

End Poverty in Edinburgh – Annual Progress Report

November 2022

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Foreword

Two years ago, the Edinburgh Partnership and City of Edinburgh Council made a bold step and committed to taking all the local actions possible to end poverty in this city by 2030.

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

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

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

We have helped people maximise their earnings from employment, by supporting 3,700 people into work or learning, and encouraging a record uplift in the number of real living wage accredited businesses in this city.

We have built new social rented homes, helped people stay out of homelessness, and become the first established short term lets control area in Scotland.

We have continued the city’s recovery from covid and its impacts on health inequalities, taking steps to improve access to mental health and other supports.

And while doing all this, we are also building the foundations for longer term prevention of poverty, delivering plans for improved whole family support services aligned to the commitments of Edinburgh’s Promise and its vision for a city where children are loved, safe, and respected.

These actions are the right things to do, and they represent real progress, but they come at a time when the risk of severe poverty in Edinburgh is rising, and when 15,000 children still grow up in poverty in Scotland’s most affluent city.

We have shown in the last two years that when we come together as a city we can make a real difference for the people of Edinburgh. And we are committed to carrying on that work through the priority actions set out in this report. We hope that you will work with us to help deliver these actions.

Cammy Day

City of Edinburgh Council Leader, and Edinburgh Partnership Chair

Dona Milne

Director of Public Health and Health Policy, NHS Lothian

Executive Summary

In September 2020, the Edinburgh Poverty Commission published a call to action for the city, laying out the steps and commitments needed to end poverty in Edinburgh within this decade.

This is the second annual report on the citywide response to that challenge. It provides an overview of progress made by the City of Edinburgh Council, NHS Lothian, third sector and other partners against the actions set by the Commission, including a specific focus on child poverty actions.

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

Poverty in Edinburgh

- Latest data shows an estimated 79,000 (15%) people in Edinburgh were living on incomes below the poverty threshold in 2021, including 15,000 (19%) children
- This indicates a steady trend despite the early impacts of covid, with the immediate income effects of the pandemic significantly mitigated by introduction of short term UK Government measures through 2020 and 2021.
- Data for 2022 are not yet published. Analysis points towards a likely significant increase in severe poverty and hardship as a result of rising living costs and falling real incomes among poorer families across the UK throughout 2023-24

Actions to end poverty in 2022

This report outlines a wide area of actions delivered during 2022 by partners working to meet the calls to action set by the Edinburgh Poverty Commission. Within this, key actions which will have the most direct impact on the lives of people in poverty in the city have included work to respond to **cost of living** crisis, help people into **fair work**, and address the **housing and homelessness** crisis in the city. Alongside these, work to continue the city's **recovery from pandemic**, and to build the **long term foundations** needed to end poverty in Edinburgh has progressed during 2022.

Cost of living crisis responses and lifeline support

Rising prices mean that in real terms the average income of households in the UK is falling by near record levels during 2022/23. To support families on the lowest incomes during this period, **City of Edinburgh Council invested a total of £8m** in actions to:

- Provide one-off direct cash payments to 31,900 low income families in the city, including two £100 payments for every child in receipt of Free School Meals
 - In total, this programme delivered a typical payment of £550 during the year for a low income family with 2 children.
- Boost the level of funds available for crisis grant programmes, energy crisis grants, and food crisis projects in the city, and
- Clear school meal related debts in Edinburgh

Alongside this, in Autumn 2022, city partners launched a new campaign to raise awareness of support available in the city to help people deal with money worries. This campaign augmented existing work to improve money advice and income maximisation support in the city – such services helped Edinburgh citizens gain around **£20.5m of financial gains** through improved access to benefits entitlements and reduced living costs.

Helping people in Edinburgh access fair work that provides enough to live on

In November 2021 Edinburgh was successfully achieved accreditation as a Living Wage City. During its first year the project has exceeded its targets and:

- Helped encourage **116 Edinburgh businesses to commit to paying the real living wage** – a rate of accreditation well above any previous year on record
- These new accreditations mean **1,400 workers have directly benefitted from pay increases** this year.

Work has continued to make sure that employability services in Edinburgh meet the needs of all priority groups. Progress included reconfiguration of the Council's employability services, which **supported 3,755 people into work or learning** during the year, and the implementation of the Whole Family Equality Project for people from minority ethnic backgrounds.

Addressing the housing and homelessness crisis in Edinburgh

Local Authority rents in Edinburgh have been frozen for two years, with the Council considering further extensions to this policy.

A dedicated multi-disciplinary team established to reduce the number of people who become homeless from the private rented sector and successfully supported **240 households to avoid homelessness** in 2022.

During 2022 Edinburgh established Scotland's first city-wide Short Term Lets control area, with an aim to improve availability of private rented accommodation in the city.

At the same time £64.8m of Council funds were invested in building new homes and improving existing homes and neighbourhoods, with 247 new social rented homes built.

Continuing recovery from covid and its impacts on health inequalities

NHS Lothian led work during 2022 to continue to respond to the Covid pandemic alongside the longer term work needed to address health inequalities. Community Link Workers, embedded in GP surgeries, provide vital non-medical support including financial issues, while mental health services have received increased funding and improved access routes for people, with Thrive taking a no wrong door approach.

Continuing to build a strong foundation for the long-term actions

In addition to these actions, key strategic responses continued during 2022 which will be critical to city's ability to make the long-term system wide changes needed to end poverty in the city. These include:

- Securing long term funding needed to support **End Poverty Edinburgh**, an independent group of citizens with lived experience of poverty working to influence decision-making on measures to tackle poverty in the city
- Continuing to invest in capacity and resources to develop the **prevention-based service models** critical to meeting the Commission's long-term calls to action for reform in the way people in Edinburgh access support to escape and avoid poverty
- Delivering the **Edinburgh Learns for Life** programme and the long- term improvements needed to close the attainment and achievement gaps
- Continuing **The Edinburgh Pact** - a programme which aims to radically transform the way that Edinburgh delivers its health and social care services to prevent crisis and support people to manage their health and personal independence.

Priority actions needed for 2023 to 2024

The data presented in this report confirms that the risk of poverty and severe hardship are increasing in Edinburgh, and across the UK, during late 2022, driven by the increasing cost of living.

Within this context, it will be challenging over the next two years to remain on track to meet targets for the city (set by Edinburgh

Poverty Commission and the Scottish Government) to reduce poverty rates for adults and children to 10% by 2030.

Scottish Government analysis has suggested that national policy interventions already in place have the potential to take 90,000 children in Scotland out of poverty by 2024 (including an assumed 6,000 children in Edinburgh). If realised, this alone would be sufficient to meet Edinburgh's local targets. But these estimates, were made prior to the cost of living crisis and ongoing economic uncertainty facing the UK, and their consequent increasing impacts on poverty risk.

In order to meet the challenge and continue to help people in Edinburgh escape or avoid the impacts of poverty, independent analysts such as the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and other bodies suggest that both **UK and Scottish Governments** will need to go beyond their existing policy commitments in the next few years and:

- **Ensure that social security systems provide an effective lifeline for people who are struggling to get by** - including protecting low income families from rising energy costs, raising the value of core benefit payments, and investing in crisis funds
- **Increase grant funding to support delivery of new affordable and social rented homes in Edinburgh.**

In tandem with these national actions, meeting Edinburgh's poverty targets will need **continued delivery of local calls to action set by the Edinburgh Poverty Commission** by city-wide partners, including City of Edinburgh Council, NHS Lothian, and Edinburgh Partnership. In the short term, this includes prioritising actions to make sure:

- People can access fair work and the support they need to prevent and stay out of poverty
- People have decent, energy efficient, climate proofed homes they can afford to live in
- Attainment, achievement, and positive destinations are improved for all with a particular focus on those in poverty, and
- Public Health and NHS Lothian led partnership and services to reduce poverty and its effects are developed and enhanced

More details on these priority actions and their delivery is provided throughout the main body of this report.

Priority actions needed during 2023 to 2024 to meet interim end poverty targets in Edinburgh

UK and Scottish Governments will need to ensure that:	UK-wide social security systems provide an effective lifeline for people who are struggling to get by	Scottish Government increases funding to support delivery of new affordable and social rented homes in Edinburgh
City-wide partners – including City of Edinburgh Council, NHS Lothian, and the Edinburgh Partnership - will need to ensure that:	People can access fair work and the support they need to prevent and stay out of poverty	Attainment, achievement and positive destinations are improved for all with a particular focus on those in poverty
	People have decent, energy efficient, climate proofed homes they can afford to live in	NHS Lothian and public health led partnership and services to reduce poverty and its effects are developed and enhanced

Case Study: Edinburgh’s Promise

Throughout this report evidence on actions is illustrated by case studies drawn from citizen’s experience, and key strategic programmes. The first of these case studies focuses on **Edinburgh’s Promise** - a ten year, multi-agency transformation programme co-ordinated by the Edinburgh Children’s Partnership. It aims to deliver on a shared vision that all Edinburgh’s children are loved, safe and respected.

