

# Education, Children and Families Committee

**10.00, Friday, 16 August 2019**

## Reducing Child Poverty

Executive/routine  
Wards  
Council Commitments

### 1. Recommendations

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- 1.1 The Education, Children and Families Committee is asked to:
  - 1.1.1 agree the Local Child Poverty Action Report submitted to Scottish Government in July 2019
  - 1.1.2 agree to receive six monthly report to Committee from the Child Poverty Action Unit to effectively scrutinise progress and actions to mitigate/reduce child poverty.

**Alistair Gaw**

Executive Director for Communities and Families

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## Reducing Child Poverty

### 2. Executive Summary

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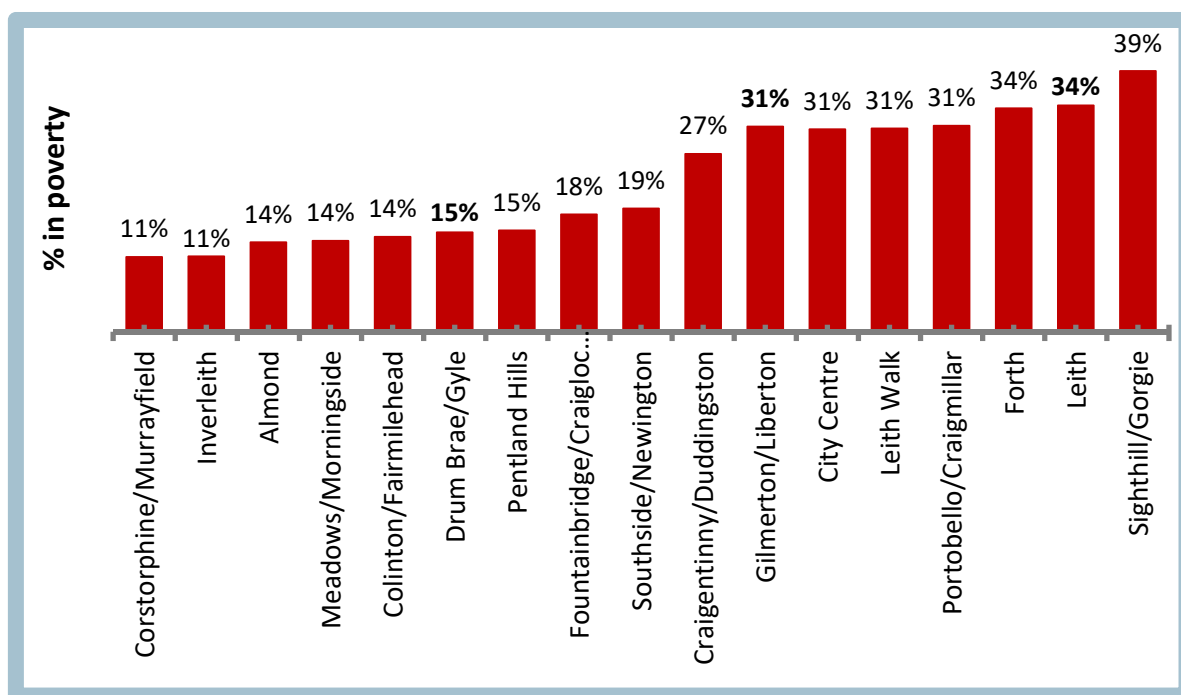
- 2.1 This report recaps the new responsibilities for Local Government and Health Boards arising from the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act. These include new requirements for publication of an annual report describing existing and new planned actions, or measures taken, to reduce and mitigate the effects of Child Poverty.
- 2.2 To meet these requirements, the report updates members of the Committee on actions taken to produce the first Local Child Poverty Action Report (LCPAR) which is attached at Appendix 1
- 2.3 This report provides members of the Committee with an update on the Child Poverty Action Unit (Coalition Commitment 45), the form of which was approved by the Committee on 9 October 2018, namely as a cross Partnership working group, led by Communities and Families. The purpose of this unit will be to:
  - 2.3.1 Build on existing partnership and reporting arrangements and co-ordinate Council action to address Child Poverty in Edinburgh
  - 2.3.2 Identify Council leads for the development and publication of annual Local Child Poverty Action Reports (beginning in June 2019), and
  - 2.3.3 Identify a point of liaison with the new Edinburgh Poverty Commission on issues and actions relating to Child Poverty

### 3. Background

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- 3.1 Edinburgh is an affluent city. Average incomes are 27% higher than the Scotland average. Unemployment rates are lower than those of any other major UK city. Employment rates are high and average wages are higher than those of most other areas in the UK. Despite this economic success, however, significant levels of poverty exist in Edinburgh.
- 3.2 There are no official Scottish Government estimates for measuring poverty at the local authority level in Scotland. The figures presented in this paper are modelled estimates published by the End Child Poverty coalition.

- 3.3 Using this model, it is estimated that 23% of all children in Edinburgh live in relative poverty after housing costs. This is almost 1 in 5 children across the city and is estimated at approximately 21,000 children.
- 3.4 Child poverty rates in Edinburgh vary considerably between different areas of the city, with rates of up to 39% recorded in some electoral wards, and as low as 11% in other. This pattern of inequality is replicated across all four of the locality areas which make up the city – North West, North East, South East, and South West. Every locality contains areas of high poverty. Most localities contain areas of relatively low poverty. Across all of Scotland, only 11 council wards record child poverty rates higher than those seen in Sighthill/Gorgie (with 9 of those wards located in Glasgow City alone).



## 4. Main report

### Local Child Poverty Action Report (LCPAR)

- 4.1 The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act places a new duty on local authorities and health boards to jointly prepare an annual Local Child Poverty Action Report on actions to reduce the impact of child poverty. The first Local Child Poverty Action Report was due for publication in June 2019 and has been uploaded onto the KHub as per Scottish Government requirements. The legislation states that these reports must aim to provide a strategic forward look, as well as an account of progress to date, and should:
- 4.1.1 "describe any measures taken in the area of the local authority during the reporting year...for the purpose of contributing to the meeting of [national] child poverty targets.", and

- 4.1.2 set out information on measures that the local authority plans to take to contribute to the meeting of the [national] child poverty reduction targets.
- 4.2 To address these aims, the Scottish Government developed local authority guidance for the contents of Local Child Poverty Action Reports. The guidance recommends that the report requires a series of steps:
- 4.2.1 Identify local partners, best achieved by using Community Planning Partnership processes
  - 4.2.2 Identify and assess child poverty in the local area
  - 4.2.3 Identify and assess existing action and existing plans that seek to reduce or mitigate child poverty in the local area
  - 4.2.4 Identify new action to reduce child poverty or expansions or modifications to existing action to increase impact
  - 4.2.5 Identify and share 'What is Working' and 'Lessons Learned'.
- 4.3 The Edinburgh Children's Partnership has agreed the Edinburgh LCHAR (Appendix 1) which outlines what we know about child poverty in Edinburgh and provides an overview of the main actions designed to mitigate the impact of, or reduce, child poverty. It describes work which has or is likely to achieve step change, which drivers of poverty our work aims to impact and identifies the priority groups. The report includes a few case studies that demonstrate effective practice. It also highlights the links between some of the Council's Coalition Commitment and the 3 drivers of poverty. There is a section illustrating strong partnerships within and across the Third Sector, the City of Edinburgh Council and NHS Lothian, also identifying where internal and cross sector partnerships would be strengthened. The final section draws conclusions and summarises our collective next steps
- 4.4 This Edinburgh LCPAR was co-authored by the City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) and NHS Lothian, with contributions from the third sector. A Writing Group was established as a sub group of the Edinburgh Child Poverty Action Unit, which is a cross council and cross sector working group. The Writing Group is made up of officers in CEC and NHS who are collectively responsible for and/or contribute to, several of the actions and plans detailed within the report including:
- working in partnership within the context of the Edinburgh Children's Partnership;
  - jointly leading the Edinburgh Children's Partnership Strategic Outcome Groups;
  - making strong links with the Edinburgh Poverty Commission
- 4.5 Within the City of Edinburgh, significant action is already in place to address Child Poverty and good partnership relationships already exist to meet the new reporting requirements, with evidence of step change through sector leading projects such as **1 in 5: Raising Awareness of Child Poverty** with **Maximise!** and **Discover!** already showing real impact.

- 4.6 The Child Poverty Action Unit (CPAU) held its first meeting in the City Chambers on (insert date) and is chaired by Councillor Alison Dickie. The CPAU is made up of Council officers, NHS colleagues and third sector. To date the group has met three times. The second meeting was at Craigroyston High School where young people set out some of the issues they face and ideas for action and the third meeting took place at LAYC (Lothian Association of youth Workers) where third sector colleagues and young people contributed
- 4.7 The unit has generated several ideas and possible actions which fall into 3 categories:
- those which build on existing good practice and where there are mechanisms to embed actions deeper, roll out wider or change mindset further
  - those which are longer term ideals and goals, and which are within the gift of partners to initiate and deliver
  - those which are more systemic or political and may require legislative change and/or significant investment

## **5. Next Steps**

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- 5.1 The LCPAG writing group has agree to meet towards the end of August to reflect on the processes involved in producing the first report and to consider who else needs to be involved. The Writing Group will be expanded and also plans a meeting with East Lothian and Midlothian to share what worked well.
- 5.2 The CPAU will continue to meet regularly, and the action plan is a live, dynamic document which is designed to drive actions to reduce/mitigate child poverty in Edinburgh.
- 5.3 The CPAU will develop Terms of Reference and ensure that it reports on actions regularly to Education, Children and Families and Edinburgh Children's Partnership.
- 5.4 The new Children's Services Plan will take full account of actions and initiatives across the partnership that mitigate, reduce and have the potential to reduce child poverty.

## **6. Financial impact**

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- 6.1 There are no significant financial impacts to the City of Edinburgh council

## **7. Stakeholder/Community Impact**

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- 7.1 The Edinburgh Poverty Commission has engaged in wide-ranging stakeholder engagement and the current finding and future recommendations inform both the LCPAR and the CPAU
- 7.2 In addition the CPAU has engaged with young people with lived experience of poverty.

- 7.3 Initiatives and programmes such as **1 in 5: Raising Awareness of Child Poverty, Maximise!** and **Discover!** have and continue to engage with communities and families living in poverty

## 8. Background reading/external references

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- 8.1 The following papers provide background to the report:

- 8.1.1 Every Child Every Chance – The Tackling Child Poverty Delivery plan 2018 – 22, Scottish Government, March 2018: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/child-chance-tackling-child-poverty-delivery-plan-2018-22/>
- 8.1.2 Edinburgh poverty Commission, City of Edinburgh Council: <http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20218/council-wide-plans-and-strategies/828/reducing-poverty-and-inequality>
- 8.1.3 Scottish Government Guidance on Child Poverty Action Reports: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/local-child-poverty-action-report-guidance/>
- 8.1.4 Child poverty Action Unit Report – referral from the Culture and Communities Committee, Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2018, Item 7.11(b): <http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/4553/education-children-and-families-committee>

## 9. Appendices

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- 9.1 Appendix 1 Local Edinburgh Child poverty Action Report

A close-up, black and white photograph of a young child's face, focusing on their eyes and hair. The child has light-colored eyes and dark hair.

# LOCAL CHILD POVERTY ACTION REPORT

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City of Edinburgh Council and NHS Lothian

City of Edinburgh  
Council  
Waverley Court  
East Market Street  
EDINBURGH  
EH8 8BG







## Foreword

***'It's hard for children to be poor and we need to help them because it's not their fault.'***

I quote these words often because they came from a P1 pupil that I taught as she worked alongside her peers in our community learning group on child poverty. At such a young age, she got it. She understood that poverty is not some kind of life choice and that people can often be trapped in their poverty because of the structural barriers that are put before them.

The latest data shows that almost one in four children in Edinburgh now live in poverty. In one electoral ward, it is almost 40%. Many children are coming to school hungry, living in homes that their parents and carers can't afford to heat, and relying on foodbanks to make ends meet. The situation is predicted to get worse, and most of these children will have great difficulty escaping from this cycle of poverty. In one of the wealthiest cities in the fifth largest economy in the world, this should shame us all.

The national Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2018-2022, **'Every Child, Every Chance'**, recognises that poverty is fundamentally about lack of income. It is therefore right that the targets in the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 are about increasing family incomes and reducing costs.

National policies and strategies will have the greatest impact on these, especially in relation to social security, but Community Planning Partnerships and Local Health Boards can also take significant steps to mitigate the impact of child poverty.

In Edinburgh, a lot of really good work is already established and making an impact, such as **1 in 5; Raising Awareness of Child**

**Poverty and Maximise!** More recent projects, such as **Discover!** are also in place. There is, however, much more to do.

I'm heartened, therefore, to see a move towards stronger partnership working across the city, and a recognition of the need to better co-ordinate actions and activities so that we make the best use of our resources and increase their impact on lives. It is also reassuring to see that service areas right across the Council are expected to consider what contribution they can make to help reduce child poverty. It is a challenge that will take us all.

This is our first Child Poverty Action Report and, as such, it sets out where we are currently. The Child Poverty Action Unit is in its early days but, as Chair, I look forward to working with partners to further shape our action plan, and ensure its delivery. Most of all though, I look forward to empowering the too often unheard voice of children and families with lived experience of poverty, and finding ways to firmly place them at the heart of all forward decision making.

Future reports should show our deep commitment to doing all we can to try and make further progress with what is, in my view, one of the most important priorities facing our city and nation.

