgh Arts	EH4 4TZ	
Community Lunch	EH5 2NW	Granton Baptist Church
Community Lunch Club at Granton United Church	EH5 2LU	Granton United Church
Community One Stop Shop	EH11 3UU	GoBeyond
Community Renewal	?	
Cooking sessions	EH5 2PW	Pilton Community Health Partnership
Cornerstone	EH14 2SL	
Corstorphine Community Church	EH12 7SQ	
Craigentiny - Wilson Memorial Church	EH7 6RY	
Craigmillar	EH16 4AJ	Trussell Trust
Crops in Pots	EH6 7EY	
Cupcake club	EH4 4BH	Pilton Y&C Project
Cyrenians		



Name	Post code	Supported By
Cyrenians Fareshare depot	EH6 5HG	Fareshare
Cyrenians Pantry	EH5 1HS	Cyrenians
Dad's community group	EH4 4BH	Pilton Y&C Project
Drylaw cooking group	EH4 2SA	Drylaw Neighbourhood Centre
Drylaw Parish Church	EH4 2SA	Drylaw Parish Church
Dunedin Club	EH5 1QA	Dunedin Canmore Housing Assoc
E café (during school term times)	EH5 2NW	Granton Baptist Church
Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust	EH10 7DS	Healthy Lifestyles in South Edinburgh
Edinburgh City Mission Food Bank+	EH11 1DS	
Edinburgh Community Food	EH6 5ND	
Edinburgh Community Health Forum	EH9 2HL	Strategic Group for Community Health
Edinburgh Food Project	EH11 3UY	
Edinburgh Interfaith Association	EH9 1TQ	
Empty Kitchens Full Hearts @Leith Library	EH6 4AE	
Eric Liddell Centre	EH10 4DP	
Food For Good	?	Food Social?
FooTEA Club + Extra Time	EH5 2HF	Spartans CFA
Fresh Start	EH4 4BR	North Edinburgh Covid 19 Food Share Group
Fresh Start Pantry	EH4 4BR	Fresh Start
Goodtrees Neighbourhood Centre Pantry	EH17 7LB	Cyrenians Community Grocer
Gorgie Farm	EH11 2LA	
Gorgie Salvation Army	EH11 2RT	Trussell Trust
Granton - Granton Baptist Church	EH5 2NW	
Granton Church	EH5 1BZ	
Granton Community Gardeners (Food Distribution)	EH5 1LY	Granton Community Gardens
Granton Community Gardeners Thur night supper	EH5 1AG	Granton Community Gardens
Granton Community Gardens	EH5 1LY	Pilton CHP
Granton Hub Community Cook Club	EH5 1HS	Cyrenians
Granton Hub Pantry	EH5 1HS	Cyrenians Community Grocer
Granton Library	EH5 1DD	Granton Library
Granton Parish Church	EH5 2DA	Granton Parish Church
Grassmarket	EH1 2PW	Trussell Trust
Grassmarket Community Project	EH1 2QA	
Grassmarket depends on parking	EH1 2HJ	Bethany Trust Lunchtime Care Van
Guru Nanak - Free Kitchen, Kirkgate	EH6 6BJ	
Health All Round	EH11 2QH	
Holy Trinity Church	EH14 2SL	GoBeyond
Jamboree	EH4 2RP	Drylaw Parish Church