Over the last year, action to deliver the Promise has included:

- Unpacking the 5 Fundamentals core to the Promise (what matters to children and families; Listening; Poverty; Children's Rights; and Language) and turning them into behaviours which everyone can use
- Considering the power of language and supporting colleagues to avoid stigma and harm by thinking about the language used in day-to-day work
- Rolling out a Trauma Informed Practice approach across the children’s sector

Throughout the coming year, **Edinburgh’s Promise** will continue to assess the strategic and operational changes that are required to keep the Promise.

This will include embedding Children’s Rights in all activities, establishing a Whole Family Support service to help people stay out of poverty, and making sure that people can help shape and design the services they rely on.

1. Introduction

In September 2020 the Edinburgh Poverty Commission published its final report with a call to action for the steps the city needs to take to **End Poverty in Edinburgh by 2030**ⁱ.

Following the most extensive process of inquiry into poverty, its causes, consequences, and solutions ever undertaken in a Scottish local authority, the Commission identified 6 areas for focused action by city partners – **fair work, a decent home, income security, opportunities to progress, connections and belonging, health and wellbeing** - and one cultural challenge to **remove stigma and improve the experience** people in Edinburgh have when seeking help to escape from poverty.

What do we mean when we say, ‘End Poverty’?

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

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

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

Edinburgh Poverty Commission

Reporting on progress

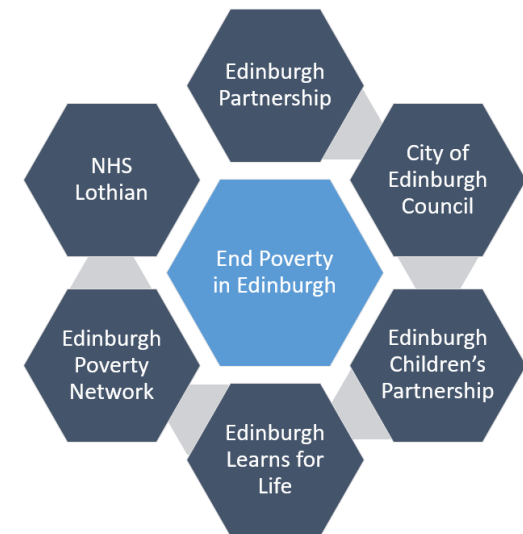
This report provides the second annual review of progress towards meeting Edinburgh Poverty Commission calls to action. It provides an overview of:

- Data and evidence on changing trends in poverty in Edinburgh
- A review of actions delivered in 2022 across each of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission calls to action
- Planned priority actions for 2023 to 2024

In line with recommendations made by the Commission, this report will combine annual reporting on end poverty delivery plans, with the statutory duty for all Councils and NHS boards to produce an annual Local Child Poverty Action Report.

Delivering the calls to action

End poverty commitments are embedded within the key strategic plans driving forward actions across Edinburgh’s public and third sector anchor institutions.



In 2020, **Edinburgh Partnership** members agreed to adopt the ‘End Poverty in Edinburgh by 2030’ target set by the Edinburgh Poverty Commission. Partnership actions to deliver this target are embedded in a refreshed [Edinburgh Community Plan](#), published in 2022. During this year specific actions led by the partnership have included delivering a review of money advice services in the city, strategic responses needed to end poverty related hunger in Edinburgh, and partnership responses to the cost of living crisis.

The [City of Edinburgh Council Business Plan](#) retains ‘End Poverty by 2030’ as one of the three core priorities of the Council, driving strategic and budget choices over the next five years.

[Edinburgh Learns for Life](#), is the strategic plan for education to meet long term city priorities and makes a specific response to the findings of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission, with a focus on the poverty-related attainment gap and inequitable pathways, and culture change needed to remove the stigma of poverty.

The **Edinburgh Children’s Partnership** puts tackling poverty at the heart of their [Children’s Services Plan](#), with commitments ensuring that, regardless of their family circumstances every child will have the same chance to live a healthy, happy, and fulfilling life

In 2022 **NHS Lothian** restructured its Public Health and Health Policy team to create new ‘Partnership and Place’ teams to address child poverty, with specific actions to improve non-medical family support, and access to mental health support for children, young people, and their families.

Case study: Edinburgh Poverty Network

The **Edinburgh Poverty Network** is a new informal meeting series set up in late 2021 open to all organisations and projects working in the city of address poverty.

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

Topics over the last year have included:

- Housing and homelessness
- The city-wide advice services review
- The poverty-related attainment and achievement gap
- Supporting people in priority groups
- Ending poverty related hunger in Edinburgh
- Providing income security that provides a lifeline

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

2. Data and Evidence

To end poverty by 2030, Edinburgh should aim to be a city in which:

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

Edinburgh Poverty Commission

The Edinburgh Poverty Commission set the city a challenge to end poverty in Edinburgh by 2030.

In doing so, the Commission identified four specific targets which would define success against this goal. These targets align with and build upon statutory targets for the city set out in the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act.

Appendix 1, and associated figures provide an overview of current progress towards these (and other Scottish Government) targets, using the most up to date information available at the time of publication.

For most data points, it should be noted that the latest official estimates – in part due to data collection difficulties during the covid pandemic – still relate to 2020 or the period to Spring 2021 at latest

and do not yet tell a clear and full picture about the impact on poverty of the pandemic and more recent cost of living challenges.

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

“The Poverty Threshold”

The most commonly used poverty indicator in Scotland is relative poverty after housing costs. For this measure, people are considered ‘in poverty’ if their equivalised net disposable household income is below 60 percent of the UK median after housing costs.

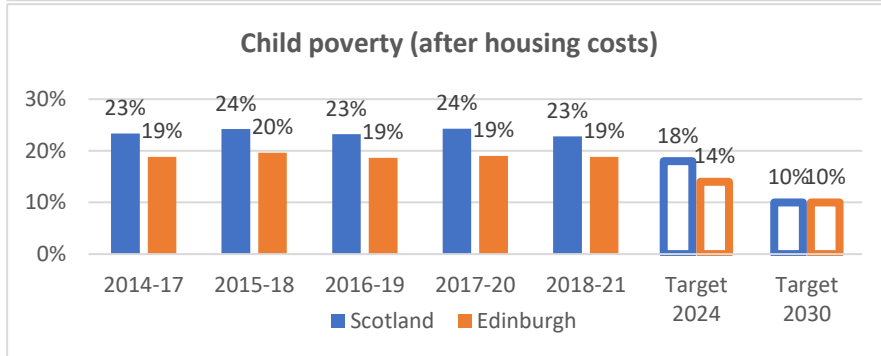
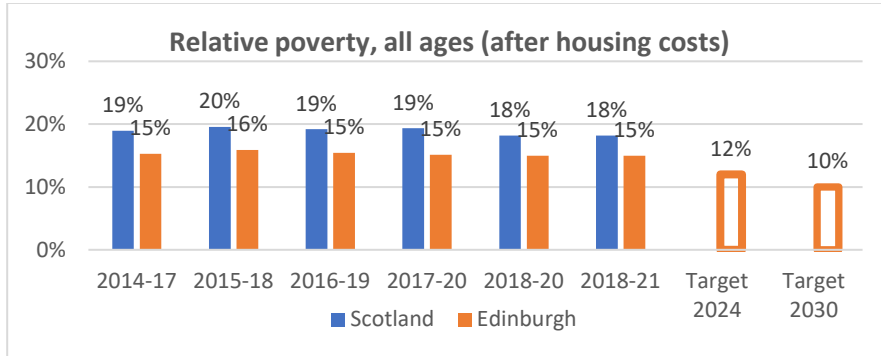
In Scotland this means that a couple with 2 children are considered to be in poverty if their income falls below £450 per week, or £161 per week for a single person with no children.

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Trends in headline poverty rates remain steady...

- An estimated 15% of people in Edinburgh were living in poverty in 2021, accounting for over 78,000 individualsⁱⁱⁱ
- These included almost 15,000 children, or 19% of all children in the city
- 10% of all Edinburgh residents had been living in persistent poverty (in poverty for three of the past four years)^{iv}

- These data indicate a steady trend despite the early impacts of covid, with the immediate income effects of the pandemic significantly mitigated by short term UK Government measures such as furlough and the £20 Universal Credit weekly uplift.