**Councillor Alison Dickie, Vice Convener, Education, Children and Families**  
**Chair, Edinburgh Child Poverty Action Unit**





# Introduction

The Edinburgh Children's Partnership, Children's Services Plan 2017 – 2020, has identified five strategic aims. Reducing poverty is woven through the strategic aims and its strength lies in explicit partnership working to improve the outcomes for children and young people. It is aligned with the strategic context of NHS Lothian for children and young people through the NHS Strategy for Children and Young People (2014 – 2010) and The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

It is evident that public sector, community and voluntary organisations in Edinburgh are doing incredible work already to ameliorate some of the worst excesses of poverty in our area. With almost 1 in 4 children in Edinburgh now living in poverty, we have a responsibility to continue to improve what we do. We are committed to ensuring that local public sector decisions and resources target the causes of poverty as all the available evidence tells us that this will make the greatest difference to the life chances of children. But there must be a caution that some of the levers for change exist far from Edinburgh.

Recent reports from the UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights and the ongoing work of the Poverty and Inequality Commission in Scotland are reminders of the scale of the challenge set by the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017. The Act makes stark the fact that the life chances of children brought up in poverty in Scotland are markedly worse than those of children living elsewhere in western Europe.

It is incumbent on local partners to play a part in changing this story. Our local partnerships must use all our assets and talents efficiently, effectively and wisely. But to make a significant improvement, our decisions and policies about child poverty will need to be inventive and aspirational too. This first Local Child Poverty Action Report for Edinburgh provides an overview of our current work and signals our priorities for the next few years.



**Professor Alison McCallum**  
**Director of Public Health and Health Policy**

**NHS Lothian**



Families cooking together at **Discover!** Easter 2019

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# Section 1

## Purpose and Background

The purpose of this Local Child Poverty Action Report is to provide an overview of the actions taken by Edinburgh's Children's Partnership to mitigate the impact of and/or reduce child poverty in Edinburgh. It also identifies gaps and sets out the actions that it proposes to take that will contribute to meeting the targets in the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017.

### CONTEXT

The Scottish Government has identified three main drivers of child poverty:

- income from employment;
- costs of living;
- income from social security and benefits in kind.

It also identifies a number of priority groups that the plan should target as particular beneficiaries:

- Lone parents;
- Families where a member of the household is disabled;
- Families with three or more children;
- Minority ethnic families;
- Families where the youngest child is under 1;
- Mothers aged under 25.

The Child Poverty Act sets out four statutory, income-based targets (all after housing costs) to be achieved by 2030:

- Less than 10% of children in relative poverty;
- Less than 5% of children in absolute poverty;
- Less than 5% of children are in combined low-income and material deprivation;
- Less than 5% of children are in persistent poverty

Local Child Poverty Action Reports (LCPAR) are expected to show an understanding of the drivers of child poverty, what actions are currently in place, and what future actions will be implemented. The requirement to produce these reports signals an imperative to undertake new activity and a new approach; effectively, a step-change in tackling child poverty. The LCPAR should show how links are being made to existing related statutory planning and reporting duties, including how Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) outcomes will contribute to tackling child poverty.

### A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

The Edinburgh Children's Partnership has agreed this report which outlines what we know about child poverty in Edinburgh and provides an overview of the main actions designed to mitigate the impact of, or reduce, child poverty. It describes work which has or is likely to achieve step change, which drivers of poverty our work aims to impact and identifies the priority groups. The report includes a few case studies that demonstrate effective practice. It also highlights the links between some of the Council's Coalition Commitment and the 3 drivers of poverty. There is a section illustrating strong partnerships within and across the

Third Sector, the City of Edinburgh Council and NHS Lothian, also identifying where internal and cross sector partnerships would be strengthened. The final section draws conclusions and summarises our collective next steps.

This report is co-authored by the City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) and NHS Lothian, with contributions from the third sector. A Writing Group was established as a sub group of the Edinburgh Child Poverty Action Unit, which is a cross council and cross sector working group. The Writing Group is made up of officers in CEC and NHS who are collectively responsible for and/or contribute to, a number of the actions and plans detailed within the report including:

- working in partnership within the context of the Edinburgh Children's Partnership;
- jointly leading the Edinburgh Children's Partnership Strategic Outcome Groups;
- making strong links with the Edinburgh Poverty Commission.

## Section 2

# Challenges and Drivers

## Child Poverty in Edinburgh

### DEFINING POVERTY

*Individuals, families and groups in the population can be said to be in poverty when they lack resources to obtain the type of diet, participate in the activities and have the living conditions and amenities which are customary, or at least widely encouraged and approved, in the societies in which they belong.*

**P Townsend, *Poverty in the United Kingdom*, 1979**

Poverty means struggling to heat your home, pay your rent, or buy essentials for your children. It means waking up every day facing insecurity, uncertainty, and impossible decisions about money. To be in poverty is to have resources that are well below the level needed to maintain a decent standard of living.

Almost any family can experience poverty. Unexpected events such as bereavement, illness, redundancy, or relationship breakdown are sometimes all it can take to move into circumstances that then become difficult to escape.

For this analysis we adopt a core definition of relative poverty after housing costs as our baseline. The relative income poverty line is set at 60% of UK median household income after housing costs, adjusted for family size. It changes each year according to changes in median income.

As an illustration, for a couple with 2 children in Edinburgh, this threshold is the equivalent of £21,100 per annum, or just over £14 per person per day.

Wide ranging evidence shows us that living on incomes below this threshold in our society is damaging. People who grow up in poverty die sooner, have poorer health, are more likely to suffer from mental health problems, less likely to thrive in the education system, less likely to progress in work, and more likely to have children who themselves grow up in poverty. These are wide ranging issues which impact not only on the individuals directly affected, but also the city as a whole. Poverty is not an individual affliction but a social problem.

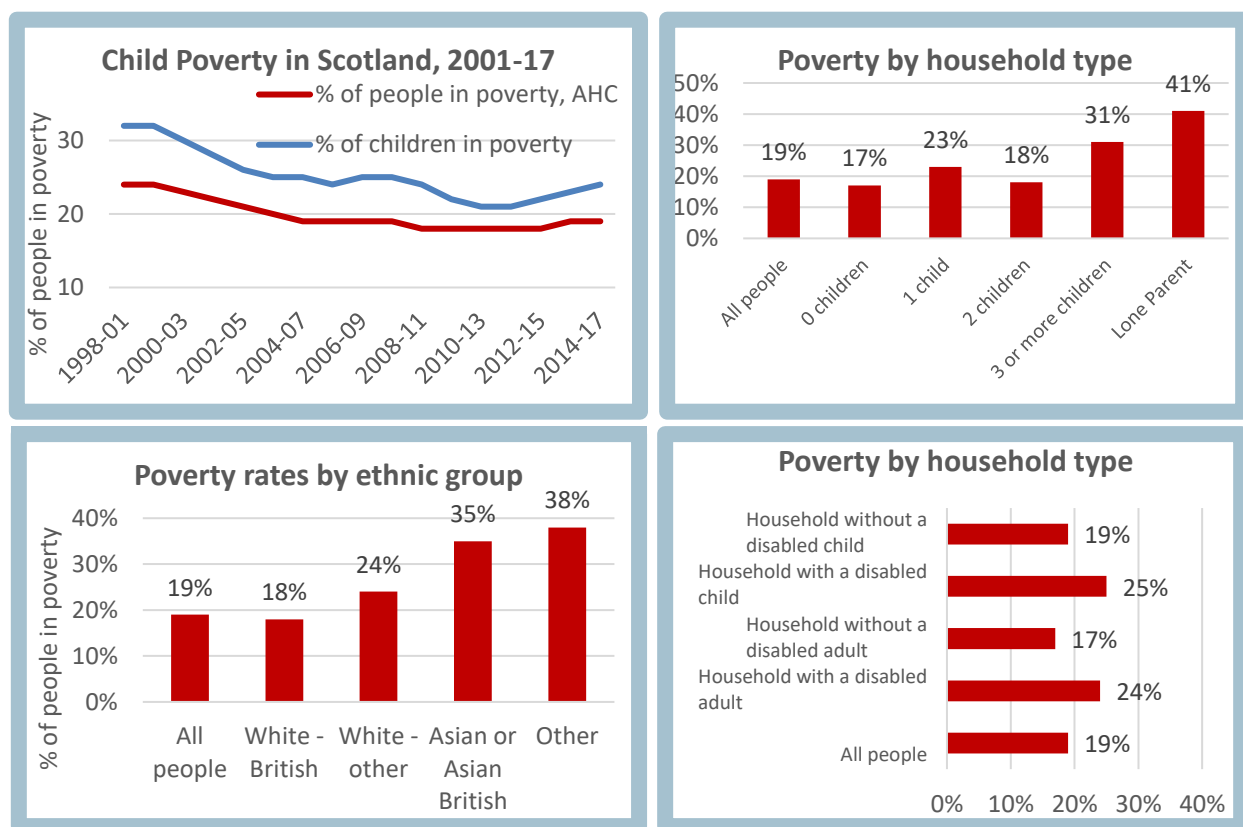
This analysis provides an overview of the number of children in Edinburgh living in families in which income levels fall below this threshold, and the factors which drive those levels.

## CHILD POVERTY IN SCOTLAND

It is estimated that 24% of children in Scotland, or 230,000 children each year, live in relative poverty. Child poverty rates had been falling for many years but have started to rise again since 2011-14.<sup>1</sup>

Within this population, the risk of poverty varies further depending on a number of factors, including:

- The number of adults and number of children in the household. Some 41% of all single parent households in Scotland live in relative poverty, in 2014-17, for instance. As do 31% of households with 3 or more children.
- The ethnicity of the household. Over a third of people in minority ethnic groups in Scotland live in poverty after housing costs are taken into account. This is more than double the poverty rate for the 'White – British' group (18%).
- The presence of a disabled adult or child. 25% of all households with a disabled child live in poverty, compared to 19% of households without a disabled child or adult. Overall, further analysis of data reveals that some 40% of all children in poverty in Scotland live in a household where at least one person (child or adult) is disabled.



This rising trend in child poverty comes despite a rise in average incomes recorded in recent years. Since 2010-13, median incomes in Scotland have risen by 6%, but this increase has not been felt equally across all households. Indeed, income growth for affluent households has been recorded at 7 to 8 times higher than that of the lowest 10% of households in Scotland by income during this period. Similarly, income growth for households with children during this period has been much lower than for other households.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> All data on poverty rates and levels in Scotland are sourced from [Poverty and income inequality in Scotland: 2015-2018, Scottish Government, 28 Mar 2019](#)

<sup>2</sup> Source: [Poverty and income inequality in Scotland: 2015-2018, Scottish Government, 28 Mar 2019](#)



Analysis produced by the Institute of Fiscal Studies <sup>3</sup> identifies four key drivers for this trend:

- Labour market improvements and resulting increases in earned income tend to benefit medium and high-income households more rapidly than those in low income groups
- Cuts to the value of working age benefits have affected low income households most severely, and families with children most directly
- Reductions in mortgage costs due to low interest rates in this period provided most benefit to high income households, while
- Rising private rents have had a disproportionately high impact on incomes for low income groups.

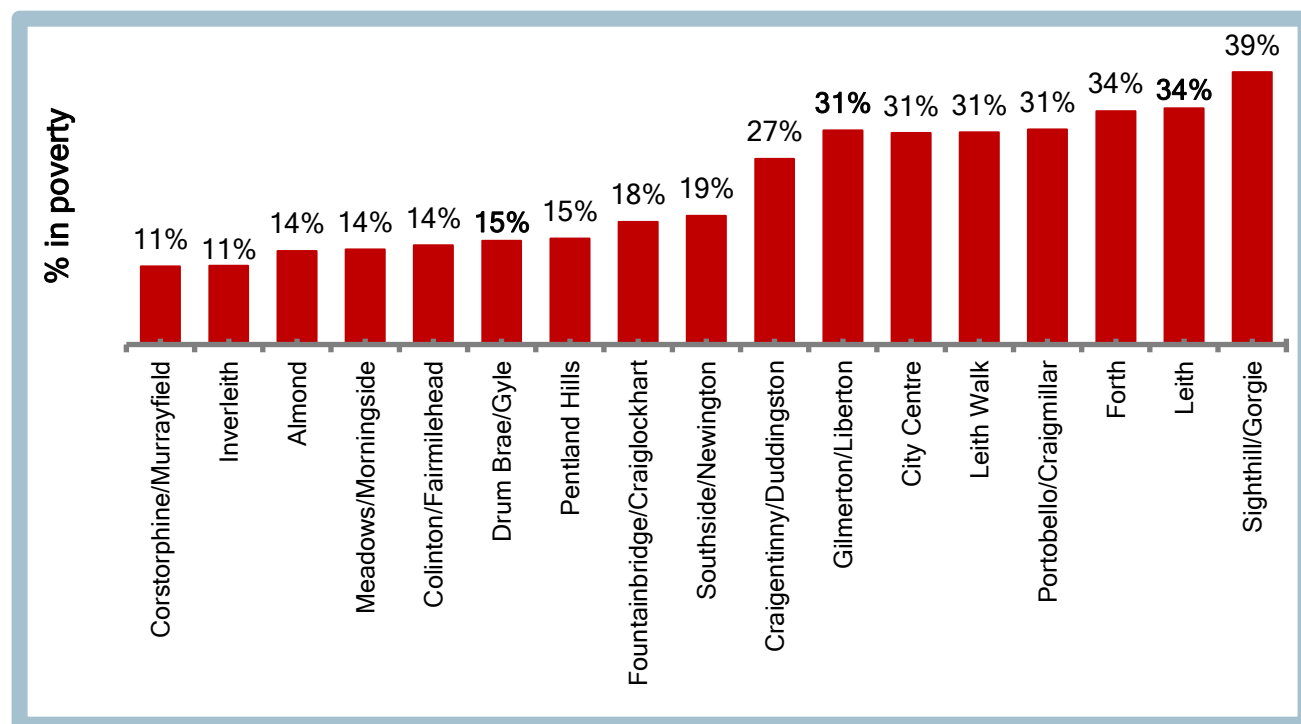
<sup>3</sup> Source: [Living standards, poverty and inequality in the UK: 2018](#), Institute for Fiscal Studies, 20 June 2018

## CHILD POVERTY IN EDINBURGH

Edinburgh is an affluent city. Average incomes are 27% higher than the Scotland average. Unemployment rates are lower than those of any other major UK city. Employment rates are high and average wages are higher than those of most other areas in the UK. Despite this economic success, however, significant levels of poverty exist in Edinburgh.

