

Reviewing the LOIP priority 3: A good place to live

Background

In response to the recommendations set out in Audit Scotland's Best Value Assurance Report (November 2020), the Board agreed in March to review Priority 3 of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) to focus on a public health led approach to place to help tackle poverty and reduce health inequalities.

This paper sets out the proposed vision, approach and principles for the delivery of LOIP Priority 3: *A good place to live*. A number of positive and innovative work programmes already exist across the city which are contributing to this agenda, most notably the HSCP's Wellbeing Pact, the City of Edinburgh Council's 20 Minute Neighbourhood and Community Empowerment agenda and the EVOC focus on community anchor organisations and wealth building.

Edinburgh Partnership leadership is needed to ensure a collective understanding of how these work programmes function, identify barriers avoid duplication or confusion, and prioritise actions that will contribute to our collective vision of reducing poverty and inequalities as we create better places to live.

Vision

We will work as a system to create and foster vibrant, thriving, healthy, sustainable and safe places and communities. There will be a specific focus on reducing poverty and health inequalities across the life course whilst at the same time protecting the health of our planet. Local people will be at the heart of this work.

Rationale

Health inequalities are caused by a complex mix of social and environmental factors that play out in a local area. The physical, mental, social, and economic wellbeing of the population is strongly influenced by the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age. These conditions influence opportunities for good health and how we think, feel and act. Place based approaches focus on the place rather than the individual, on social determinants of health such as income, employment, housing and education, which are more likely to be effective in addressing health inequalities longer term.

Health harm from climate change is increasing with the burden of harm falling disproportionately on those from more vulnerable communities and groups. Focussing on the health of our population alongside the health of our planet to develop a clean city with good air quality, thriving green spaces where everyone has access to good quality housing and work will help mitigate these impacts and reduce inequalities.

Delivery principles and approaches

Asset based community empowerment: Harnessing the assets within communities such as skills, knowledge, social networks and community organisations and services will provide the building blocks for good health and wellbeing. The added value for this LOIP priority will come from the emphasis on community empowerment – how do members of Edinburgh's communities influence and shape places and the services available in these communities? It will be important to draw on the wealth of information and the insights already generated from the work of the HSCP and Locality Community Planning Partnerships and Neighbourhood Networks to inform this work. EVOC's community anchor organisation work and the Wellbeing Pact provide a basis for anchor models of delivery across the city and the opportunities they present for participation and collective decision making. Our approach will move beyond engagement as we develop opportunities to give communities more power and control for example through asset transfers and exploring models such as participatory budgeting.

System working: Significant programmes of innovation and change in place making across the city are already underway and in development. Examples include

- **The Edinburgh PACT** – led by EHSCP and aiming to develop a modern relationship between providers and citizens to maximise wellbeing, prevent crisis and support people to manage their health and personal independence.
- **20 minute Neighbourhoods** – Acting on the recommendations of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission and the Edinburgh Climate Commission, the programme aims to support people in Edinburgh to live well locally, giving residents the ability to meet most of their daily needs from within their own community by building on models of shared service delivery with public, private and voluntary sector partners.
- **Thriving Places** - proposes a far-reaching re-shaping of the relationship between Edinburgh Partnership partners and city residents. Built around community anchor organisations and networks, the proposals envisage a careful and thorough process of codesign with Edinburgh’s community & voluntary sector, and people in communities, ensuring there is no wrong door, but multiple doors, for children and families or older people, different for each person, requiring local collaboration. The city benefits from an abundance of Arts & Culture venues and opportunities. Connecting and creating opportunities for local people to engage in arts and culture will positively impact their health and wellbeing and strengthen their sense of connection.
- **Community Wealth Building** – All these approaches have links with and relationships to the building of a deep focus on improving inclusion, wellbeing, citizen engagement and ownership of local communities. Building on these principles, the development of a new Edinburgh Economy Strategy outlines proposals for Community Wealth Building approaches to maximise local impacts of public sector procurement and commissioning activity, make socially productive use of land and property, and ensure fair employment and just labour markets operate in Edinburgh communities.

Edinburgh Partnership leadership is needed to co-ordinate, streamline, and enhance the work being carried out under each of these workstreams.

Place based planning: Building upon and drawing together the work of the Neighbourhood Networks and priorities set out in the Local Implementation Plans. Our approach will be intelligence driven and needs led to ensure that we develop and deliver interventions based on the specific needs of the local community, add value to existing work and direct resources to those with greatest capacity to benefit. We will use existing and new data and intelligence from a range of sources including the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, Edinburgh Citizen Survey and Edinburgh by Numbers alongside conversations with local communities to help us understand the relative needs of local people and communities and to inform the targeting of resources to geographically defined communities and communities of interest. Working with the private sector to facilitate the establishment of good local shops, businesses and cafes whilst building employment opportunities will help to foster a sense of place.

Public Health informed: The alignment of public health resource to the partnership will provide dedicated public health capacity to support, inform and where appropriate lead the ongoing development, delivery and evaluation of the work.

Focus on sustainability: We will work to the principles for climate action set out in the Edinburgh City Climate Strategy. Ensuring we actively support measures that deliver clean air and reduce environmental impacts for example through the development of thriving green spaces and active travel, warm homes and local jobs contributing to our journey towards a net zero city by 2030.

Focus on poverty: In line with the core priority of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan, this work is critical to success in meeting the Partnership’s commitment to eradicate poverty by 2030. Most specifically, the work will take a life course approach to meet the call to action made by Edinburgh Poverty Commission for a radical new operating model for all public services in Edinburgh focused on preventing poverty and delivering whole household support embedded within local communities.

What will success look like?

As the work develops partners and the community will work together to identify short, medium and longer term measures of success. These will include quantitative and qualitative measures including measures aligned to what the local community identify as being markers of places feeling good and healthy.

Broadly our collective ambitions are:

A sense of Belonging

- People's sense of wellbeing and belonging are increased

A sense of connection

- Social networks in local communities are strong
- Social connections and positive relationships are strengthened for groups in need

A sense of power and control

- Everyone feels they are an active part of their community
- People have opportunities to, learn, work and volunteer

A sense of wellbeing

- Communities have access to quality natural environments
- Equitable access to local shops and services

A sense of security

- Everyone has access to safe and affordable places to live
- Levels of crime and anti-social behaviour are reduced – *A sense of security*

Next Steps and Priorities

- Undertake join the dots workshop (June 2021)
- Complete Wellbeing Pact 'Summer Conversations';
- Develop detailed delivery plan with timescales and key by September 2021

Recommendations

- Edinburgh Partnership Board should endorse the proposed vision, principles and plans
- To develop a system wide detailed delivery plan with key measures by Sept 2021