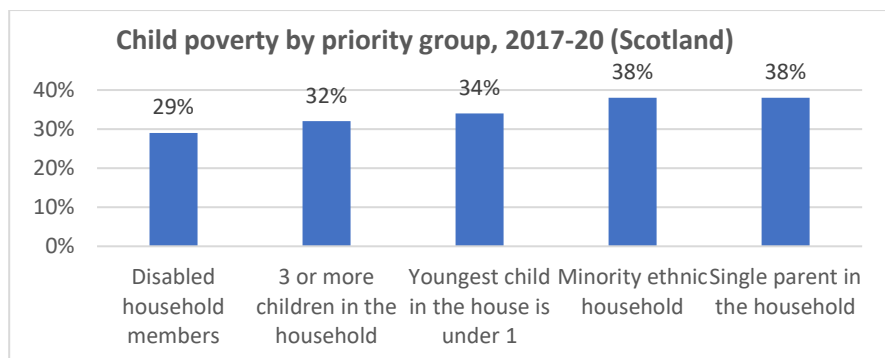
...but an increasing number of families are going without basic essentials...

- An estimated 19,000 Edinburgh citizens regularly went without basic essentials such as food and shelter, even before the current cost of living crisis^v

- During 2022, rising costs of food and energy have led 73% of low income families in Scotland to go without essentials such as food or heat^{vi}
- 10% of low income families in Scotland have had to use a food bank during 2022, while some estimates show that 44% of people in deprived areas are taking on new debt just to pay their bills^{vii}
- Advice providers in Edinburgh and across Scotland show increasing financial anxiety among clients and substantial increases in need for support with energy costs (up 61% year on year) and immediate food crisis (up 21%)

...and families in priority groups are most at risk of increasingly severe poverty during the current crisis

- More than 80% of all children in poverty come from households in Scottish Government identified priority groups^{viii}
- Such families are at a far higher risk of poverty than the population at large – with poverty rates as much as double the average for all household types^{ix}
- 55% of all disabled adults in the UK, and 69% of Black or Black British Adults report finding it difficult to pay their energy bills in September 2022^x
- Reports suggest such families are overall less likely than even average low income families to have access to resources – such as savings, family and friends, ability to work extra hours – needed to help avoid severe poverty during periods of crisis.



The outlook for poverty and living standards in the medium term is extremely challenging...

- Even with current Government price caps in place, average home energy bills in late 2022 will be up to twice as high as the previous year
- Inflation for all households in the UK reached over 10% in 2022. For poorer households, whose consumption is more heavily weighted towards high inflation items, inflation rates of as high as 15% were estimated in autumn 2022^{xi}.
- Average wages are not keeping pace with inflation. Analysis from Fraser of Allander analysis notes that the lowest paid workers in the UK have seen a drop in year-on-year earnings in 2022 even before inflation effects are considered
- And the UK social security system is under pressure too. Even if normal policy is followed for the uprating of benefits, the real value of Universal Credit in April 2023 will still be lower than it was in late 2021^{xii}

- In these circumstances, Resolution Foundation projections estimate that average incomes for poorer families are likely to drop by 10% in real terms in the next few years
- These trends represent worst two year drop in real average household incomes in the UK since 1961.

...and the underlying long term structural challenges of poverty in Edinburgh remain stubborn and hard to shift.

- Edinburgh's labour market is very tight, with high employment and low unemployment. But work is not always enough to keep people out of poverty
- 61% of people in poverty are in working households, while a total of 13,900 people in Edinburgh are in employment but still reliant on Universal Credit
- 8,700 people remain unemployed in Edinburgh in Autumn 2022 – 2,000 more than the pre-pandemic level
- And housing costs remain high - average private rents in Edinburgh for a 2 bedroom home rose by 18% in 2022
- Homelessness is rising too, though numbers remain below pre-covid levels – 660 households were assessed as homeless in the three months to June 2022
- Data from schools show increasing levels of poor school attendance, and a widening attainment gap in 2020-21, and
- Health inequalities remain stark - males in the most deprived areas of the city live around 12 years less than those in the most affluent

3. Priority actions for 2023 to 2024

Can we meet our poverty targets?

Against these headwinds of falling incomes and rising costs of living, the challenge meeting Edinburgh's poverty goals may never have been more daunting.

For the city to be on track to meet interim target levels set by the Commission and by Government:

- All age poverty rates in Edinburgh need to fall by 3 percentage points by 2024, and
- Child poverty rates need to fall by 5 percentage points.
- This means lifting almost 15,000 people, including 3,900 children out of poverty over the next three years.

The latest data published by the Scottish Government remains optimistic, suggesting that Scotland as a whole is on track to meet interim child poverty targets by 2024.

As part of its **Best Start, Bright Futures: tackling child poverty delivery plan 2022 to 2026**, Scottish Government models estimate that policies such as Scottish Child Benefit Payment, mitigation of the Benefit Cap, and the extension of universal free school meals (alongside local initiatives such as outlined in this report) could have a cumulative effect of lifting 90,000 children out of poverty by 2024, compared to doing nothing^{xiii}.

On a pro-rata basis, this would account for the lifting of over 6,000 children in Edinburgh out of poverty by 2024, more than enough to meet local targets outlined in this report.

Other independent bodies – such as Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Save the Children, and the Fraser of Allander Institute^{xiv} – challenge the estimates, but do agree that the mix of policies in place in Scotland (national and local) have the potential to make a significant medium term contribution towards meeting poverty targets.

These estimates were made, however, based on assumptions of inflation and other external context in place at the beginning of 2022. Since then, both Government and independent modelling all note that external challenges – including the long term impacts of the covid pandemic, continuing war in Ukraine, rising inflation and interest rates, and the risk of economic recession through 2023 – have significantly increased the upside risk for poverty trends. Within this context analysts agree that further action, local and national, will be required to meet targets and mitigate the impacts on people in Edinburgh.

Priorities for action in 2022/23

To meet the interim and 2030 targets set by Scottish Government, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, and other independent bodies state that **UK and Scottish Governments will need to go beyond existing policy commitments by:**

- **Increasing Scottish Government funding to support delivery of new affordable and social rented homes in Edinburgh, and**

- **Ensuring that social security systems provide an effective lifeline for people who are struggling to get by:**
 - This means UK Government committing to increase the value of recurring welfare payments and removing the benefits cap which blocks households from getting the support they need,
 - It means Scottish Government committing to make a boost to the Scottish Welfare Fund, along with additional funding to support local fund administration
 - It means both UK and Scottish Governments working to increase efforts to promote entitlements and take up of welfare benefits across the UK. According to some estimates a total of £15bn of UK Government benefits are left unclaimed by citizens every year.

Alongside national led actions, meeting Edinburgh’s poverty targets will need continued delivery of local calls to action set by the Edinburgh Poverty Commission by city-wide partners, including City of Edinburgh Council, NHS Lothian, and Edinburgh Partnership. In the short term, this includes prioritising actions to make sure:

- **People can access fair work and the support they need to prevent and stay out of poverty,**
- **People have decent, energy efficient, climate proofed homes they can afford to live in**
- **Attainment, achievement, and positive destinations are improved for all with a particular focus on those in poverty,**
- **Public Health and NHS Lothian led partnership and services are developed and enhanced**

Priority actions needed during 2023 to 2024 to meet interim end poverty targets in Edinburgh

UK and Scottish Governments will need to ensure that:	UK-wide social security systems provide an effective lifeline for people who are struggling to get by	Scottish Government increases funding to support delivery of new affordable and social rented homes in Edinburgh
City-wide partners – including City of Edinburgh Council, NHS Lothian, and the Edinburgh Partnership - will need to ensure that:	People can access fair work and the support they need to prevent and stay out of poverty	Attainment, achievement and positive destinations are improved for all with a particular focus on those in poverty
	People have decent, energy efficient, climate proofed homes they can afford to live in	NHS Lothian and public health led partnership and services to reduce poverty and its effects are developed and enhanced

Local partner priorities for action 2023 to 2024

People can access fair work and the support they need to prevent and stay out of poverty

- Reform Money and Welfare Advice services to prevent crisis escalation, increase the number of citizens fully accessing benefits entitlements, and reduce the number of families experiencing problem debt
- Design and roll out a new whole-family support model across the city, embedded in community settings to support early intervention and prevent poverty
- Deliver the Edinburgh Guarantee and employability programmes, supporting more citizens into sustainable, fair work, and helping to tackle in-work poverty

People have decent, energy efficient, climate proofed homes they can afford to live in

- Increase supply of affordable housing in partnership with Registered Social Landlords and private developers
- Deliver efficient regulation of short term lets to increase access to housing
- Deliver improvements to the council housing repairs service
- Continue to invest in ensuring that all Council owned homes are brought up to climate-ready and modern standards

Attainment, achievement, and positive destinations are improved for all with a particular focus on those in poverty

- Ensure children have the best start in life through expanding the uptake of early years care and support
- Deliver inclusive education that supports children to find their passion, with equality of esteem that promotes positive destinations
- Deliver community based support that builds resilience and promotes life-long learning
- Invest in actions we know work to improve equity and reduce the cost of the school day

Develop and enhance Public Health and NHS Lothian led partnership and services

- Establish the Edinburgh Partnership and Place team within public health, with clear responsibilities across the child poverty agenda
- Further develop NHS Lothian as an Anchor Institution
- Deliver actions within the NHS Lothian wide child poverty action plan to strengthen financial wellbeing pathways, improve the impact of income maximisation services in community health settings and support staff to increase take-up of Social Security Scotland's five family benefits and Early Learning and Childcare places for eligible two-year-olds.
- Embed youth work in the work of the Edinburgh Partnership with strong links with the emerging Youth Work Strategy for the City
- Further develop the use of public health data with community planning partners, including a focus on children and young people

4. Citizen's Voices – End Poverty Edinburgh

Introduction

End Poverty Edinburgh is an independent group of citizens with lived experience of poverty, formed in 2020 during the latter stages of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission. Their role is to raise awareness of poverty and influence decision-making on measures to tackle poverty in the city.