There are no official Scottish Government estimates for measuring poverty at the local authority level in Scotland. The figures presented in this paper are modelled estimates published by the End Child Poverty coalition. Using this model, it is estimated that 23% of all children in Edinburgh live in relative poverty after housing costs. This is almost 1 in 5 children across the city and is estimated at approximately 21,000 children.

Child poverty rates in Edinburgh vary considerably between different areas of the city, with rates of up to 39% recorded in some electoral wards, and as low as 11% in other. This pattern of inequality is replicated across all four of the locality areas which make up the city – North West, North East, South East, and South West. Every locality contains areas of high poverty. Most localities contain areas of relatively low poverty. Across all of Scotland, only 11 council wards record child poverty rates higher than those seen in Sighthill/Gorgie (with 9 of those wards located in Glasgow City alone).



These wide spatial inequalities within Edinburgh are reflected in data showing the impact of poverty and deprivation in the city across a range of measures:

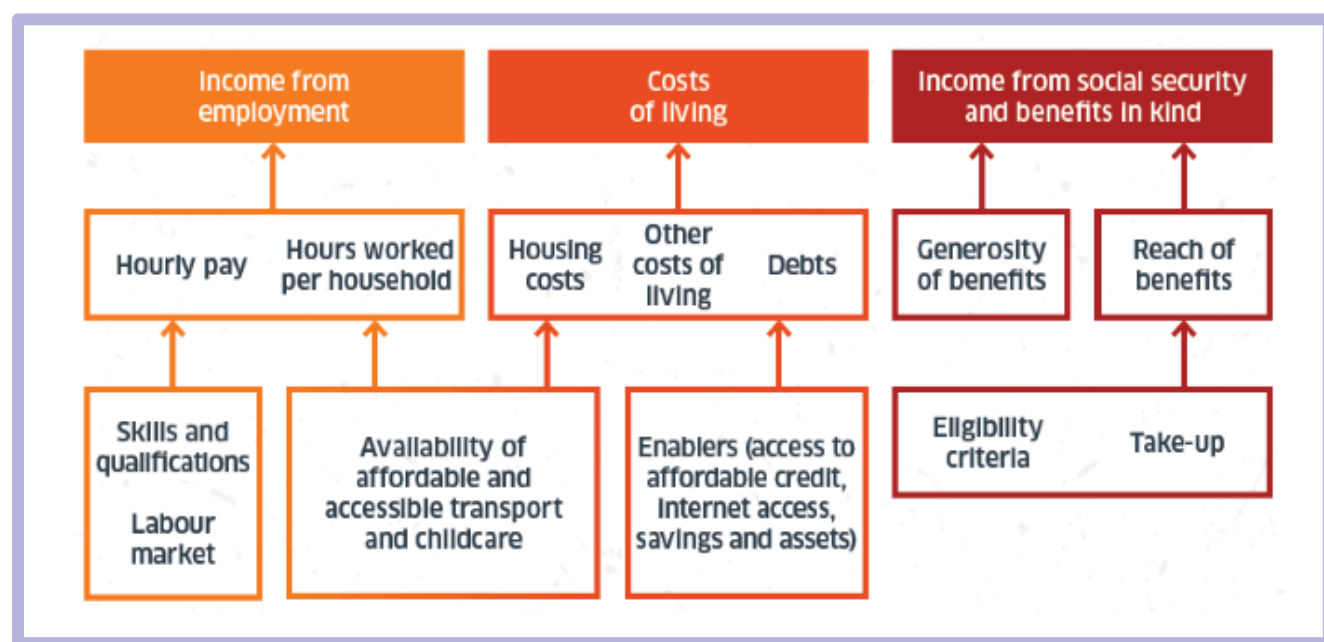
- Boys born in the poorest parts of Edinburgh can expect to live on average 11.4 fewer years than those in the most affluent areas. At a micro level, life expectancy rates in some of the poorest parts of the city are as much as 21 years lower than in the most affluent districts.
- People living in the poorest parts of Edinburgh are 7.4 times more likely to be hospitalised with COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) or lung disease than those in the most affluent parts of the city. COPD is the 5<sup>th</sup> leading cause of ill health or early death in the poorest areas of Scotland. (The Scottish Burden of Disease Study 2016)
- 38% of secondary school pupils from the most deprived areas in Edinburgh achieve more than 5 awards at SCQF level 5, 45 percentage points below the average of 83% for pupils from the least deprived areas
- Data on looked after children in Edinburgh show that only 67.3% go on to a positive post school destination, much lower than the overall positive destination rate of 92.3% for Edinburgh. This gap of 25 percentage points, compares against an average gap of 17 points across Scotland as a whole.

## Section 3

### Drivers of Poverty in an Edinburgh Context

To assess the roots of poverty in Edinburgh, this paper considers three core drivers:

- Income from employment
- Cost of living, and
- Income from social security





## INCOME FROM EMPLOYMENT

As noted above, Edinburgh is a job rich economy with high rates of employment, lower rates of unemployment than any other major UK city, and average earnings higher than most other cities in the UK.

A strong and well paid labour market however, does not prevent persistent and growing rates of child poverty in the city. Across Scotland, some 66% of all children in poverty grow up in households where at least one adult is in work. At the same time, data on sources of income shows that even for the poorest households, earnings from employment account for more than 40% of household income. This data challenges the view that links poverty explicitly to unemployment. While some 13% of all working age households in the city are unemployed, the typical picture of poverty in Edinburgh in 2019 is one of working adults with children, struggling to get by on the earnings available to them.

These levels of in work poverty arise as a consequence of the interaction of low pay, and insufficient or unpredictable working hours. Edinburgh shows evidence of both factors.

- 14% of Edinburgh residents work for wages below the hourly rate recommended by the UK Living Wage Foundation. This represents an estimated 38,000 residents working for an hourly wage below £8.76 in 2017/18.
- The lowest paid 20% of workers in Edinburgh earn some £264 per week in 2018, more than £200 per week less than the median worker, and less than a third of that earned by the highest paid 20% of workers.
- The gender pay gap in Edinburgh is estimated at some £137 per week, with men earning an average of £550 per week, compared to £413 for women. This represents a pay gap of 25% in Edinburgh.
- Edinburgh shows high levels of employment in non-permanent employment (including temporary, short term, seasonal, and zero-hours contracts). An estimated 8.5% of all jobs in the city were considered 'non-permanent' in 2017 to 18, well above the Scottish average of 5%.
- While jobs growth has been strong in recent years, that growth has been strongest in part time work. The number of part time jobs in Edinburgh has grown by 31% in the last five years, compared against 10% growth in the full time jobs total.
- This trend is reflected by growth seen in the number of people working less than ten hours per week. In the past five years, the number of workers in this group in Edinburgh has grown by 31%, compared to a 17% drop across Scotland as a whole.

The importance of these factors to people in Edinburgh were emphasized by recent consultations undertaken as part of the [Edinburgh Poverty Commission](#). This research asked people in the city to provide their views on the causes of poverty in the city. Lack of secure, appropriately paid employment was cited a key factor trapping people in low income, with common issues raised including:

- Low paid work, and a lack of opportunity to progress to more hours or higher paid jobs.
- A reliance on zero-hour contracts and unstable income and work opportunity.
- Difficulties in accessing new skills or learning opportunities due to health issues, caring responsibilities or disability.

Analysis of trends in future job opportunities show a risk of these patterns becoming further entrenched over the next ten years. Projections prepared for the city by Skills Development

Scotland show a continuing pattern of growth in high and in low skilled occupations, with little growth in medium skilled jobs. This marks a process of increasing polarisation in the jobs market in Edinburgh, with strong growth in high and low skilled jobs, but slow growth in medium skilled occupations. Such patterns of polarisation suggest a trend towards:

- Fewer opportunities for workers in low skilled, low paid jobs to progress into medium skilled roles
- Higher likelihood of under-employment or under-utilisation of skills, with graduates and other skilled workers unable to access a limited number of openings in medium skilled roles and instead competing for low skilled jobs
- Higher likely of unemployment and underemployment for low skilled workers unable to compete in the jobs market with higher skilled workers.

## COST OF LIVING

As well as being a high income city, Edinburgh is also a high cost city to live in, compared to other areas in Scotland.

When asked by the Edinburgh Poverty Commission about the things that cost too much in the city, people on low income cited the cost of housing as the main issue that makes it difficult to get by in the city, saying:

- *“The cost of renting privately in Edinburgh is now beyond the reach of most people on low incomes even if they are working full-time.”*
- *“The city itself doesn't have enough houses for everyone, which has skyrocketed market prices.”*
- *“my rent goes up yearly but my wages don't”*

These sentiments are backed up by evidence which shows that the average house price is six times the average gross annual earnings in the city, making Edinburgh the least affordable city in Scotland to buy a home. At the same time, private rents in Edinburgh are high and rising, reaching a new all-time high of £1,115 per month in Q1 2019, compared to a Scottish average of £793. This represented a year on year increase of over 5%, well above the rate of growth.

Alongside housing, other cost of living issues raised by citizens include:

- Childcare – *“Unaffordable and inflexible childcare can lead parents to being stuck in low paid work as their ability to secure higher incomes is dependent on their childcare arrangements. For many, the cost of childcare is unaffordable and remaining unemployed is the more financially viable solution”*
- Food – Almost half of all respondents mentioned the cost of food as a key issue, with particular mention made of fresh fruit and vegetables being expensive to access.
- Transport - Transport was another area that people mentioned as being costly, this related to both public transport and fuel costs, a number of respondents mentioned that this included travel to and from work.
- Energy - Heating and electricity for the home were another top response for citizens when asked about the issues that make it difficult to manage on a low income in Edinburgh.

## INCOME FROM SOCIAL SECURITY AND BENEFITS IN KIND

Total benefits expenditure in Edinburgh reached £1.162 billion in 2017/18, some 8% of the Scotland total and an increase of 13% in the period since 2010. This represents benefits payments of an average £2,264 per capita. In recent years, growth in population has significantly outstripped expenditure on benefits in the city. Benefits expenditure per capita has risen by only 3% since 2010, compared to a 13% increase across Scotland as a whole.

In terms of out of work benefits claimant, it was reported in May 2018 by the DWP that there were over 1,400 Universal Credit claimants in Edinburgh, 3,500 JSA claimants, and 19,884 recipients of Incapacity benefits. Taken together, these account for 8% of all benefit claimants in Scotland. In addition to these, Edinburgh was home to 33,426 housing benefits claimants in May 2018.

In common with other areas of Scotland, families in Edinburgh have been affected by benefits cuts and issues related to the benefits cap in recent years. During the consultation carried out earlier this year as part of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission, citizens of Edinburgh said that key issues were:

- *“Cuts in benefits are forcing some people into limited lives of just surviving”*
- *“Benefits being stopped and debts accumulating from this. Having to use credit to get through the month and the impact of continually having to pay this off.”*
- *“The cap is particularly damaging for people’s housing security as when a family exceeds the arbitrary threshold of the cap, the first benefit to be reduced is their housing benefit or Universal Credit housing costs element. This more often than not results in affordability issues, rent arrears and risks homelessness.”*
- *“There is no interest in the wellbeing of low income families. Food banks are keeping people fed”*

In the period to 31 December 2018, a total of 395 households were affected by the benefits cap in Edinburgh. This represents slightly over 1% of all claimants with an average weekly loss of benefit of £80.41. 25% of households affected were in temporary accommodation where average loss of benefit was £209 pw, and 24% in the Private Rented Sector where average loss of benefit was £61 pw. A total of 164 claimants affected by the benefits cap were supported by Discretionary Housing Benefits payments, with an average payment of £61.37.

Comparison with Scotland, shows that a higher proportion of capped households face high levels of benefit loss in Edinburgh. 30% of those capped in Edinburgh face a loss of over £100 pw, more than twice the Scotland level of 12%. 8% of those capped in Edinburgh face a loss of over £250 pw, compared to only 1.5% of Scottish capped households.