Name	Post code	Supported By
King's Stables Road / St Cuthbert's Graveyard	EH1 2JY	Bethany Trust Lunchtime Care Van
Leith - Ebenezer United Free Church	EH6 5JX	
Leith St Andrew's Church Hall	EH6 8HT	Trussell Trust
Libertus Services	EH16 6RN	
Life Church	EH8 9EB	City Mission Soul Food
Lunch Club	EH4 4EL	Living Well North Ed
Magic Club	EH5 1HL	St David's Episcopal Church
Market Street by The New Steps	EH1 1DE	Bethany Trust Lunchtime Care Van
Mens Breakfast Club	EH5 1AG	Granton Parish Church
Moredun - The Tron Kirk	EH16 4SS	
Much Bunch Soup Lunches	EH4 4PD	Bield Housing & Care
Muirhouse Library	EH4 4TZ	Muirhouse Library
Neighbourhood food group	EH4 4EL	<b>Pilton Equalities Project</b>
Newington - Edinburgh Community Church	EH8 9NZ	
North Bridge depends on parking	EH1 1SB	Bethany Trust Lunchtime Care Van
North Leith Parish Church Halls	EH6 4AW	Trussell Trust
Nourishing Change	?	
Old Saint Paul's Episcopal Church	EH1 1DH	
One Parent Families Scotland	EH1 3EP	
Oxgangs Neighbourhood Centre	EH13 9EU	City Mission Soul Food
Pennywell Pantry	EH4 4DR	Pennywell Pantry
Pilmeny Development Project	EH6 8SQ	
Pilton	EH5 2JQ	Trussell Trust
<b>Pilton Equalities Project</b>	EH4 4EL	
Pilton Foodbank	EH6 2JQ	St Margaret Mary's
Portobello - Wilson Memorial Church	EH7 6RY	
Portobello Monday Centre	EH15 2EW	
Portobello Older People's Project	EH15 1EU	
Pregnancy Café	EH4 4BY	West Pilton NC
Prentice Centre	EH4 4GA	Prentice Centre
Prestonfield	EH16 5HW	Trussell Trust
Prestonfield Neighbourhood Project	EH16 5EX	
Ps & Gs Church – Saturday Meal	EH1 3RH	
Queensferry Churches Care in the Community	EH30 9JA	
Rainbow Club - Community Lunch	EH4 2RP	Drylaw Parish Church
Royston Wardieburn Community Café	EH5 1NF	Royston Wardieburn Community Centre
Salvation Army (East Adam Street)	EH8 9TF	
Salvation Army Niddry Street, Wellbeing Centre	EH1 1LG	
Score Scotland	EH14 2SA	

Name	Post code	Supported By
Scran Academy	EH4 2NY	
Smarties Community Lunch Club	EH5 1LH	St David's Episcopal Church
Social Bite - Rose Street	EH2 3DT	
South Edinburgh Day Centre Volunteer Forum	?	
South Leith Parish Church Halls	EH6 6BS	Trussell Trust
South Queensferry	EH30 9RA	Trussell Trust
South West Edible Estates	EH14 3JF	GoBeyond
<b>Space and the Broomhouse Hub</b>	EH11 3RH	GoBeyond
St Margaret Mary's Lunch Club	EH5 2JQ	St Margaret Mary's
St Margaret's Episcopal Church	EH7 5QE	City Mission Soul Food
St Margaret's Parish Church halls	EH7 6LE	Trussell Trust
St Pauls Parish Church	EH6 5AH	Trussell Trust
St Salvadors Episcopal Church	EH11 3QX	
Sunshine Club - Community Lunch	EH4 4RW	Muirhouse Millennium Centre
The Dove Centre	EH14 2BG	GoBeyond
The Health Agency	EH14 3JF	GoBeyond
The Open Door	EH10 5HY	
The Ripple Project	EH7 6DZ	Cyrenians Community Grocer
Tollcross	EH3 9BP	Trussell Trust
Venchie Centre Pantry	EH16 4NX	Cyrenians Community Grocer
Viewpoint Housing	EH9 2HG	
Wednesday Cooking Club	EH5 2PW	Pilton Community Health Project
Weekend Resource	EH4 4EL	<b>Pilton Equalities Project</b>
Wester Hailes	EH14 2SL	
Wester Hailes Youth Agency	EH14 2QR	GoBeyond
WHALE Arts Agency	EH14 2SA	GoBeyond & Cyrenians Community Grocer
World Care Foundation	EH7 4AF	
Youth Café S1 and above	EH4 4TZ	North Edinburgh Arts