The group have been active over the past year, building relationships and making their voices heard with senior leaders by:

- Addressing a full meeting the Edinburgh Partnership
- Making a deputation to the City of Edinburgh Council, and
- Meeting with the convenors of the Council's Transport and Environment, and Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committees
- Meeting with University of Edinburgh working groups

Members have also contributed directly to key initiatives underway in the city, including working with:

- Council officers to shape its cost of living campaign, giving advice on what information to include and how to present it
- Council officers and EVOC to inform the End Poverty-Related Hunger in Edinburgh draft strategy and commissioned research
- Organisations including Turn to Us and the SPFL Trust, helping to shape and inform their approaches

Input from End Poverty Edinburgh Members

“Over the last 12 months, we have continued to work extremely hard to highlight the causes and impact of poverty which are affecting an ever-increasing number of Edinburgh citizens. We don't claim to speak on behalf of everyone who is impacted by poverty, but each of our members brings their own personal wealth of knowledge and experience to try to address as many aspects of poverty as we can.

Unfortunately, a lot has changed since last year's report and today, we are all concerned about the cost of living crisis. This is undoubtedly affecting people who have never experienced poverty before, bringing the fear, anxiety, and stigma that often accompanies falling into such a position. With circumstances constantly changing and uncertainty lingering for so many, we welcome this progress report on ending poverty in our city at a time when progress is most needed.

The current crisis is not new for those already living in poverty, but it is impacting harder on the most vulnerable in our communities. People with disabilities, senior citizens, migrant communities, low pay workers, and so many others are hit harder than most. With the term 'poverty' becoming increasingly visible, we fear it has become a throwaway norm. If this is so, we need to de-normalise poverty immediately, and re-emphasize the impact it has on families, not just in monetary terms, but also on physical and mental health.

Spreading awareness and battling stigma is something we've done since our group first formed and we are happy to report that we

have taken several small steps of progress. For one, we have successfully ensured the voices of lived experience were included and listened to in a variety of efforts to address poverty, by many organisations and individuals. This included a variety of 3rd sector organisations and working in partnership with the Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations Council (EVOC) including on ending the need for food banks.

We believe that including those with lived experience - or living experience - in addressing poverty is essential, for local and central government as well as 3rd sector organisations. That is why we have reached out to and met with several councillors, as well as presenting a deputation to the city council in August 2022, sharing our experiences of the reality of poverty to help shape the policies and actions to end it.

While we acknowledge the success of our efforts so far, the willingness of others to listen, and we greatly welcome the progress made, we must reemphasize the urgency of continuing to push ahead and get momentum going. Now more than ever, **action is needed**. The cost of living crisis and Scottish winter is almost upon us. We knew of people struggling to pay energy costs last year, only able to heat one or two rooms. This was before the near vertical rise in fuel prices that have already hit, and soon to strike again. **Many will not be able to heat any part of their homes this winter.**

It is blindingly obvious, then, that the cost of living crisis is aggravating every aspect of poverty, making survival ever more difficult for those trapped in its cycle. With that in mind, as part of

our ongoing mission, we have identified three priorities for us to focus our efforts on next year:

- Equality in health and wellbeing: including physical and mental health, and social care
- Connections in a city that belongs to us: continuing to form relationships with organisations, individuals, and unions etc, growing our allies in our journey to end poverty in Edinburgh
- Affordable and accessible housing

No-one goes to a food bank by choice - it's through desperation and necessity - and with many more reaching desperation, food insecurity, and food bank use is surely set to rise even more. The stigma and shame associated with foodbanks will likely impact people's mental and physical health or put them off reaching for help altogether. **We need to find a way of reaching those most in need and removing the bureaucracy and stigma that deters people from asking for much needed help.**

This winter is going to be tough, and the number of cold weather deaths is inevitably going to increase without more support from the council, and the governments at Holyrood and Westminster.

So, to reiterate, we wholeheartedly welcome this report on the progress made to end poverty in our city at a time where progress is needed most, and we continue to offer to share the knowledge and experiences that our members have, whilst simultaneously calling on our nation's governments to support the people who voted them to serve us."

5. Delivering the Edinburgh Poverty Commission calls for action

“This is not a menu of options the city can pick and choose from, they represent a single set of inter-connected, actions that need to be delivered if Edinburgh is to end poverty... Most importantly, this is a call to action for the whole city and everyone who has a stake in its future – public sector, employers, third sector organisations, and citizens all have critical roles to play.”

Edinburgh Poverty Commission

Edinburgh Poverty Commission Calls to Action



This chapter provides a summary of action taken in the period **October 2021 to September 2022** to continue implementation of the 7 calls to action made by the Edinburgh Poverty Commission.

The analysis is structured around each of the Commission’s 7 calls to action and draws out specific actions and impacts on child poverty in the city, and specific actions to support people in priority high risk groups. These sections of the report incorporate actions delivered by the City of Edinburgh Council, NHS Lothian, local third sector and private sector partners to meet the challenge of ending poverty in Edinburgh. The assessment includes short and long term actions to:

- Promote **fair work and the real living wage** and improve access to employment
- Improve availability of **affordable homes and prevent homelessness** in Edinburgh
- **Maximise incomes** for people who are struggling to get by, through increasing uptake of benefits entitlements and other measures
- Reduce **inequalities in achievement, attainment, and opportunity** in Edinburgh
- **Improve connectivity** in the city through development of 20 minute neighbourhoods, affordable transport, and improved digital inclusion, and
- Continue to respond to the health impacts arising from the covid pandemic and **reduce health inequalities**.

A full assessment of progress against all actions and target measures is provided in the appendices to this report.

5.1 The right support in the places we live and work

“To end poverty, the pre-condition and the single biggest transformation Edinburgh could achieve would be to make the experience of seeking help less painful, more humane, and more compassionate.”

Edinburgh Poverty Commission

Progress in 2022

- Establishment of a new Council Poverty prevention and transformation team
- Development of 20 minute Neighbourhoods plans to ensure that people can meet most of their daily needs within a short walk, wheel, or cycle from their home
- Continued development of the Edinburgh Wellbeing Pact to accelerate whole system change to create more resilient communities and a sustainable health and social care system
- The Edinburgh Thrive programme continues to develop, providing a crucial ‘no wrong door’ approach to mental health support and wellbeing

Priorities for 2023

- Continue the design and roll out a new whole-family support model across the city, embedded in community settings to support early intervention and prevent poverty

Edinburgh Poverty Commission called on the City of Edinburgh Council, working with other Edinburgh Partnership members, to lead the design and delivery of a new operating model for all public services so that all public workers are focused and empowered to put prevention of poverty at the heart of everything they do.

In 2021, City of Edinburgh Council and Edinburgh Partnership committed to a long-term programme of work to take forward this action and significantly improve the way public services across the city are accessed and experienced. The work to build foundations continued into 2022 as the city continued to return to normal following the pandemic and responded to the cost of living crisis.

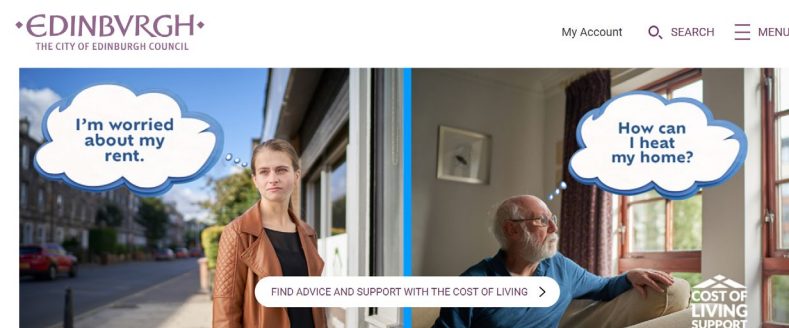
A key development during the past year has been the establishment of a new Council **Poverty Prevention and Transformation Team**. The team is playing a key role in building ways of working to help council services – including services for children, families, and adults - to address the risk of poverty at an early stage.