## A COMPLEX PICTURE

Taken together this analysis of drivers illustrates the complex picture of poverty in Edinburgh in 2019. The data and testimony available present a picture of poverty in which:

- The typical child in poverty in Edinburgh lives in a family where adults are in work, but struggling to earn high enough wages, or work enough hours to increase their income
- Predictability of income is a major challenge for people, particularly the unpredictability of income from earnings due to a reliance on zero hours contracts

- Social security forms a secondary, but important element of household income, but benefits caps, benefits cuts, and the complexity of the benefits system often means families don't claim everything they are entitled to, or struggle to manage on the benefits they do receive
- The availability of affordable housing is a major concern, with a shortage of social rented housing, and private rented prices out of the reach of most people on low incomes
- The cost of childcare, or the availability of flexible childcare, is a major barrier to parents working, maximizing their hours or progressing to higher paid work
- The cost of basic essentials such as food, energy, and transport are a significant concern for people on low income, and
- All these issues are heightened for families who are already vulnerable, be it through ill health, disability, age, or other factors.

## Section 4

# Partners' Responses

### Third Sector

Many of Edinburgh's third sector organisations are members of two overarching networks; EVOC (Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations Council) and LAYC (Lothian Association of Youth Clubs). There are several other networks and alliances of third sector organisations in the city. Collectively the sector recognises that The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 will be a key enabler, supporting its work to help reduce poverty and inequalities.

In recent years, youth workers and third sector staff report significantly increased time spent providing support with family finances and in helping people find employment. Collectively, the third sector in Edinburgh contributes to wide ranging work that mitigates and aims to reduce the impact of poverty in general and child poverty in particular.

Recent work includes The Edinburgh's Family Support Charter, which was produced by 10 family support organisations. The Charter outlines principles for working with children, young people and families.

Edinburgh Together launched this year as a helpline and family support service delivered by Canongate Youth, Children 1<sup>st</sup>, City of Edinburgh Council and Barnardo's Scotland. The service provides practical, social and emotional support around relationships, play, skills and confidence, school attendance, budgeting/housing, parental mental health and help for parents to cope with child's additional support needs.

The provision of free/minimal cost youth activities is a priority for many LAYC members and youth organisations – extra fundraising efforts ensure access to informal learning opportunities especially in weekly youth clubs and holiday provision. Many organisations also recognise the importance of a holiday or "break away" for children and young people and provide residential opportunities. Some programmes include food and cooking activities helping young people develop independent living skills and addressing food anxiety in a non-stigmatising way.

Many youth work organisations deliver employability programmes to young people not in, or at risk of not reaching a positive destination, with some also delivering Activity Agreements. These targeted services are additional to the role universal youth work plays in helping to close the poverty related attainment gap.

EVOC and LAYC represent their third sector members on the **Discover!** Steering Group, and both umbrella organisations are working with CEC Lifelong Learning staff to collaborate in more depth on development of the **Discover!** programme.

EVOC and LAYC Network representatives participate in the Strategic Outcome 4 Group, the group focussing on equity and child poverty. Both also participate in the Strategic Outcome 5 Group, which has a focus on Rights. EVOC and LAYC contributed to the *1 in 5* conference (April 2019) and other training events. LAYC provides workforce development opportunities for youth and children's workers, mainly *1 in 5: Raising Awareness of Child Poverty* sessions, although much youth work led training, incorporates a dialogue around poverty.

Youth and children's work organisations collaborate with other local providers or city-wide organisations to expand support to families experiencing poverty, with some now regularly partnering with 'Information' services. This helps support income maximisation and compliments services and strengthens regular links, such as with Hey Girls UK for period poverty, school uniform bank and Fareshare to support the reduction of food poverty.

A Housing sub group was established by the EVOC Network, with the participation of Shelter, in response to shared concerns about the situation for families in Bed and Breakfast, temporary or emergency accommodation.

Looking forward, continued engagement with *1 in 5* and supporting the development of **Discover!** will be key pieces of partnership work for third sector organisations.

EVOC and LAYC will consider the best mechanisms to co-ordinate and lead capacity building for their members in response to the 2017 Act. EVOC will offer additional evidence of emerging practice from other local authorities to the Strategic Outcome 4 Group. In April 2019, EVOC was invited to join the *Edinburgh Learns: Equity and Inclusion sub group* and aims to ensure effective third sector contribution on an ongoing basis.

In common with other sectors, the challenges to the third sector are of increasing complexity and ambition against the backdrop of diminishing resources. This means it will be essential to strengthen partnerships within and across the third sector as well as across the Children's Partnership, and to make clear linkages with Local Child Poverty Action Report and other local reporting duties on tackling poverty. This will help ensure a more streamlined approach.

## City of Edinburgh Council

The City of Edinburgh Council is a living wage employer. There is also a mandate from the Council's coalition administration for leaders, managers and officers to prioritise effort and actions that either mitigate and/or reduce poverty in Edinburgh.

Of the Council Administration's 52 [Coalition commitments](#), Coalition Commitment 45 (CC45) was to establish a Child Poverty Action Unit which takes the form of a cross Council working group with partner organisations also represented. In addition to partners, it currently has Council representation from Schools, Lifelong Learning, Strategy and Communications,

Housing, and Children's Services. The group would benefit from representation from Planning and Economic Development and appropriate officers will be identified. The Child Poverty Action Unit, (chaired by Councillor Alison Dickie, Vice-Convener of Education, Children and Families) has engaged, and will continue to engage with young people with lived experience of poverty. It has considered what is working well, what needs further and/or new action and has generated a list of ideas and suggestions. These have been thematically grouped and are currently being mapped against existing activity, identifying: where action is possible and/or required; who should be responsible and, which are likely to bring about short, medium and long term impact.

Within individual Council directorates, officers are aware of the need to reduce poverty in Edinburgh, with ongoing and planned workstreams taking account of this. An example is the work within Housing to address some of the issues related to affordable housing, private rentals and the impact of short term holiday lets in the city (including Coalition Commitments 1,8,9,10 and 12). The new Economy Strategy for the city has reduction of inequalities as a core priority (including Coalition Commitments 1,3,10,12,29,32 and 44). The Employability Service within Economic Development is responsible for aspects of Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) together with employability programmes for young people identified as facing greatest disadvantage and least likely to secure a sustained positive destination (including Coalition Commitments 7,29,31 and 32). (See p16 for more information on the Coalition Commitments and how they link with the main drivers of poverty)

Much of the work across the Council to address child poverty has been led by Communities and Families. This includes *1 in 5: Raising Awareness of Child Poverty*, where wider internal and external partnerships are changing practice in direct response to raised awareness of the causes and impact of child poverty. *1 in 5* has brought about step change, and continues to do so, as its reach widens to include lifelong learning, partner and third sector organisations.

In addition to *1 in 5*, the SO4 group is a strong and well-led group which is driving actions that have a tangible impact. Similarly, ***Discover!*** the new programme to tackle holiday food insecurity, the attainment gap and social isolation, is showing early signs of positive impact on families, with a growing contribution from different parts of the Council and partners. Edinburgh Learns is a new suite of Frameworks for schools with the Equity Framework specifically designed to help school staff use data and develop effective interventions to reducing the poverty related attainment gap. The Equity Framework sits alongside *Making Education Equal for All, a Framework for Equity*, which is targeted to all staff involved in children and young people's education, in and out of school.

Parental imprisonment can be a factor in increasing childhood poverty. Criminal Justice services in Edinburgh are working to provide the courts with credible alternatives to short term custodial sentences to support people to remain in their communities.

The Council has several strong wider partnerships but recognises that more internal, cross department and cross Council work is required. Improving this will facilitate strategically joined up actions aimed at reducing child poverty in Edinburgh and address some current and potential duplication of activity across directorates. Recommendations from the Edinburgh Poverty Commission (due end of 2019) will be key drivers of improved internal connections and actions, and the Child Poverty Action Unit will be an increasingly important mechanism for taking these recommendations forward.

Elected Members, Directors and Heads of Service increasingly recognise that actions to reduce poverty are the responsibility of all and need to be prioritised and embedded across the Council's workforce and Community Planning Partnerships.



The NHS has a role to help prevent as well as mitigate the impact of welfare reform as a service provider, service commissioner and employer. The NHS supports staff and patients to address the drivers of poverty, contributing to a reduction in child poverty rates towards meeting the Scottish Government targets.

NHS Lothian has adopted a 'whole system approach', working with a wide range of partners across the Health and Social Care Partnerships, including Community Planning Partnerships (CPP) and Integrated Joint Boards (IJB). It addresses health inequalities by providing accessible and inclusive mainstream services, additional support and targeted intervention for specific groups as well as working with partners to address underlying causes of health inequalities.

In its strategy *Improving the Health and Wellbeing of Lothian's Children and Young People 2014-2020*, NHS Lothian lays out its vision that "Every child should have the best start in life and grow up being healthy, confident and resilient".

NHS Lothian is committed to working with its partners to reduce the impact of social circumstances on health by strengthening universal provision and targeted interventions to improve health and resilience in those more vulnerable to poor health

All partners in the four CPPs in Lothian have signed up to the high-level outcome, 'Every child has the best start in life and is ready to succeed'. This commitment will form the bases of further work to reduce child poverty and is reflected within the Edinburgh Children's Service Plan 2017-2020. Supporting the delivery of Edinburgh Children's Service Plan 201-202 is the strategic outcome groups. NHS Lothian co-chair three of the five strategic outcome groups – SO1 SO3 and SO4. They all include objectives that support the mitigation of child poverty.

Actions already implemented by NHS Lothian that are in line with reducing the drivers of poverty have been identified. Examples include: employing staff on a minimum or living wage, a Modern Apprenticeship scheme working with partners including the Princes Trust and Project Search, opportunities for staff to access welfare advice, links from health services into welfare advice for parents of young children and enabling the uptake of Healthy Start Vouchers for pregnant women and families with young children. The Healthy Start approach will be replaced across Scotland by Best Start Grants and Foods in summer 2019. In preparation for the Best Start Grants and Foods, health care professionals have been trained to support eligible pregnant women and families access the grants when they commence. The Family Nurse Partnership supports first time pregnant teenagers up to the age of 20 prepare for parenthood including sign posting to financial inclusion projects and identifying pathways for positive outcomes for example employment or further study.

Going forward, NHS Lothian will: take opportunities to mitigate or reduce poverty through our procurement, and employment decisions. We will continue to redesign services to ensure they remain poverty-proofed. The Healthier Wealthier Children's Fund (Scottish Government) will be used to provide access to welfare rights and practical support for families and young people themselves in the new Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Edinburgh. We will enable the uptake of Best Start Grants by health professionals raising awareness and supporting applications of the new grants for pregnant women and families with young children.

In terms of education and training, we will increase early career and apprenticeship opportunities that provide entry into employment. To achieve this we will work more closely with all our community planning partners.



## Section 5

# Governance and Planning

Children's Partnership – June sign off

Education Children and Families – 13<sup>th</sup> August for noting

NHS Strategic Partnership Board – 20<sup>th</sup> June for noting

### STRATEGIC PLANS AND LINKAGES

The Edinburgh Partnership's vision, agreed in 2018, is that:

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

As such, strategic plans across the partnership are explicit about actions that are designed to mitigate and/or reduce child poverty. These actions, whether led by the Council, the NHS or the Third Sector, benefit from strong partnerships and good collaborations. Although plans and partnerships are in place, the report identifies further actions and improvements required to meet the 2030 targets on reducing child poverty. The key plans that strategically link work around child poverty work are:

- Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP)
- Locality Improvement Plans (LIPs) (Partnership Plans)
- Economy Strategy (CEC)
- Lifelong Learning Service Plan (CEC)
- Education Improvement Plan (CEC)
- *Improving the Health and Wellbeing of Lothian's Children and Young People 2014-2020*, NHS Lothian Inequalities Strategy (NHS)
- NHS Scotland Outcomes Focused Plan (NHS)

### COALITION COMMITMENTS

The Coalition published ambitious plans to deliver improved services for the Capital's residents and communities. The 'Programme for the Capital' is the five-year business plan for the Council for 2017-22. It is built around 52 commitments set out by the SNP and Labour groups in their coalition agreement. These commitments are structured around six themes:

- Delivering an economy for all – local jobs, growth, and affordable housing
- Building for a future Edinburgh – a planning system that works to protect and develop our city
- Delivering a sustainable future – a better environment and transport system that works for all
- Delivering for our children and families – improving lives and futures
- Delivering a healthier city for all ages – strong and vibrant communities
- Delivering a Council that works for all – more empowered, transparent, and improved public services

Of the 52 Coalition Commitments, 16 are specific to tackling the impact of poverty and link with Local Child Poverty Action Plan. They are:

<b>Delivering an economy for all – local jobs, growth and affordable housing</b>		
CC1	Deliver a programme to build at least 10,000 social and affordable homes over the next 5 years, with a plan to build 20,000 by 2027	Cost of Living
CC3	Work with the business community to grow the number of Living Wage employers year on year	Income from Employment
CC5	Sign Edinburgh to the Pay Fair Tax Initiative.	Income from Employment, Cost of living
CC7	Improve access to employment and training opportunities for people with disabilities.	Income from Employment
CC8	Explore the introduction of fair rent zones.	Cost of Living
CC9	Create a Homeless Task Force to investigate the growing homelessness problem in the city. The team will review the use of bed and breakfast premises and explore alternatives that better meet the needs of individuals and families with an aim to end the use of bed and breakfast facilities. Appoint a Homelessness Champion who will chair the Task Force.	Cost of Living
<b>Building for a future Edinburgh - a planning system that works to protect and develop our city</b>		
CC10	Prioritise the use of brownfield sites and work with public sector and private landowners to develop land for affordable housing	Cost of Living
CC12	Review the Council's policy on promoting mixed communities. The review should be completed by summer of 2018 and should include homes of multiple occupancy, short term temporary lets and student housing	Cost of Living
<b>Delivering for our children and families - improving lives and futures</b>		
CC29	Improve and protect access to additional languages and music tuition and encourage more children and young people to gain vital skills in construction, engineering, digital technology, maths and science.	Income from Employment Cost of Living
CC31	Expand training opportunities for adults and young people linking with colleges and expanding vocational education	Income from Employment
CC32	Double free early learning and child care provision, providing 1140 hours a year for all 3 and 4 year olds and vulnerable 2 year olds by 2020	Cost of Living Income from Employment
CC33	Make early years' provision more flexible to fit families' needs and provide additional resources to families in difficulty so that no children are educationally disadvantaged when they start formal schooling	Income from Employment
CC34	Prioritise services for vulnerable children and families and looked after children, and support organisations working to end domestic abuse	Cost of Living, Income from Employment, Income from Social Security and Benefits in kind
<b>Delivering a healthier city for all ages - strong and vibrant communities</b>		
CC44	Increase allotment provision and support and expand the network and the number of community gardens and food growing initiatives	Cost of Living
CC45	Establish a Child Poverty Action Unit to address the inequalities faced by children in poverty in our city. Its remit will look at food security and	Cost of Living,

	nutrition, tackle food poverty and holiday hunger and enhance nutrition in schools. Ensure that a Poverty Assessment section features in all Council reports.	Income from Employment, Income from Social Security and Benefits in kind
<b>Delivering a Council that works for all - more empowered, transparent and improved public services</b>		
CC49	Limit Council Tax increases to 3% a year to 2021	Cost of Living

## THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP



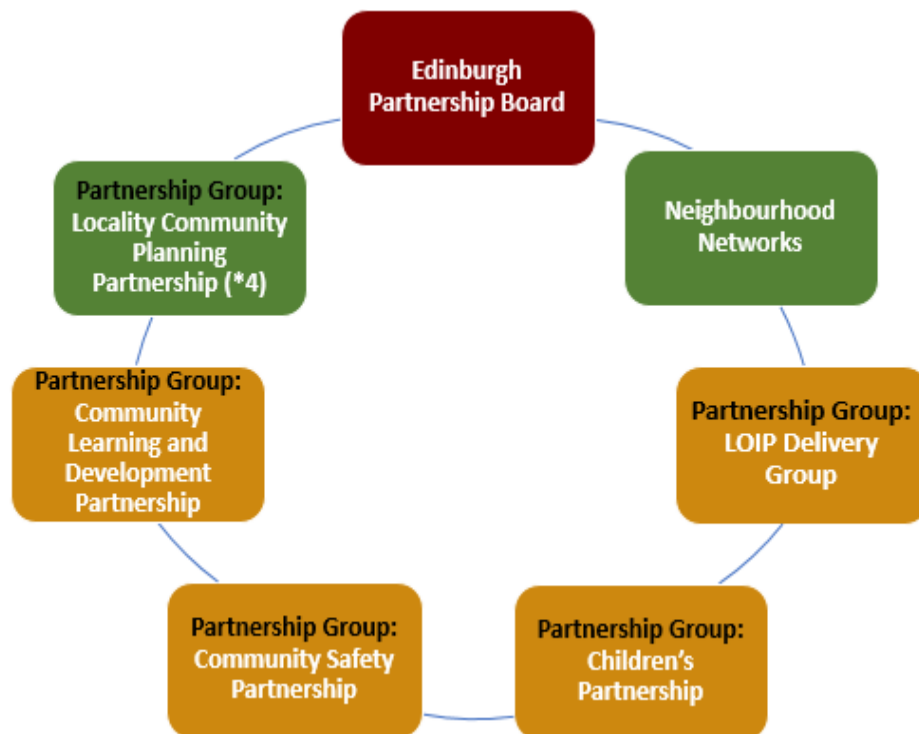
### THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

The Edinburgh Partnership's vision, agreed in 2018, is that:

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

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

The diagram below sets out the governance arrangements for community planning in Edinburgh.



### ***Three priority workstreams (from the LOIP)***

The drivers of, and solutions to, issues of poverty and inequality are entrenched and complex and require significant partnership effort and investment to resolve. Through consultation with partners and building on advice gathered from communities across the city, we have identified a series of areas where additional action and leadership (above and beyond the individual strategic plans and priorities of each Edinburgh Partnership member) is needed to mitigate, prevent, and undo the effects and causes of poverty and inequality. These actions build on guidance and advice published by agencies such as Health Scotland, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, and the Christie Commission.

Over the period of this plan, we will deliver actions to ensure that residents across all parts of Edinburgh have:

#### **Enough money to live on:**

Family income is often used as a key indicator of resources available and, by extension, of the ability to maintain an acceptable standard of living. Within this context, this workstream includes actions to maximise the income available to lower income households, and to ensure that residents have enough money to live on.

We will work together to deliver a more co-ordinated approach to planning income maximisation, support, and advice services. As a result, residents should have access to income maximisation support where and when they need it and receive the same high-quality support wherever they are in the city.

We will agree and implement a common Edinburgh approach to income maximisation to ensure that services are:

- more accessible to residents in need of support: services will be in communities with highest need in a range of locations such as community projects, health centres and council locality offices
- targeted at those in greatest need, including specific groups (e.g. lone parents, low income families, people with disabilities, people involved with criminal justice system, homeless, older people, and carers)
- more co-ordinated and avoid duplication: shared service standards will be established to ensure residents get the highest quality service wherever they access services and services will be available across the city. This will include improving links to other related services already targeting these groups.

In delivering these services, income maximisation is primarily viewed as a means to mitigate and reduce the effects of poverty and low income and to prevent crises brought on by debt and lack of financial management skills. We will also work to develop a prevention programme.

#### **Access to work, learning and training opportunities:**

Unemployment remains the single most important predictor of poverty - 74% of households in which no adult is in work live on incomes below the poverty threshold. However, work alone is not necessarily sufficient to prevent poverty. This workstream aims to provide additional targeted services to help residents access the work, learning and training opportunities they need to maintain a good quality of life.

Through the delivery of this plan, we will work together to provide new targeted support to

help residents, whose needs are not met by other programmes into and through the Employability Pipeline. This will include delivery of additional support for:

**Excluded Families:** long term integrated support for 60 identified families to help them into work. These families are often unable to take up existing employability offer as they have a high level of need compounded by other factors.

**People on release from prison:** we will develop stronger links between community justice and employability services so we can offer a systematic, holistic, joined up and long-term sustained partnership approach to working with people released from prison.

**Young people with care experience:** we will recognise, promote and support wider achievement among young people with care experience by working together to:

- improve engagement by broadening the range of quality educational experiences offered
- ensure there is integrated and appropriate support services to enable them to achieve a sustainable positive destination.

### **A good place to live:**

The places where people live and work, the connections with others and the extent to which they can influence the decisions that affect them, all have a significant impact on their quality of life and wellbeing. This workstream aims to articulate the additional actions we need to take to ensure residents can access an affordable, well-designed, safe and inclusive place to live. We will work together to:

- maximise the land available to deliver affordable homes
- maximise the value and outcomes from Edinburgh's public-sector estate and deliver opportunities for accelerated investment through strategic partnership and review of public sector assets
- identify and strengthen opportunities to work in partnership, as public sector bodies and with communities and the private sector, to create good places to live. This will include seeking new place-making approaches to support the delivery of accessible and open places, with good links to health, childcare, and other services.

## **THE EDINBURGH CHILDREN'S PARTNERSHIP**

The Children's Partnership will be accountable to the Edinburgh Partnership Board for leading, delivering and reporting on the progress of the Children's Services Plan. It reports annually on progress. The current membership comprises:

• The City of Edinburgh Council	• NHS Lothian
• Skills Development Scotland	• Edinburgh College
• Police Scotland	• Scottish Children's Reporter
• Barnardo's	• Children 1st
• Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations' Council (EVOC)	• Lothian Association of Youth Clubs (LAYC)
• Edinburgh Leisure	• Circle

The Edinburgh Children's Partnership is committed to actions that mitigate the impact of, and help reduce, child poverty in Edinburgh.

In order to take forward the five priorities in its Children's Services Plan, 2017 – 20, the Children's Partnership established five Strategic Outcome (SO) Groups with key objectives, all with joint CEC, NHS and third partner Strategic Leads. Each group's work has a focus on child poverty, although the work of SO4 specifically drives actions to help mitigate child poverty. The SO Groups and objectives are:

Strategic Group	Objectives
<b>SO1</b> <b>Best Start in Life</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement the new universal pre-birth to pre-school pathway</li> <li>• Continue to provide high quality early years services across the city whilst implementing the increase in hours to 1140</li> <li>• Improve early years pathways for young disabled children</li> <li>• Improve partnership working in the provision of early years services</li> <li>• Increase the % of children across all SIMD quintiles reaching developmental milestones.</li> </ul>
<b>SO2</b> <b>Attendance and Attainment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver school improvement plans that are effective across the 4 areas of the National Improvement Framework</li> <li>• Reduce the poverty related attainment gap through the Pupil Equity Fund</li> <li>• Improve educational outcomes for disadvantaged groups, including Looked After Children and Children with disabilities</li> <li>• Support Edinburgh College Curriculum Strategy to create the best opportunities for the learner journey</li> <li>• Improve the level of participation in education, employment and training for all 16-19 years and continue to increase positive destinations.</li> </ul>
<b>SO3</b> <b>Health and Wellbeing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve mental health services for children and young people and implement the children and young peoples' mental health review recommendations</li> <li>• Improve the quality of drugs and alcohol prevention work and substance misuse services</li> <li>• Minimise the need for children and young people to become looked after and improve the balance of care</li> <li>• Reduce the number of children who are overweight or obese, or malnourished</li> <li>• Achieve the outcomes contained within the Child Protection Committee's Child Protection Improvement Plan and the Corporate Parenting Plan.</li> </ul>
<b>SO4</b> <b>Equity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver the '1 in 5' project and develop an equity framework for each school</li> <li>• Deliver income maximisation programme amongst all families on low incomes</li> <li>• Improve the availability of accessible, affordable and flexible early learning and childcare particularly in areas of deprivation.</li> <li>• Reduce the number of children, young people and their families who need homelessness and emergency accommodation services and improve access to suitable housing.</li> <li>• Co-produce a community entitlement for children and young people in each locality to improve access to universal services.</li> </ul>



<b>SO5</b> <b>Empowerment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extend personalisation and choice including expansion of self-direction support and direct payment</li> <li>• Ensure continued delivery of effective universal youth work programme</li> <li>• Ensure children's right across the city in line with the UNCRC</li> <li>• Implement the Parenting Framework and improve engagement</li> <li>• Between parents and schools and wider community sector</li> <li>• Deliver a city wide partnership learning and development programme to improve restorative practice.</li> </ul>
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More detail on the objectives of the strategic outcomes can be sourced from the Edinburgh Children's Services Annual Reports.

## Section 6

# Partnerships, Projects and Programmes

## Child Poverty in Edinburgh

### THE EDINBURGH POVERTY COMMISSION

Edinburgh Poverty Commission was launched in November 2018 and will be working throughout 2019 to define the steps the city needs to make to reduce, mitigate, and prevent poverty in Edinburgh. Its aims are to:

- Understand what drives one in five families in Edinburgh into poverty
- Listen and learn from citizens who are struggling to get by
- Build on what works well, but challenge ourselves to do better
- Design the changes we can deliver as a city.

In taking forward this work, the commission is committed to setting in place the conditions necessary to drive the real step change needed to solve all forms of poverty and to tackle all causes of poverty in Edinburgh.

Throughout this process, the work of the Commission is supported by the **Edinburgh Partnership**, and the **City of Edinburgh Council**, both of which bodies have committed to acting on the final recommendations made by the Commission. Indeed, the work and findings of the Commission are cited as key components necessary for delivery of the **Council Change Strategy** and the **Edinburgh Partnership Community Plan**, both strategic documents which were agreed in the past year, both of which plans hold prevention of poverty as a key challenge for the city.

In carrying out its work, the Commission is an independent group chaired by Jim McCormick of **Joseph Rowntree Foundation** and made up of 12 people with experience of tackling poverty and its effects, including citizens who have direct experience of living in poverty in Edinburgh.

Throughout 2019, the Commission's process of inquiry is structured around three inter-related phases of work:

- **Phase 1: Pockets** - addressing the pressures that keep incomes low and living costs high for people in Edinburgh. This phase took place from January to April 2019.



- **Phase 2: Prospects** - exploring what we can do to improve the wellbeing and life chances of people in poverty. This phase takes place from May to August 2019.
- **Phase 3: Places** - defining steps the city can take to create well-designed, affordable, and sustainable places in Edinburgh. This phase will take place between September and November 2019.

A key priority of the Commission is to hear and respond to the voices of people experiencing poverty in Edinburgh. To do this, each stage of the Commission's work involves meeting and taking evidence from citizens. Each stage also incorporates a public online call for evidence on the questions and topics being considered by the Commission.

Alongside this, the Commission is also supported by the **Scottish Government** with funding provided for a programme of commissioned research into the experience of poverty in Edinburgh among communities across the city. The first phase of this research is being carried out by the **Poverty Alliance** and will include focus groups and one to one interviews with citizens in all areas of Edinburgh.