During the past 12 months, the team have focused on:

- **Building a multi-disciplinary approach** to identifying and supporting people at risk of poverty. This has involved working with colleagues from the Council and voluntary sector, and learning from existing prevention approaches, such as the Council’s Transformation and Homelessness Service and the Family and Household Support Service.
- Supporting implementation of **20-minute neighbourhoods** and Local Outcome Improvement Plans (LOIPs) to develop ‘Citizen Space’ pilots. This work is identifying council assets

which could form neighbourhood-based *Hubs, Centres and Places* and developing ways of delivering services which are responsive to the needs of the communities. This is work in progress and is starting with identified test sites in several parts of the city.

- Working with colleagues in the voluntary sector to **map the current provision** of universal, targeted and crisis services, identifying gaps and duplication, to make the most effective use of resources, with prevention central.
- **Building an understanding of need** across the city by using data from Social Care Direct linked to postcodes, helping to inform where resources should be aligned.
- Working with colleagues across the Council to **develop our existing volunteer service** with a view to providing specific support to children and their parents to help in accessing school and extra-curricular activities.
- **Delivering new resources providing information on available advice and support.** New guides to available support available in the city are now published on the City of Edinburgh Council website. These pages contain information on where people can get help if they have a sudden loss of money, are in debt, or if they find money just won't stretch far enough.



- **City wide promotion:** To help people find the help they need, winter 2022/23 will see an ongoing promotional campaign across Edinburgh, including poster and lamp post wraps, social media, and other online promotions. These campaigns will be promoting messages which aim to destigmatise and encourage people to ask for help around money worries.
- **Money Counts Training for Council staff.** Alongside public facing campaigns, the Council are also running a new programme of learning sessions for staff. These sessions aim to raise awareness of the scale, causes and impact of poverty in Edinburgh, but also to help workers across a range of Council services to build the skills needed to ask customers money worries where it is appropriate, and, most importantly, how to help citizens who are struggling to get by. The training is available for staff in any role, with particular focus on staff who interact with the public in their day-to-day role.

Case study: Collaboration Against Poverty in Edinburgh (CAPE)

A new collaboration to end poverty in Edinburgh was launched in 2022.

Established and co-ordinated by Edinburgh Trust, CAPE brings together a collaboration of partners including City of Edinburgh Council, EVOC, Scottish Government, Cyrenians, and the Poverty Alliance.

The group is committed to shifting power to the people and communities in Edinburgh who are experiencing financial hardship to tackle its causes, so that all decisions about the funding and the wider programme will include them.

CAPE will work across sectors to design and deliver radical solutions to ending poverty in Edinburgh, prioritising areas to which we can add the most value, to extend the reach and impact of solutions known to work, and to support innovation.

What might this look like?

- Collaboration on a shared agenda – connect the dots between different sectors and antipoverty interventions
- Building networks across sectors
- Coproduction of service design and decisions with people who have direct experience of poverty
- Bringing the stories and experiences of local change to the national decision makers

Case study: The Regenerative Futures Fund

This new initiative is built on learning from the Covid pandemic, where community organisations moved fast and knew how best to support local people. This was possible because these organisations were embedded in neighbourhoods, and because funding processes were relaxed with money distributed both expediently and with trust. Trust was key to enabling organisations to do this work.

The first phase is to codesign a new ten-year fund for community-based organisations to contribute to the outcomes of End Poverty and Net Zero by 2030. This will be underpinned by a set of principles and approaches:

- Collective, long-term transformational change
- Shifting power so that decisions are made in a participatory way by people with lived experience
- Unrestricted funding for 10-years on the basis that community-led organisations are best placed to know what needs done in their communities
- Aiming to bring new money into the system that can't currently be accessed directly by organisations
- Administratively light, to get as much money out into communities as possible with a minimum overhead cost

Partners are City of Edinburgh Council, Corra Foundation, National Lottery Community Fund, The Robertson Trust, Turn2Us & Edinburgh Trust, William Grant Foundation and Scottish Government. Over the next year, the project will be led by EVOC, aiming to launch a fund in 2023.

5.2 Fair work that provides dignity and security

“Edinburgh has the most successful economy in Scotland, but even here work is not necessarily the effective pathway out of poverty that it should be.”

Edinburgh Poverty Commission

The challenges

- Rising costs of living impacting on household costs, rent and travel costs
- The number of people claiming Universal Credit remains higher than the 2019-20 baseline (32,423 compared to 14,425)
- 8,835 people claiming out of work benefits in July 2022, a third higher than in July 2019, before the pandemic

Progress in 2022

- Target met for 100 new Living Wage accredited employers
- 3,755 individuals were supported by the Council’s employability services in Edinburgh
- 266 young people supported through No One Left Behind

Priorities for 2023

- Continue to deliver the **Edinburgh Guarantee** and our employability programmes, supporting more citizens into sustainable, fair work
- With the Edinburgh Living Wage Action Group, promote **fair work and living wage accreditation** among Edinburgh businesses

Actions to address in work poverty, low and insecure employment were core to the Edinburgh Poverty Commission’s call to action. The focus this year has been to continue to promote fair work and make Edinburgh a Living Wage City, and to reconfigure and consolidate support for employment, so that it provides effective support to everyone who needs it.

In November 2021 Edinburgh was successfully accredited as a **Living Wage City**, with a target to encourage at least 100 new employers to become living wage accredited each year. During its first year the project has successfully exceeded this target with 116 new accreditations and 1,400 workers directly benefitting from pay increases.

In the same period, **The Edinburgh Guarantee** has continued to support people of all ages to access fair work, education, and training, with a network developed of supportive employers. Scottish Government funding was secured to run a Long-Term Unemployed Job Creation Scheme, focused on supporting people aged over 25 with barriers to employment, while people under 24 years were supported into a 6-month placement via the Young Persons Guarantee.

During 2022, City of Edinburgh Council employability support was reshaped into four main projects addressing a range of needs:

- **Next Step** offers local support to people living in areas of deprivation and is delivered with a housing association to ensure that people can sustain their tenancies.

- **Encompass** works with people with an offending history, drug and alcohol use or homelessness, offering a ‘mini college’ for people to access qualifications.
- **All in Edinburgh** delivers the Scottish Supported Employment Model for people with disabilities and long-term health conditions to help people sustain and retain their employment.
- **Advance** offers ongoing support to people in work to reskill, upskill and sustain their employment. The focus is on achieving fair work and increasing hours and wages to lift low-income households out of poverty, all projects include embedded money advice to clients.

A Young Person’s Guarantee team was set up to co-ordinate support for people leaving school without a positive destination and has worked:

- With young people to codesign services to meet their needs
- With Edinburgh College and the city’s Universities to support people who leave early or who are disappointed in their first choice of course
- To integrate services with community mental health provision, in response to the impact of the pandemic
- With employers to help them understand the support available to them when hiring young people.

There have been a number of interventions this year to support people who have never worked or been away from the job market for a long time. Our **Edinburgh Employer Recruitment Incentives**

offer a range of supports to individuals and their employers with a focus on fair work and paying the real living wage.

Employment Support for Parents has been brought together under the banner of **Joined up for Families** with its own new website. A key focus has been helping parents gain vital IT and data skills to gain and sustain work.

Recognising the higher risks of poverty faced by families from minority ethnic communities a new **Whole Family Equality Project^{xv}** has been launched. It combines family support, money advice, progression support and youth work to lift 200 families from minority ethnic communities out of poverty.

The project is underpinned by a Citizen’s panel, consisting of members from Edinburgh’s diverse communities to lead, scrutinise and develop policy for minority ethnic families in poverty.

Building the evidence base for employability services, a new management information system, Helix, was launched in April 2022 and will support reporting on activity and outcomes for the six priority family groups. As a baseline, data shows that during 2021/22 priority group families supported included:

- **412 Single Parent families**
- **157 minority ethnic families**
- **71 large families**
- **37 families where the mother is aged under 25**
- **32 families where one or more parent is disabled**
- **30 families where the youngest child is under 1 year old**

Case Study: Edinburgh Living Wage City Action Group

“It wasn’t just about the moral issue. It was also about us looking at our staff performance and our ability to retain and attract the right people. We’ve seen real improvements in our sickness absence in relation to stress.”

Lindsey Fyffe-Jardine, Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home (Action Group member)

The Edinburgh Living Wage City Action Group is a collaboration of local employers, public sector bodies, trade unions, social enterprises, and business organisations, all committed to the promotion of fair work in Scotland’s capital city.

As part of its launch in November 2021, the group set an ambitious plan to more than double the number of real living wage accredited businesses in Edinburgh, with a target of at least 100 new accreditations each year.