After each phase of its work the Commission will publish its findings so far, and give its first thoughts on the actions Edinburgh should consider in order to address the issues it has discussed. Following a further session in **November 2019**, the Commission will draw these findings together and publish its recommendations on the actions the city should take forward to solve poverty in Edinburgh. These will include actions not only for the public sector, but also for the third sector, businesses, and communities across the city.

## CHILD POVERTY ACTION UNIT

The Child Poverty Action Unit takes the form of a cross Council working group, led by City of Edinburgh Council's (CEC) Community and Families Directorate and is chaired by Councillor Alison Dickie, Vice Convener of Education, Children and Families.

The purpose of this Unit is to:

- Build on existing partnership and reporting arrangements and co-ordinate Council action to address Child Poverty in Edinburgh
- Identify a Council lead/s for the development and publication of annual Local Child Poverty Action Reports (beginning in June 2019), and
- Identify a point of liaison with the new Edinburgh Poverty Commission on issues and actions relating to Child Poverty.

Education Children and Families Committee, 9<sup>th</sup> October 2018, items 7.11 (a) and 7.11(b)

[http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/4553/education\\_children\\_and\\_families\\_committee](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/4553/education_children_and_families_committee)

To date there have been three meetings of the unit, the second with significant input from pupils with lived experience of poverty. The third meeting was hosted by LAYC (Lothian Association of Youth Clubs).

The unit has generated several ideas and possible actions which fall into 3 categories:

- those which build on existing good practice and where there are mechanisms to embed actions deeper, roll out wider or change mindset further
- those which are longer term ideals and goals, and which are within the gift of partners to initiate and deliver



- those which are more systemic or political and may require legislative change and/or significant investment




Notwithstanding, the unit is committed to being proactive with a focus on involving young people with lived experience of poverty.


## SUMMARY TABLE OF ACTIONS AND INITIATIVES

The table below identifies and summarises some of the actions taken by partners, that can mitigate the impact of child poverty in Edinburgh. Further detail on some of these initiatives are on the following pages in the form of brief case studies.

The case studies have been selected as some examples of good practice that have or are likely to achieve a step change and where there is good evidence of impact.

Action / initiative	By Whom Lead and partners	Resources / investment	Poverty Driver impacted	How impact is assessed	Timescale	Target / priority Groups
<b>1 in 5: Raising Awareness of Child Poverty</b>  	<b>Lead:</b> Lifelong Learning Health and Wellbeing Team (CLPL, train the trainer, resources etc.) Schools (implementation and local initiatives) Third Sector	<b>£13k total</b> (£10,000 grant and £3k through income generation from other projects)	<b>Cost of Living:</b> (cost of school day)	Focus Groups Questionnaire Commissioned research Feedback from schools Feedback from families Feedback from trainers	Currently in 90 schools. Continue roll out to all schools by end of 2020	<b>All priority groups</b> particularly: Lone parents Families where a household member is disabled Families with three or more children Minority ethnic families
<b>Discover!</b> (Holiday Hunger)  	<b>Lead:</b> Lifelong Learning and: NHS, CHAI, SDS, EVOC, LAYC Transactions Team, Home Energy Scotland, Edinburgh Community Food	<b>£250,000 (Council)</b> Plus £16k p/a sponsorship for 3 years (from 2019/20) Aberdeen Standard	<b>Cost of Living:</b> (cost of school holidays) <b>Income from Social Security</b> (support and advice services) <b>Income from Employment</b> (Skills Development Scotland)	Feedback from children and parents and carers Focus groups Tracking attendance Liaising with schools Feedback from support services	Pilot Phase: Summer and October 2018 Roll out from Winter holiday 2018/19 Every holiday ongoing	<b>All priority groups</b>

Action / initiative	By Whom Lead and partners	Resources / investment	Poverty Driver impacted	How impact is assessed	Timescale	Target / priority Groups
<b>Maximise!</b> (Income Maximisation)  	<b>Lead:</b> NHS Schools(PEF) Lifelong Learning Children 1 <sup>st</sup> CHAI	Phase 1: <b>Total £76,643k</b> (Health Improvement Fund - £45,067 and PEF for Liberton Cluster - £14,933) Capital City Partnership - £16,643)	<b>Social Security Cost of Living</b>	Service-user consultation Integrated information Management System	Phase 1 – end August 2019 Phase 2 -	<b>All priority groups</b>
Breakfast Clubs  	<b>Lead:</b> CEC Early Years <b>Partner involvement:</b> AEGON Aberdeen Standard Greggs Foundation Magic Breakfast Fareshare School Managed Parent led Commercial Providers	<b>£175,846.00 (Annual CEC budget):</b> All Breakfast Clubs get a minimum of £1,000 per school year Additional funding total around £50k The distribution of CEC funding is weighted to reflect the number of children in SIMD 1-4	<b>Cost of Living Income from Employment</b>	Some quantitative evaluation has been undertaken for reporting purposes. Qualitative evaluation is planned for 2020	Ongoing Phase 1 complete (to get a Breakfast Club into every Primary school)	<b>Universal</b> - specifically supporting families living in poverty and low income families.
Healthy Start Vouchers  	<b>Lead:</b> NHS	Health care staff e.g. Midwives, GP's UK Government wide scheme	<b>Cost of Living Income from Social Security</b>	Data is collected nationally and reported by health board areas to identify eligibility and uptake rates	Ongoing resource for pregnant women and families of young children. This will be replaced in Scotland with Best Start Foods in 2019.	Low income pregnant women and families of children under the age of 4 who are entitled to benefits. Pregnant women who are under the age of 18.

Action	By Whom Lead and partners	Resources / investment	Poverty Driver impacted	How impact is assessed	Timescale	Target / priority Groups
Subsidised Childcare for Working Parents  	CEC and Capital City Partnership Smile Childcare North Edinburgh Childcare Kidzcare Childcare Connections		Income from Employment Cost of Living	KPIs set and contract managed by Capital City Partnership	April 2019 – March 2022	<b>All priority groups</b> Families in high SIMD areas
Eligible 2's	Lead: CEC Early Years  Early Years Centres, nursery schools and classes, private nurseries, voluntary sector playgroups, third sector childcare organisations and partner provider nurseries, health visitors		Cost of Living  Income from Employment	Evaluation and Quality Improvement Support and Challenge  Tracking  Feedback from parents/carers	By 2020, early learning and childcare will be increased from 600 to 1140 hours per year.	All priority groups
Care Experienced Fund	Schools and Lifelong Learning	£723,000 (2018/19) Additional SAC funding	Income from Employment (long term outcome)	Research into 'what works' Consultation with partners, including Care Experienced Participation Officers  early stages and no impact information available yet.	2018 – 21	Care experienced young people

Action	By Whom Lead and partners	Resources / investment	Poverty Driver impacted	How impact is assessed	Timescale	Target / priority Groups
PEF	<u>Lead:</u> Schools With a range of partners	£12,000 per child with Free Meal Entitlement	Cost of Living Income from Employment Income from welfare and benefits in kind	Evaluation and Quality Improvement Support and Challenge Tracking progress Attainment / equity data	2018/19 2019/29	Children living in poverty (Free School meals)
SAC schools	<u>Lead:</u> Schools With a range of partners		Cost of Living Income from Employment	Evaluation and Quality Improvement Support and Challenge Tracking Attainment and equity data	ongoing	Children living in poverty (Free School meals)
School Uniform Grants	Transactions Team	£100 per year – linked to Free School Meals	Cost of Living	Aligning the clothing grant/free school meals eligibility resulted in around 500 more children becoming eligible for the clothing grant.	2018/19	All target groups
Period Poverty	<u>Lead:</u> Schools and Lifelong Learning with: Hey Girls Third sector partners	£119,846 for schools (2018/19) £173k Community Access to sanitary protection (2019/20)	Cost of Living	User consultation and feedback Evaluation to inform future plans	2018/19 and 2019/20	All target groups
Benefits and Advice  Further work planned over 2019/20	Transactions Team		Income from Social Security and Benefits in Kind		Ongoing	All priority groups

Action	By Whom Lead and partners	Resources / investment	Poverty Driver impacted	How impact is assessed	Timescale	Target / priority Groups
Children in Bed and Breakfast	Safer and Stronger Communities		Cost of Living	data and information management	ongoing	All target groups
Employability Further work planned over 2019/20	Economic Development  Schools and Lifelong Learning  Capital City partnership		Income from Employment		Ongoing	All priority Groups

## KEY PROJECTS IN MORE DETAIL

The projects below provide further detail on some key initiatives and local responses to national initiatives. These examples demonstrate a step change as follows:

- Change mindset resulting in tangible changes to practice with impact on children living in poverty
- Better partnership working around agreed and shared aims and outcomes
- Innovative and impactful approaches that have been trailed and can be scaled
- Examples where research and evidence is well used to plan and evaluate

### ***1 in 5: RAISING AWARENESS OF CHILD POVERTY***

#### **Cost of Living, Income from Social Security, Income from Employment**

**1 in 5** is an Edinburgh initiative, led by CEC Lifelong Learning within Communities and Families. **1 in 5** began in 2016 and has three main aims:

- To look at ways in which schools can look at the cost of the school day (and other agencies to reduce the cost to children attending their provision)
- To increase awareness of the cause and impact of poverty on children
- To challenge poverty-related stigma

1 in 5 to date involves 80 primary, secondary and special schools and is being expanded to Early years settings and Youth Clubs. NHS staff are also being trained.

#### **Evidence of Need**

One in five (soon to be one in four) children in Edinburgh live in poverty. This impacts on their education, health and wellbeing and future life chances.



## Involvement of Communities with Lived Experience of Poverty

Children and their families with lived experience of poverty were consulted in the development of **1 in 5** and were engaged and active participants in the creation of the 'top tips' leaflet.

### Impact

The programme is evaluated throughout and has recently been extensively evaluated by the University of Salford. These evaluations demonstrate a significant impact on children living in poverty. They also show a marked increase awareness and understanding of child poverty among teachers and pupils and by extension, greatly increased empathy for children living in poverty. The programme directly impacts on children and their families with lived experience of poverty.

Of 163 teachers involved in the project who were surveyed in 2018:

- 92.5% (150) had increased their understanding of the scale of child poverty.
- 91% (147) now understood more about the impact of poverty on children's outcomes.
- 84% (136) said that they understood more about the causes of poverty.
- 78% (126) felt that the financial implications of homework and charitable events were now being considered.
- 71% (115) reported that this had an impact on social events and 61% (99) on the cost of prom and leavers' dances.



This project has made a significant impact to reduce the costs of the school day and for children and young people to have equal access to opportunities. All the schools that were the focus of the study have made significant changes to how stationary, uniforms, materials and trips were provided because of the training. In terms of equal access, in some schools a rule has been established that all children go to all trips and funding has been made available for those unable to pay. An audit of trips has led to a more discerning approach in deciding what to do.

One of the main challenges is to overcome the shame felt by individuals about what is a structural issue, and to do this by building relationships with families. Good progress is being made with this.

This project set out to reduce the costs of the school day, encourage equal access and reduce stigma around poverty. It has succeeded in all three areas and particularly in reducing costs and improving access. Changing mind-sets requires persistence and a cultural shift, but it was also felt that this had and is already happening as a result of this project. The training is regarded as a 'call to action', with participants responding immediately, and becoming part of what could be said to be the beginning of a movement towards reframing poverty, not as something that is a choice, but as a form of social injustice. All interviewed recognised the challenges but were motivated and committed to do all they can and encourage others to become a part of this movement too.

**1 in 5 Conference April 2019**

## DISCOVER!

### Drivers: Cost of Living, Income from Social Security, Income from Employment

**Discover!** is a new initiative building on Edinburgh's highly successful *1 in 5: Raising Awareness of Child Poverty*. It aims to: *reduce food anxiety and financial stress over school holidays; help reduce the poverty related attainment/achievement gap; reduce social isolation, and promote healthy eating*. It was piloted over summer and October in 2018, and evaluated by the Improvement Service. Taking account of wide-ranging feedback, a citywide approach was rolled out from Christmas 2018/19, with a **Discover!** Hub in all 4 localities every holiday.

**Discover!** delivers fun learning activities during holidays and is recommended to families by Head teachers and social workers. Since Christmas, 186 parents/carers and 365 children have participated (a parent/carer must attend). Activities delivered by highly skilled partners include family cooking, financial advice and support, trips, employability and career management skills, haircuts, relaxation techniques and wellbeing strategies. Youth workers and Pupil Support Assistants support the families, building links back into schools and community provision. The majority of families attending **Discover!** are not engaging with local community provision, all have lived experience of poverty, many struggle with mental health, have caring responsibilities and other challenges. **Discover!** is completely free, links to sustainable local provision and is designed to impact on the 3 drivers of poverty.

### Evidence of Need

**Discover!** is developed from evidence and research locally and nationally, and takes account of recommendations in the Poverty and Inequalities Commission around food anxiety and cost of the school holidays. The holistic approach involves a wide range of partners, individuals and organisations, building on and linking into sustainable local provision. The pilot phase identified what was working well and what needed improvement. Because a strong third sector delivers universal provision in areas of highest multiple deprivation, (with some targeted projects), **Discover!** aims to reach those children and families living in poverty and not already engaging with community provision and/or school. **Discover!** is targeted, works hard to be non-stigmatising and is designed to create capacity and empowerment, not dependency.