Since its launch the group and its members have:

- held public engagement and learning events to promote the living wage among local businesses (in person and online)
- produced a video highlighting the living wage and group’s ambitions
- secured press coverage to raise the profile of the movement in Edinburgh, and celebrate successes on new significant accreditations

- supported Living Wage Scotland through production of case studies, blogs, and other promotion activities,
- established plans for focused campaign work in key sectors of the Edinburgh economy where living wage take up is relatively low – such as retail, hospitality, construction, and care, and
- encouraged major anchor institutions in Edinburgh to become living wage accredited, including Community Planning Partners and Council Arm’s Length Companies – all of which are now either fully accredited, or in discussion with Living Wage Scotland on accreditation.

The impact of this work so far has been very encouraging. Since the formal launch of the group, a total of 116 new living wage accreditations in Edinburgh have been recorded – exceeding the target for this first year.

These businesses employ a total of 36,000 workers, including 1,400 staff who have received wage uplifts as a direct result of the accreditation process.

In recognition of this progress, in November 2022 the group was shortlisted for an **Outstanding Leadership Award** in the 2022 Living Wage Scotland Awards programme.

“It’s been a benefit working somewhere that supports the living wage. It’s a nice reassurance that you’ll have enough money to live, not just pay your rent and your bills, but to actually have a life and be a human.”

Employee, Paper Tiger (Action Group Member)

5.3 A decent home we can afford to live in

“There is no pathway to ending poverty in Edinburgh without resolving the city’s housing crisis.”

Edinburgh Poverty Commission

The challenges:

- The cost and availability of housing in Edinburgh remains the single most significant driver of poverty in the city
- Almost one in three of the city’s households in poverty are only there due to high housing costs
- Cost of housing continued to rise in 2021/22 – private rents increased by almost 18% year on year
- Demand for social housing continues to outstrip supply, with around 140 bids per home
- Homelessness are rising - up 24% since 2021-22 ^{xvi}

Progress in 2022

- £64.85m investment in building new homes and improving existing homes and neighbourhoods
- Delivery of 247 new social rented homes including 70 Council homes
- Homelessness prevented for 240 private rented sector households
- £177k secured by multi-disciplinary team to pay off rent arrears
- Energy Advice Service secured savings of more than £196,000 - around £192 for each tenant

Priorities for 2023

- Increase the supply of affordable housing

- Work with Scottish Government to increase grant funding to support delivery of new affordable homes
- Deliver efficient regulation of short term lets
- Continue to improve the council repairs service, increase tenant satisfaction, and improve operational efficiency.
- Work towards net zero and modern standards for Council homes

Housing availability and quality

The City of Edinburgh Council has approximately 20,000 homes, including 44 multi storey blocks, and continued landlord responsibilities in a large number of mixed tenure low rise blocks.

The Council is the largest affordable housing developer in the city and is also aiming to invest around £2.9 billion over the next 10 years to improve existing homes and estates and deliver the Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing. Actions implemented during 2021-22 have included:

- **Increasing the supply of affordable housing** - in 2017, the Council committed to a programme to build at least 10,000 social and affordable homes by 2022, and 20,000 homes by 2027. By 31 March 2022 7,500 homes had been approved for site start and 5,696 affordable homes had completed.
- **Increasing affordable housing contributions** - work is ongoing to increase the minimum affordable housing contributions from developers from 25% (the nationally recommended level) to 35%, in recognition of the unique pressures on housing in Edinburgh.

- **Regulating short term lets** – In response to the challenge of short term lets in Edinburgh (involving an estimated 14,000 properties). In 2022 Edinburgh established Scotland’s first city-wide Short Term Lets control area, with an aim to improve availability of private rented accommodation in the city. Work is now underway to consult on and agree a new licensing scheme for properties operating as short term lets
- **Delivering the Council’s Housing Service Improvement Plan**, including developing an online Housing Application and Housing Options Tracker, a continuing focus on improving repairs service for tenants, staff development and development of a new tenant engagement and survey tool to provide real-time tenant feedback.
- **Improving housing quality** - delivering external and internal fabric improvement work and health and safety upgrade works on council homes across key sites in the city such as May and Gunnet Court, six Moredun high rise blocks, Murrayburn and Dumbryden
- **The Mixed Tenure Improvement Service** a 3-year pilot is also underway in 84 homes of mixed tenure across 11 blocks involving external wall insulation, new roof covering, new common windows, and doors.

Homelessness prevention

A total of 2,403 households were assessed as homeless, or threatened with homelessness in Edinburgh in 2021/22, an increase of 23% on the previous year.

During 2021/22 delivery of the Council’s **Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan** has focused on trialling new ways of working to prevent homelessness to support people to access settled housing more quickly and reduce the number of households in temporary accommodation. This work has included:

- Establishing an **Income Maximisation Capacity Building Officer**, delivering training to over 465 staff to improve understanding of the welfare benefit system so that they can promote income maximisation with their clients
- Delivering a **Private Rented Service (PRS) Team** helping to prevent 240 households from becoming homeless from the private rented sector in the last year
- Continuing the work of **A Multi-Disciplinary Team** to support Council tenants at serious risk of court/eviction action. Over the last year, the team have supported 45 households to avoid eviction and remain in their home.
- **RentSense** has been introduced to help identify tenants who are struggling to pay their rent and make sure they get the early help and support they need.
- **Early intervention to prevent homelessness** is also provided by the third sector on behalf of the Edinburgh Health and Care Partnership, with EHAP, ARCHIE and Melville services supporting 435 people who had housing issues or debt (a total of £1,665,5301 debt across 186 people).

Case Study: Home Energy Scotland – Energy Advice Service

Ms R is a single parent of 3 children under 10. Her new Council tenancy began in Winter 2020. She set up her energy accounts upon moving but the supplier did not bill her electricity. When Ms R realised, she contacted the supplier to set up a payment plan, but they failed to confirm her outstanding debt amount.

This resulted in Ms R self-rationing her energy use, due to concern about debt. Her home was cold, and she worried about the effect it was having on her children.

Ms R felt alone with her money worries and the pressure to provide for her family. She contacted Home Energy Scotland for support and was referred to the Energy Advice Service (EAS) which supports City of Edinburgh Council tenants.

The advisor contacted the supplier on Ms R's behalf, confirming that the debt was approximately £800; made successful applications for funding to reduce the fuel debt, and the advisor negotiated an affordable repayment plan to address the remaining arrears as well as giving her advice to help her save money on her fuel bills and to help her manage her debt repayments. **In total, the funding and advice helped Ms R to save £825.**

Ms R feels a huge burden has been lifted and is now able to devote her energy to caring for her children. She is in control of her finances and better able to cope with the challenges that lie ahead.

Case Study: The Edinburgh Trust

Since its inception in 2011, the Edinburgh Trust team has made over 4,000 new grant awards to help people experiencing poverty in the city, as well as providing ongoing financial support to several hundred regular grant recipients.

In April 2022, Edinburgh Trust re-launched its grants programme with a redeveloped referral model that shifts focus and power away from the Trust and into the communities in which we deliver support.

The model prioritises the preservation of dignity of grant applicants, building collaborative and trusting relationships with local organisations, and enables us to better understand who we are reaching through our grant-making.

It removes burdensome administrative processes and supports building a single point of trusted relationships in local communities so those experiencing financial insecurity can access support where they live and work and on their own terms.

5.4 Income security that offers a real lifeline

“Edinburgh Partnership and City of Edinburgh Council should work with third sector partners to ensure consistent, proactive, high impact support to maximise household income, reduce debt and boost family prospects is embedded in every nursery, school, and GP surgery in the city.

Edinburgh Poverty Commission

The challenges:

- Rising prices mean that in real terms the average income of households in the UK is falling by near record levels during 2022/23. growing cost of living crisis
- Low awareness of support available - 52% of people say ‘I don’t know where to go to get help’
- The growing gap between demand and capacity for advice services in the city

Progress in 2021/22:

- Welfare rights, debt and income maximisation services supported around 21,500 Edinburgh citizens to gain over £20.5m
- The Council provided one off payments to 31,900 families totalling £5.6m in response to the cost of living crisis
- Review of city-wide advice services delivered

Priorities for 2023

- Reform money and welfare advice services across sectors to prevent crisis escalation

- Increase the number of citizens fully accessing benefit entitlements and reduce the number of families experiencing problem debt

Throughout this year, support from city partners has focused addressing the cost of living crisis by:

- **Delivering direct cash and crisis support to low income families in need**
- **Improving money and welfare advice services across the city, and**
- **Delivering specialist targeted advice support for families**

Direct cash and crisis support

To support families on the lowest incomes during 2022, **City of Edinburgh Council invested a total of £8m** in additional funds to:

- Provide one-off direct cash payments to 31,900 low income families in the city, including two £100 payments for every child in receipt of Free School Meals - In total, this programme delivered a typical payment of £550 during the year for a low income family with 2 children.
- Boost the level of funds available for crisis grant programmes, energy crisis grants, and food crisis projects in the city, and
- Clear school meal related debts in Edinburgh

This additional investment helped augment existing delivery of core support services delivered by the Council. During 2021/22 welfare and benefits teams supported:

- 33,000 households through the Council Tax Reduction Scheme
- Almost 8,000 households through Discretionary Housing Payments
- Almost 9,000 children with Free School Meals payments, and 9,700 School Uniform Grants
- 32,600 applications for support through the Scottish Welfare Fund

Money and Welfare Advice

During 2022 the Edinburgh Partnership commissioned and published a review of money, debt, and income maximisation advice services in the city. The review highlighted both the impact of current services, as well as a number of actions needed to improve accessibility and impact of provision in Edinburgh.

Analysis shows that in 2021/22 advice providers in Edinburgh helped clients achieve a total financial gain of over £20.5m. Within this total:

- The **Council's Advice Shop** helped around 3,500 people make 1,683 claims for benefits, dealt with over 500 disputes about benefit decisions, £580,000 of personal debt and achieved around £7m in financial gains for people. The Advice Line can receive up to 1000 calls and an average of 365 email enquiries each month.
- **Citizen Advice Edinburgh's** (CAE) advice service in the Royal Infirmary and Western General hospitals supported 564 people, generating £598,975 in financial gains.

- **Edinburgh Food Project's** new Money Advice Service has supported 621 people, achieving £126,852 in gains, £3,732 of which is renegotiated debt.
- **The Edinburgh Consortium** supported 13,913 people resulting in over £8m in financial gains. Their support in community mental health or recovery hubs supported 700 people, renegotiated £486,633 debt, and resulted in just under £2.9m financial gains.



Specialist Support for families

Alongside a universally available advice offering, providers also offer specialist support for low income families in the city. In 2021/22 this support has included:

- Granton Information Centre’s (GIC) Family Friendly Advice Project working with **110** new individual clients, referred from midwives creating **£63,626** financial gains.
- During its first year Growing Families^{xvii}, for families supported by Health Visitors, supported **77** families leading to financial gains of over **£100,000**.
- The Royal Hospital for Children and Young People Welfare Advice Service^{xviii}, supported **93** families across the Lothian area with advice and support on issues such as income maximisation, benefit entitlement, debt, employment, and housing resulting in financial gains of **£189,353**. Non-financial gains included support to find alternative housing, foodbank vouchers and Young Scot Cards.



- **Maximise!** Edinburgh’s award-winning intensive family service continues in five early years centres in the north of the city and has expanded to include another 5 EYCs in the South-West of the City. It offers family support and giving parents/carers the opportunity to access money advice, training, and employability.
- Maximise! was extended to reach across the city wide service for families of school age children and developed to better meet the needs of Black and Ethnic Minority Communities through

the Whole Family Equity project; during the year, it provided advice to **396** families (211 were care experienced) and achieving **£1,000,501**

- **Intensive Family Support Services** - Maximise! Early Years service provided intensive support to **54** families attending 5 Early Years Centres in the North of Edinburgh, gaining **£153,132**.
- **FAIR, The Action Group, LCiL Grapevine Service and VOCAL** combine expertise on informal carer and welfare benefits and aim to prevent crises and maximise the positive impact on people by connecting them to a range of support and resources for disabilities. The Action Group’s Black and Ethnic Minority Advice Service (BEMAS) is dedicated to BAME carers with disabled children. Together, these services generated **£3,298,555** for 2,240 households



5.5 Opportunities that drive justice and prospects

“Inequality in Edinburgh is most apparent in the way that the availability of opportunities to progress in life depend on your income and where you live in the city.”

Edinburgh Poverty Commission

Challenges

- Increasing levels of poor school attendance – 19% of secondary school pupils showed low attendance, up from 14% in 2018/19
- A widening poverty related attainment gap in 2020-21
- An increasing homelessness challenge - 20 to 30 school age children move into temporary accommodation each week

Progress in 2021-22

- Continued staff development to close the poverty attainment gap via Leadership for Equity and the Teachers’ Charter
- Increased capacity of early years services in areas of deprivation

Priorities for 2023

- Expand the uptake of early years care and support
- Deliver inclusive education to promote positive destinations
- Deliver community-based supports to build resilience and promote life-long learning
- Invest in actions to improve equity and reduce the cost of the school day
- Develop the education workforce
- Target investment in the school capital programme in areas of deprivation to provide modern places for learning

Edinburgh Learns for Life is the Council’s strategic plan for education to meet long term city priorities and makes a specific response to the findings of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission, with a focus on the poverty-related attainment gap and inequitable pathways, and culture change needed to remove the stigma of poverty.

Central to this approach is building communities around learning, taking a holistic approach to supporting the whole family, and making sure that opportunities are available and accessible for all.

The focus over the last year has been to continue the long term the long-term work needed to change the culture, build effective practice, and reshape the way that services are delivered to make sure that these ambitions can be achieved.

- **Early years support:** since August 2021, all eligible children aged between 2 and 4 have received 1,140 hours of high-quality learning and childcare in their chosen locality, benefitting child learning and development, helping to narrow the attainment gap, and giving parents the chance to work, train or study.
- Continued roll out of **Leadership for Equity** training which was delivered to around 30 school leaders and 20 classroom practitioners, giving them the understanding, attitudes and skills needed to improve outcomes for learners facing poverty-related barriers
- **Addressing the poverty-related attainment gap:** focusing on family learning and involving parents in deciding what actions are needed and how funding should be used

- **Addressing low attendance:** responding to a significant reduction in attendance over a 20 month period, a review of current practice and challenges was carried out, which will support the development of an attendance strategy.
- **Equalities:** The key focus areas for Equalities work in 2021-22 were preventing and responding to bullying and prejudice; revising and decolonizing the curriculum; and increasing diversity in the workforce.

Case Study: Restless Natives

Inter Cultural Youth Scotland's Restless Natives project provides one to one support in two of Edinburgh's secondary schools, giving the extra support needed for students of colour to discuss their concerns, aspirations and sign-post extra services that might be needed:

Dev looks after 3 brothers and sisters while their mum worked long hours, and was disengaging in lessons, late and truanting. He came to the practitioner for support and someone to talk to and it became apparent that he was bright, creative and had a real passion for history and writing. Much of this had fallen under the radar. The practitioner helped signpost financial support and assistance and worked with him to find a pathway to reach his goals, including time management, potential degree courses for Classics and work experience at a museum to help build his university application. They are currently working on his UCAS statement and will go together to open days.

- **PEEP**, the family learning programme continues to give parents and carers opportunities to be involved in their children's learning through everyday play experiences, with 160 trained practitioners developing their practice to include transition, adventure, and outdoor sessions.
- **The Discover programme** continues to offer families support during school holidays, through referrals from schools. Families attend Hubs during the school holiday which include cooking and activities to support learning, development, and family wellbeing, as well as a weekly family trip. A focus this year has been to encourage take up by offering through introductory sessions at weekends and evenings. Work is underway to evaluate the impact of Discover on attainment.
- **Supporting children in temporary accommodation:** the Council's Homelessness services inform schools and early years services of any families with children who become homeless, so that support can be given to minimise disruption to children's learning and wellbeing. Around 20-30 families are referred each week.
- A full-time child poverty co-ordinator has been appointed to support work on **1 in 5, Discover, free period products and with homeless households** which involves a child
- A review of the **Lifelong Learning** and Wider Achievement Service was started in 2022, with the aim of making sure that staff have a clearer focus on actions that reduce poverty and inequality, targeting children, young people and families living in poverty and/or with protected characteristics.

5.6 Connections to a city that belongs to us

“We must do everything we can to help people maintain connections or reconnect across the city, in very practical ways including transport and digital and in the longer term designing places as settings for relationships

Edinburgh Poverty Commission

Challenges

- Increase in online access to support and services, excluding people without digital resources
- Cost and accessibility of public transport is a barrier to employment, learning opportunities for people in poverty.

Progress in 2021-22

- Embedding the concept of 20 minute neighbourhoods and the use of hubs as key to developments
- Higher than national average take up of the Scottish Government’s free bus travel for under 22s – 49% of eligible young people in Edinburgh compared with 30% across Scotland by May 2022.

Priorities for 2023

- Improve access to and co-location of services by embedding the 20-minute neighbourhood approach in all council building and public realm projects
- Deliver the City Mobility Plan with agreed investment increases in active travel, street design and local mobility systems

To make Edinburgh a more connected city, key programmes underway during 2021 and 2022 have included:

- Establishment of the 20-minute Neighbourhoods programme
- Development of city wide library services
- Digital connectivity improvements, and
- Transport improvements

20 Minute Neighbourhoods

In 2020 both Edinburgh Poverty Commission and the Edinburgh Climate Commission called for a *“20-minute walking (or ‘pram pushing’) distance principle at the heart of designing all neighbourhoods in Edinburgh”*.

In response to this, the Council published a [20 minute Neighbourhood Strategy](#) in 2021 setting out ways to ensure that Edinburgh can be a city in which people can meet most of their daily needs from within their own community.