### Involvement of Communities with Lived Experience of Poverty

**Discover!** is recommended to families on low income and living in poverty, rather than them being referred to **Discover!**. While at **Discover!** children, parents and carers are all asked about the programme, what works and what should be changed to make it more beneficial. All feedback is taken into account and peoples' views inform the ongoing Development of **Discover!**

**Discover!** is overseen by a Steering Group of Council strategic and locality officers, Facilities Management, NHS, EVOC (Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations Council), LAYC (Lothian Association of Youth Clubs) and the Attainment Advisor for Edinburgh. We are currently seeking a parent representative. A planning sub group ensures **Discover!** is well designed and relevant, with regular staff feedback sessions building practitioners' and families' views into the planning.

### Impact

**Discover!** is robustly evaluated and emerging evidence shows a positive impact linked to its aims. An evaluation team gathers feedback from parents/carers, children and staff each holiday which is used

to drive improvements. Numbers are growing although there is still a gap between those recommended and those participating. The Steering Group has identified ways and people who can help reduce that gap. Many attend as a result of positive word of mouth among families. This is considered a success and continued high quality, effective delivery will help reduce the gap. Evaluation findings are linked to our intended outcomes and we have evidence of families:

- enjoying cooking and eating together, cooking together at home more
- making cumulative cost of living savings of between £2,480 - £2,694 per day
- following up appointments with support services and: securing new tenancies; monthly savings on household bills and help access benefits, particularly for children with disabilities.
- learning new skills: children learning sports/music then engaging with Active Schools/Youth Music Initiative, families learning about film-making then joining an 8-week progressive programme, parents signing up for a parenting programmes
- making new friends, accessing community provision and feeling less isolated
- reporting better family relationships as a result of **Discover!**

## **MAXIMISE!**

### **Drivers: Income from Social Security and Benefits in Kind, Income from Employment**

**Maximise!** is funded by Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership, Children 1st and Community Health and Advice Initiative (CHAI). It is a public health initiative working in collaboration with '1 in 5: Raising Awareness of Child Poverty and supported by schools across the city. Maximise tackles poverty by improving families' financial resilience, health and wellbeing and the attainment of children and young people.

We know how important financial resilience is to a safe and nurturing environment for children to grow and develop. We know that money and debt issues can be a result of – *or result in* – a range of social and emotional factors which can, in turn, seriously affect family functioning. We address these issues via our integrated community team of Family Support Workers, Advice Workers and Employability Workers who provide holistic, community-based support to families and schools. Our aim is to work alongside parents; children and young people to overcome the many barriers to achieving in school, at work, at home and in the community by maximising income, wellbeing, attainment and potential.

### **Evidence of Need**

Many families on low incomes are not always claiming all the social security and other payments to which they are entitled. Initially developed in the Tynecastle area, this project sought to embed and co-locate money, debt and welfare advice in schools. It provided a full-time worker who offered support and advice in relation to benefits entitlement, income maximisation and housing. We worked in 5 schools in total. One high school 2 primary schools and 2 special needs schools.

### **Involvement of Communities with Lived Experience of Poverty**

Maximise! adopts a whole family support approach, addressing the wider issues that impact families affected by poverty. This hybrid model is informed by and addresses main public health priorities through its focus on education, income maximisation, welfare, employability and housing. It provides services in:

- Advice – income maximisation, debt and housing issues. Providing greater financial stability where applicable and addressing inequalities.
- Intensive family support – looking at the core issues that stem from poverty and impact the whole family and addressing these, stabilising families, providing practical and social support

and developing sustainable change around financial resilience, school attendance, family relationships. It may also include prevention work and assisting people to move forwards.

- Employability – promoting independence and supporting families to engage in employment and/or employability related activities, breaking down inequalities.

## Impact

Funding has now been secured to deliver Maximise! in one cluster in each locality.

To date, co-located income maximisation work in schools (including Maximise!) has worked with 398 families gaining £946,623.50 to date.

The voluntary sector also delivers income maximisation programmes using an outreach model, e.g. in family homes and early years settings. This has enabled families to increase their resilience, improve their budgeting skills, better manage debts, sustain tenancies and avoid bankruptcy.

## HEALTHY START VOUCHERS

### Drivers: Income from Social Security and Benefits in Kind

Healthy Start is a UK wide government scheme to support low income pregnant women (from 10-week gestations) and families with children under the age of 4, who are on benefits or tax credits. All pregnant women below the age of 18 years, can also access Healthy Start.

Healthy Start provides vouchers (£3.10 per week for pregnant women, up to £6.20 per week for babies under the age of one and £3.10 per week for children aged 1-4) to spend on milk, fresh/frozen fruit and vegetables and infant formula milk. It also includes vitamins to support growing children until they reach the age of 5.

Families can apply for Healthy Start if they meet the criteria and can receive the application via the midwife or health visitor or download it from the Healthy Start website. It cannot be applied for until a registered health professional (usually the midwife or health visitor) counter signs the application alongside the applicant. Other sources of support for pregnant women/families are via welfare rights advisors who have identified benefits for low income pregnant women and families including eligibility for Healthy Start Vouchers.

### Evidence of Need

To apply for the Healthy Start Vouchers, families need to be in receipt of benefits including Universal Credit or Family Tax Credit. However, data collected nationally identifies there is still a gap between pregnant women/ families who are entitled to Healthy Start Vouchers and uptake e.g. The Scottish Government estimates that uptake of the Healthy Start Vouchers is around 70%

### Involvement of Communities with Lived Experience of Poverty

The Healthy Start website states: *“women who are introduced to the scheme by a health professional who takes time to explain its public health context and health benefits are more likely to view it as a partnership with them to benefit the health of their child, rather than as a simple financial contribution. They may therefore be more likely to make best use of the scheme”*

(<https://www.healthystart.nhs.uk/for-health-professionals/your-role/>)

## Impact



In Edinburgh there has been an improvement methodology approach to improve uptake of the Healthy Start Vouchers. The uptake of weekly vouchers amounts to approximately £900 during the timeframe of pregnancy until a child reaches 4 years old.

(<https://www.gov.scot/publications/welfare-foods-consultation-meeting-needs-children-families-scotland/pages/3/>)

## ***BREAKFAST CLUBS***

### **Drivers: Income from Social Security and Benefits in Kind, Income from Employment**

Breakfast Clubs help to support a healthy and positive start to the day for all children, but in particular, children who are affected by poverty related issues. They make a key contribution to the work of the City of Edinburgh Council in relation to child poverty by promoting attendance, punctuality and a readiness to learn. Due to an increased demand from parents and carers in work and training, breakfast clubs align themselves with and give added value to the city's affordable childcare agenda, particularly to families on a low income. The Council's aspiration for all 88 mainstream primary schools to deliver or have access to a universal breakfast club has now been realised. In all Universal breakfast clubs are delivered in all 88 mainstream Primary Schools across the city. As part of the Breakfast Club Programme, the City of Edinburgh Council provide funding to support 38 mainstream primary schools and 8 special schools. The remaining breakfast clubs are delivered by commercial providers, social enterprises and organisations with charitable status. Partner organisations that realise their corporate social responsibilities through breakfast clubs include AEGON, Aberdeen Standard and the Greggs Foundation. Organisations with charitable status that support breakfast club delivery, include Magic Breakfast and FareShare.

### **Evidence of Need**

In the 2016 Edinburgh wide consultation undertaken in response to the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, Part 8: Section 55, one of the main priorities clearly articulated by parent/carers was the important contribution that out of school care makes in helping them to sustain employment and maintain a work life balance. Parents /carers also referenced the requirement for 'informal childcare arrangements' out of necessity rather than choice. Many parents/carers arranged informal childcare arrangements to help mitigate against cost. Breakfast Clubs also help to reduce social isolation. Children consulted as part of the survey, identified the importance of playing with and making new friends as one of the important benefits of attending this type of provision. (Source: City of Edinburgh Out of School Care Consultation Report 2016)

### **Involvement of Communities with Lived Experience of Poverty**

City of Edinburgh Out of School Care Consultation Report 2016 – views gathered through a Survey Monkey consultation and Focus Groups for parent/carers and an activity session for children.

### **Impact**

Some quantitative evaluation has been undertaken for reporting purposes. Qualitative evaluation is planned for 2020. The number of universal breakfast clubs delivered in Primary schools have increased year on year. Due to greater demand from Special Schools, the allocation of CEC funding has increased year on year.

Numbers of children attending universal breakfast clubs has increased year on year

Between 2016 – 2019: The number of children accessing free places in universal breakfast club settings has increased.

## ***CHILDREN IN BED AND BREAKFAST ACCOMMODATION***

### **Drivers: Income from Social Security and Benefits in Kind, Cost of Living**

The Unsuitable Accommodation Order 2004, which was amended in 2016, sets out directions for local authorities that families with children and pregnant women should spend no longer than 7 days in bed and breakfast accommodation, if they require temporary accommodation.

Recognising the challenges in delivering homelessness services in the city, the Council created a Homelessness Task Force, specifically to make recommendations around future service delivery. A key focus for this group was to ensure that the Council moved to a position of not placing families with children in bed and breakfast. The Council took a range of actions to reduce the need for these placements including, but not limited to:

- Increasing the stock of temporary flats from the Council's stock,
- Provision of additional suitable accommodation from Registered Social Landlord partners,
- Increase in funding for the Private Sector Leasing scheme,
- Introduction of a Rent Deposit Guarantee Scheme,
- Development of a Private Rented Accommodation framework.

### **Evidence of Need**

Due to a shortage of suitable temporary accommodation the Council, at times, needed to provide families with children and pregnant women with B&B accommodation, prior to securing suitable accommodation for them.

The number of homeless households presenting from private sector tenancies has risen significantly in the last 3 years.

### **Involvement of Communities with Lived Experience of Poverty**

As on 31 March 2019, there were 2,147 children included as part of a current homeless case, of this number, 1,259 children were residing in Temporary Accommodation.

### **Impact**

Regular monitoring by officers and a structured introduction of the activities noted above has seen a decrease in numbers from the peak of 85 households in February 2018 to 9 in April 2019. It is likely as this work continues the Council will successfully eliminate the needs for families to access bed and breakfast accommodation by September 2019.

## ***SUBSIDISED CHILDCARE FOR WORKING PARENTS***

### **Drivers: Income from Social Security and Benefits in Kind, Income from Employment, Cost of Living**

Four Childcare providers will run a targeted, affordable childcare service for 0-12 year olds (North Edinburgh Childcare, Smile Childcare, Childcare Connections and Kidzcare) which is based in areas of high deprivation (SIMD).



This will include a blend of 0 - 5 childcare provision and after school care for those of primary school age. There is also a requirement to link with other childcare providers, such as local childminders, to offer a wraparound childcare service for families who work outside of core care hours. The provider(s) will link with local, city-wide and national organisations to provide a holistic approach to supporting the wider needs of the family with regard to employability, income maximisation, health and wellbeing and employment progression. The provision is for parents in-work, returning to work or studying.

## **Evidence of Need**

The provision has been designed taking into account feedback from parents/carers, and from third sector agencies.

The provider(s) carry out a financial assessment with each family. Eligibility for the subsidy will be based on whether the cost of childcare would take the household below 60% of median income which is recognised as relative low income. For this purpose, income includes money received through welfare benefits.

Where families receive support with childcare costs from other sources, such as Scottish Government 1140 funded childcare hours, Department of Work and Pensions, FE/HE institutions or employers, the subsidy will NOT be available.

## ***CARE EXPERIENCED FUND***

### **Drivers: Cost of Living**

Educational outcomes for care experienced children and young people are generally poorer than for their non-care experienced peers. Attendance at school is poor, and fewer stay on at school beyond fourth year. The additional Scottish Attainment Challenge funds are to help local authorities to achieve improvements. Several new initiatives will be implemented using the Care Experienced Fund:

- Improving attendance
- Improved support in schools
- Empowering families
- Communication and promotion

### **Evidence of Need/Involvement of Communities with Lived Experience of Poverty**

The proposals for the Fund were drafted following research into 'what works' and consultation with key partners, including care experienced participation officers. This is still in its early stages and no information about impact is available yet.

## ***EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE***

### **Drivers: Income from Social Security and Benefits in Kind, Income from Employment**

By 2020, early learning and childcare will be increased from 600 to 1140 hours per year. This expansion has two main policy aims: to improve outcomes for children, particularly around the poverty attainment gap, and to support parents into work, training or study. The statutory eligibility criteria for two year olds covers those in families on low or no income benefits, families receiving support due to their status as asylum seekers, and those looked after, in kinship care or living with an appointed guardian.

Partners are Early Years Centres, nursery schools and classes, private nurseries, voluntary sector playgroups, third sector childcare organisations and partner provider nurseries (dependent on Care Inspectorate grades).

## Evidence of Need/Impact

High-quality early learning and childcare benefits children's social, emotional and educational skills. Evaluation amongst providers and parents/carers demonstrates significant impact on, for example, children's speech, confidence and ability to form relationships with other children. 21% of the total population of two year olds are eligible for a place and, of these, 38% are accessing places (above the national average of 35%). This has been achieved through a combination of making sure that a broad range of providers are available to support the expansion, and by using effective and targeted publicity to promote the change.

## CASE STUDIES

### ***Tynecastle High School: A case Study***

#### **Drivers: Cost of Living**

#### **Links: 1 in 5, Breakfast Club, PEF**

Tynecastle High School was one of the first high schools to be involved in *1 in 5: Raising Awareness of Child Poverty*. Although the school now has a different head teacher from the beginning of 1 in 5, the impact was such, that actions to mitigate child poverty are embedded throughout the school.

Tynecastle High School has used PEF to support their ongoing poverty-proofing work and focus on equity for all. One of the initiatives having a measurable impact is the recently launched Breakfast Club, providing a healthy start to the day. Well-supported by a Pupil Support Officer, whose post is funded by PEF, the school is able to track and monitor uptake across SIMD deciles and target those who would benefit from attending.

Other initiatives such as a recent "formal wear" donation campaign aiming to provide suitable attire for Christmas dances and prom, the school's provision of free feminine hygiene products, and the usage of local business partnerships show the school's commitment to equity.

PEF has enabled the school to increase staffing to support the continuing implementation of the school's Digital Learning Strategy, which includes equity of resource provision. More recently, Brilliant Club, a STEM initiative to raise aspiration, and the appointment of a Development Officer of Outdoor Learning has continued to enrich the curriculum for identified learners. Participatory Budgeting has been used for the second year; young people have chosen health and wellbeing for investment and are leading this work.

## **NHS Lothian's Modern Apprenticeship Scheme: A case Study**

### **Drivers: Income from Employment, Cost of Living**

### **Links: Developing the Young Workforce**

NHS Lothian runs a modern apprenticeship programme, providing early careers opportunities for young people from a wide range of backgrounds. As part of this work, NHS Lothian works closely together with Local Authority teams, in particular the economic development teams.

To support young people successfully complete their apprenticeships, 87 mentors were trained in youth engagement through partnerships with YMCA and DYW. The Young Persons Development Network was created to support employment skills and training. In addition, 9 NHSL staff undertaking 1:1 mentoring of local young people in secondary schools who are care experienced (MCR Pathways).

Rebecca applied to the modern apprenticeship programme from school. She was not enjoying school and wanted to progress into a caring role using her voluntary and personal caring experience. The Modern Apprenticeship enabled her to apply for a nursing support post in Learning Disabilities with NHS Lothian. As a school leaver Rebecca undertook a demanding apprenticeship made up of classroom, vocational and peer based learning, delivered through a variety of learning mediums. It included work based mentors, college tutors, youth workers and peer based learning projects.

Since starting her apprenticeship in Nov 2017 Rebecca participated in a national NHS Scotland event, recording a video contributing her experiences and motivation to join healthcare. She also joined a panel discussion session with the head of NHS workforce in Scotland contributing to the debate on how to engage more young people to join the NHS workforce. Rebecca's presence and enthusiasm has benefited other young people and helped NHS to share spread the benefits of youth employment opportunities.

Rebecca was presented with the NHS employer outstanding contribution award in recognition of her achievements. Here is what Rebecca has to say about her experience through her Modern Apprenticeship in NHS Lothian:

*'The best things I have done over the course of apprenticeship was getting to work whilst also learning things and doing my education work. I also went to many other opportunities that came up over the time of my apprenticeship such as going to the NHS Scotland Event in Glasgow and sat on a panel telling people my experiences about doing an apprenticeship with the NHS. This event and all the other ones have made me become a lot more confident. I took the confidence I gained and it used it within my role in my work place. It's the best thing I have ever done!'*

# Section 7

## Next Steps

This is the first annual Local Child Poverty Action Report on activities currently underway to reduce, prevent, and mitigate the impact of Child Poverty in Edinburgh. It concentrates on work which has been led to date by the Edinburgh Children's Partnership but, in its analysis of future work and future requirements, emphasizes the contribution to be made by wider city partnerships in addressing all the factors which drive almost one in four families in Edinburgh into poverty.

The report shows good progress made to date, and examples of high impact services making a real difference for families in poverty in the city. Over the next twelve months, the priorities for partners will be to build on this progress and to put in place the conditions needed to drive an ambitious step change in the way Edinburgh tackles poverty across the city. The next twelve months will see progress particularly in:

- improving co-ordination, filling gaps, and driving innovation in delivery, and;
- putting citizens' voices at the heart of policy design and delivery

### IMPROVING ALIGNMENT, FILLING GAPS, AND DRIVING INNOVATION

The last 12 months have shown evidence of real commitment by partners across the city to make a genuine step change in the way Edinburgh tackles poverty, and a sense of the unique opportunity the city has to show leadership and innovation in this work. This is reflected in the way that efforts to address and prevent poverty run as a clear binding strand through the strategic plans of all agencies in the city – through the **Edinburgh Partnership Community Plan**, **The Council Business Plan** and **Council Change Strategy**, the **Edinburgh Children's Plan**, the **Edinburgh Health and Social Partnership Strategic Plan**, and the work of the third sector in Edinburgh.

Most clearly, this commitment to change and improvement among partners is demonstrated by the establishment of new structures and projects to co-ordinate and drive forward actions across these plans. These include the forming of a new independent **Edinburgh Poverty Commission** to set the direction needed to mitigate and reduce poverty in the city. It also includes the establishment of a new **Edinburgh Child Poverty Action Unit** to generate ideas for change and improve co-ordination of Council actions to address Child poverty.

Alongside strategic alignment, the report also shows good progress in delivery of high impact services for families experiencing poverty in Edinburgh, and real progress in driving cultural change in some of the key services that affect children in poverty. These include projects such as **Maximise, Discover!** and the **1 in 5: Raising Awareness of Child Poverty** projects, all of which provide high impact for families and rank among the best examples of good practice in Scotland.

Despite this progress, the analysis conducted to date, however, does show a number of areas for improvement. Most notably, practitioners and citizens report that although good practice projects exist across the city, these sometimes operate in isolation, sometimes risking duplicating services provided by different agencies, often resulting in disparities in quality and scale of provision between different areas of the city.

Improving the integration and co-ordination of efforts to address poverty remains a key challenge.

A recognition of this challenge was a primary driver in the establishment of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission and the Edinburgh Child Poverty Action Unit, both of which were set up to shine a light on what works well in the city's current response to poverty, but also identify and drive forward the changes needed to improve delivery and impact. Building on these first steps, the priority for the next 12 months will be for:

- Edinburgh Poverty Commission to report its findings and recommendations for all partners in the city;
- Edinburgh Partnership, and all agencies in the city, to respond to these recommendations and put in place the actions needed;
- Strategic leaders across to lead a co-ordinated approach, ensuring that public services prioritise approaches that mitigate and reduce child poverty
- Edinburgh Child Poverty Action Unit to respond to the recommendations of the Commission and support co-ordination of actions across the Council;
- partners to maximise and build on good practice and learning from pilot projects carried out over the past 12 months.

The third sector has collectively identified priorities for the next year, which link through the Community Planning Partnerships.

In response to feedback from members, EVOC's priority for 2019-20 is to build the participation of local third sector community organisations in the Child Poverty workstream. These organisations have knowledge of need and local context and incorporate broader considerations of what works to reduce poverty and inequality in their planning. They play a key role in effective project implementation, through local partnership working and practice networks.

EVOC report that impact assessment of the poverty drivers is currently carried out by organisations on an individual basis. For this reason, the analytical approach embodied in the 2017 Act requires a new project to be established in which third sector impact evidence will be organised collectively. It will be necessary for EVOC to find resources to deliver this.

LAYC has identified that the youth work sector's key priorities and contributions over the coming year are to:

- continue working with the 78 youth and children's organisations that are currently members
- be a strong voice for the wider universal youth and children's work sector, particularly in relation to mitigating and reducing child poverty
- link with both local and national poverty policy agendas through LAYC's representation role
- ensure the universal nature of, and voluntary engagement with, youth and children's work helps develop Trusted Adult relationships and makes links with their role in mitigating the effects of poverty
- increase workforce development opportunities for the youth and children's work sector

## PUTTING CITIZENS' VOICES AT THE HEART OF SERVICES

The evidence on poverty presented in this report reflects data shared by partners, and the results of the first stages of qualitative research with citizens carried out over the past year. They reflect a good, shared understanding of the nature and drivers of poverty, showing a city which:

- despite its affluence, still has almost one in four families who live in poverty;
- has individual Council wards with poverty rates ranking among the highest in Scotland;
- shows evidence of poverty in every part of the city, with even affluent areas recording over 10% of children living in poverty.

Beyond these high-level facts, the analysis also shows that:

- the typical child in poverty in Edinburgh lives in a family where adults are in work, but struggling to earn high enough wages, or work enough hours to increase their income
- predictability of income is a major challenge for families, particularly the unpredictability of income from earnings due to a reliance on zero hours contracts, and the impact of managing income in an environment of benefits cuts and benefits caps;
- the cost of living in the city is high, particularly housing costs, childcare costs, and the cost of basic essentials such as food, energy, and transport, and;
- all these issues are heightened for families who are already vulnerable, be it through ill health, disability, age, or other factors.

These findings reflect a good baseline understanding of poverty in the city, but also a need for further work. In particular, over the next 12 months a key priority will be to build on good statistical analysis with more work designed to ensure policy is delivered by hearing and responding to the genuine voices of people who experience poverty in Edinburgh. This means:

- hearing and responding to the citizen research programme currently being carried out on behalf of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission;
- building on the work of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission and ensuring that the voices of citizens are embedded in the way that policies to address poverty are designed and delivered in Edinburgh.

## ACTIONS FOR 2019 - 2020

To strengthen our actions and impact on reducing child poverty over the next few years, we have identified the following high-level priorities for the year ahead:

- improving co-ordination, filling gaps, and driving innovation in delivery, and;
- putting citizens' voices at the heart of policy design and delivery

### Improving co-ordination, filling gaps, and driving innovation in delivery

- The **Council's Corporate Leadership Team** will place child poverty as a central theme to discussions and decisions across the Council and city
- **NHS Lothian** will ensure its new inequalities strategy continues to address the drivers of child poverty through its role as an employer of staff, a procurer of services and a deliverer of services, and to act as an advocate of the population it serves that is affected most by inequalities and poverty



- The **Third Sector** through the EVOC and LAYC networks will ensure that the sector is informed and involved in helping co-ordinate and prioritise actions designed to impact on the drivers of poverty and reduce child poverty
- The **Coalition Commitments** will continue to drive actions to mitigate/reduce poverty
- The **Edinburgh Partnership** and the 4 Community Planning partnerships (especially the Children's Partnership) will increase its scrutiny of interventions and initiatives shown to, or having the long-term potential to, reduce child poverty
- The **Edinburgh Children's Partnership** will prioritise child poverty when writing the new Children's Services Plan
- The establishment of 13 new **Neighbourhood Networks** in Edinburgh will engage with local people and services helping inform interventions to reduce child poverty
- The findings and recommendations emerging from the Edinburgh Poverty Commission will be shared widely and actively used to inform decisions and processes
- The findings from the **Edinburgh poverty Commission** will be shared and inform decisions, policy and practice, particularly those that recommend better co-ordination
- The Edinburgh **Child Poverty Action Unit** will continue to develop and implement actions that are informed by professional judgement and engagement with people, particularly young people with lived experience of poverty
- **1 in 5, Maximise! and Discover!** will be rolled out and continue to widen partnerships and reach, sharing evaluation and evidence widely
- Council and NHS officers will develop a logic model and work towards establishing Key Performance Indicators which will be shared widely

### Putting citizens' voices at the heart of policy design and delivery

In terms of the four national targets, we are confident about the data relating to one (23% of children in Edinburgh are in relative poverty). We therefore need to find out more about the children living in poverty in the city so that we can clearly prioritise and co-ordinate actions.

We will identify who the children living in poverty are and whether their families are one of the priority groups (lone parents; families where a member of the household is disabled; families with 3 or more children; minority ethnic families; families where the youngest child is under 1; mothers aged under 25).

Through a range of local networks, and linking back into the Children's Partnership we will decide what actions and interventions need to be put in place. These will be informed by and agreed with, people who have lived experience of poverty.

To know which interventions are working, we will identify small tests of change. Using a quality improvement methodology, we will measure their impact and scale, then share across our partnerships what works and what doesn't. To do this we will set up a partnership with local services operating in the most affected area and will engage with people affected by poverty. We will seek to better understand what affects them most, and how best this can be alleviated. Using this information and insight we will co-design an approach that can be rolled out consistently across the city.

Sighthill/Gorgie is the city ward with the highest levels of child poverty sitting at 39%. The proposal is to begin initially working with just one family, in one street, of one postcode area to test ideas and suggestions. We would then, knowing what works, as rapidly as possible, scale up those interventions and supports which demonstrate a short-term impact and the potential for longer term reductions in rates of child poverty.

## ABBREVIATIONS

CEC	City of Edinburgh Council
CHAI	Community Help and Advice Initiative <a href="http://www.chaiedinburgh.org.uk/contact-us/">http://www.chaiedinburgh.org.uk/contact-us/</a>
CLD	Community Learning and Development
CLPL	Career Long Professional Learning
CLT	Corporate Leadership Team
CPAU	Child Poverty Action Unit
EVOC	Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations Council <a href="https://www.evoc.org.uk/">https://www.evoc.org.uk/</a>
LAYC	Lothian Association of Youth Clubs <a href="https://www.evoc.org.uk/">https://www.evoc.org.uk/</a>
NHS	National Health Service <a href="https://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/">https://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/</a>
PEF	Pupil Equity Fund
SAC	Scottish Attainment Challenge
SDS	Skills Development Scotland
SO	Strategic Outcome
YMCA	Young Men's Christian Association
YMI	Youth Music Initiative
DYW	Developing the Young Workforce