A dedicated team was formed in early 2022 to support implementation in partnership with local communities and partner organisations. Over the past year, 19 areas across the city have been identified as the starting point, including 11 areas prioritised because of gaps in the services available or through high levels of deprivation.

Library Services

Libraries are a key example of local, trusted places where people can access information and resources or to find out where to go for help. Over the last year, all library computer hardware and

infrastructure has been upgraded, giving enhanced access for everyone. Library services and resources include:

- Access to computers, free wifi, printers and a place to study
- Activities for children and families including Bookbug sessions; STEM activities, a Saturday breakfast club for children in some libraries, and a musical instrument library, in collaboration with Tinderbox
- Free period products, hearing aid batteries with plans to provide on-site hearing aid maintenance, saving people a monthly visit to the centre of town
- A book collection on eco-craft, growing and preparing food, money management etc

With libraries open between 32 and 51 hours a week, they provide a key part of the Council's response to the cost of living crisis, in partnership with the third sector. The Council's Prevention Team are delivering Money Counts training for library staff so that staff can effectively support people at risk of poverty to access the help they need.

Digital connectivity

During the past year, the Council has continued to provide support to improve digital connectivity with actions including:

- The Empowered Learning project is on track to deliver around 41,000 iPads by December 2022 to school pupils, including all of the children from Ukraine.

- Working in partnership with CityFibre and Openreach to provide super-fast fibre broadband to all Council owned homes; to date, 15,449 homes have been connected.
- Teachers have been supported to develop their digital skills through the development of 10 professional learning courses, accessed so far by 804 teachers.
- Creating and sharing a range of pupil/carer-focused digital skills videos (23 to date)

Affordable Transport

After housing, transport costs are the single biggest household expenditure in the UK. The City Mobility Plan was approved in February 2021 and sets the Council's approach to sustainable, safe, and effective movement of people and goods around Edinburgh up to 2030. Implementation is underway through a series of action plans, several of which are relevant to people experiencing poverty:

- Developing active travel options to improve health and the affordability of moving around the city
- Road safety, recognising the higher level of pedestrian injuries in areas of deprivation^{xix}, particularly for children
- Improving air quality: some of the areas of deprivation in the city are near major traffic routes, leading to air pollution
- Making transport more affordable through the development of flexible and more affordable ticket options e.g., potential for a monthly ticket to be shared among the family
- Improving accessibility by reviewing bus routes and the frequency of buses; and exploring options similar to the Uber model, bringing "transport to you"

5.7 Equality in our health and wellbeing

“Covid has shown more clearly than ever the causal link between poverty, ill health, and premature death. ... services everywhere will need to respond as we expect to see a rising tide of poverty.”

Edinburgh Poverty Commission

Challenges

- The trend of increasing life expectancy has stalled
- In Edinburgh, males in the most deprived areas live around 12 years less than those in the least deprived areas
- Covid response and recovery continues to impact on service capacity
- Changes in the way people access Primary Care post-pandemic
- Responding to the cost of living crisis while continuing longer-term focus on health inequalities
- Increase in mental health problems across all populations

Progress in 2021-22

- Continued focus on covid recovery and response
- Recruitment to multi-disciplinary Primary Care teams
- Community Link Workers within GP surgeries providing vital non-medical support, including financial
- Increased support for mental health, including a new single point of access for children, young people, and their families

Priorities for 2023

- Strengthening public health response to child poverty and ensuring an NHS Lothian wide child poverty action plan focuses on the agreed national drivers
- Developing partnership and services to support youth work within community planning, and public health intelligence to support partnership work:
- Inclusive approach to covid recovery strategies and mental health recovery

The Edinburgh Poverty Commission recognised that to end poverty in the city, Edinburgh needs to tackle structural issues impacting on health inequalities and redesign services, support, and systems of care to enable wellbeing, from the earliest years through to old age.

The Covid pandemic has continued to have a significant impact over the past year, with service recovery across NHS needing huge focus and attention. The pandemic has also created an ongoing public health crisis from the issues it has either led to or exacerbated, and these have been worsened by the cost of living crisis.

This presents major challenges to the NHS in managing immediate care needs, whilst retaining a focus on the broader determinants of health and taking a longer-term view on prevention. While the pandemic has affected the whole population, some groups have been more affected than others, so a universal, as well as more targeted approach, is needed to address inequalities more effectively.

The Children and Young People Public Health Group (CYPPHG) produced a [paper on the impact of covid on children](#), young people

and their families. It states that the impact of the pandemic is more significant for those already experiencing inequalities, and in particular, single parent families, those living with children with a disability or serious illness, families affected by substance use and those with a parent in prison. The paper recommends actions to support children and young people and their families across the spectrum. These include access to child health services, child development, mental health, attainment, poverty and current and future health and wellbeing needs.

Recognising that continuing in employment is key to tackling poverty, NHS Lothian implemented **Community Asymptomatic Testing (CAT)** in Edinburgh, which ran from January 2021 to May 2022 across testing sites and mobile units. This approach to testing is a key part of the focus on keeping people well and in good health, so that they can continue to work. It helped to ensure that positive individuals were aware of their status and so avoid the workplace and social settings, limiting the spread of the virus.

Primary Care saw recruitment across a range of multi-disciplinary teams with posts such as pharmacists, physiotherapists, Advance Nurse Practitioners and Practice Mental Health Nurses, bringing much needed capacity into practices over the next few years. A number of Community Link Workers are embedded within GP surgeries and provide vital non-medical support with personal, social, emotional, and financial issues. Mental health will continue to be a focus, as will improving vaccine uptake in the under 5s.

Mental health has continued to be a key priority. This year has seen increased funding for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services,

and the development of a single point of access for children, young people, and their families. **The Thrive programme** continues to develop, providing a crucial 'no wrong door' approach to mental health support and wellbeing.

The NHS Lothian Health Improvement Fund funds and supports **health improvement activities** across Lothian. This focused on supporting community-based organisations who lead programmes of work around mental wellbeing and resilience in children and young people, and parenting and attachment in the early years with a focus on inequalities.

Work has been developed focusing on **young people from specific groups** who are known to have poorer health and wellbeing outcomes, and who can struggle to access services. This includes young people who identify as trans and non-binary, and those who have a learning disability and/or additional support needs. This work has focused on the development and delivery of inclusive and accessible information for young people themselves, and workforce development to ensure young people are made welcome and feel they can access the services safely and appropriately.

Holistic approaches to health and wellbeing, as well as targeted welfare advice have been delivered across acute hospital sites. The Youth Navigator service has provided support to young people aged 12-16 with some of the complex social issues that can bring them to hospital and is based at the RHCYP and St John's Hospital.

Dads Rock is delivered by NHS Lothian's Maternity and Neonatal Psychological Interventions service. Dads Rock is a charity which

aims to improve outcomes for children by inspiring dads and families. Responding to a gap in support for dads who have or had babies in neonatal or special baby care in NHSL Lothian, it will run weekly online sessions over the next 2 years.

Priorities for 2023

- Fully establish the Edinburgh Partnership and Place team within Public Health, with clear roles and responsibilities across the whole child poverty agenda
- Support financial wellbeing and income maximisation through NHS' Lothian wide child poverty action plan, in line with agreed national drivers (see section 4.4)
- Develop and enhance partnership and services:
- NHS Lothian as an Anchor Institution
- Embed youth work in the work of the Edinburgh Partnership with strong links with the emerging Youth Work Strategy for the City
- Further develop the use of public health data with community planning partners, this includes data sets focused on children and young people



Case Study: Top Tips (transgender young people)

We know from evidence that trans and non-binary young people are much more likely to experience bullying, discrimination, and exclusion more than other young people. Research shows that transgender people are more likely to experience unemployment, poverty, and poor mental health.

A partnership of NHS and third sector agencies worked on producing a resource of practical 'Top Tips' to enable services to be more inclusive and accessible for young transgender people. A poster was developed alongside some awareness raising training. Young people's voice shaped and influenced the development of this resource throughout the process.

The resource was well received by both young people and professionals.

Appendix 1: Progress measures

Table A1 Progress against headline Edinburgh Poverty Commission and Scottish Government Targets		
Target	Latest data	Change since baseline
Edinburgh Poverty Commission Targets		
1. Fewer than one in ten children and fewer than one in ten adults are living in relative poverty at any given time.	2018-21 15% (all ages) 19% (children)	No change
2. No one has to go without the basic essentials they need to eat, keep clean and safe, and stay warm and dry	2020 4% (all ages) 5% (children)	No new data expected until next year ^{xx}
3. No-one lives in persistent poverty.	2020 10% (all ages) 15% (children)	Slight decrease on previous year
4. No one feels stigmatised, abandoned, or treated with less respect by the city as a result of their income.	No data yet available	No data yet available
Additional Scottish Government Child Poverty 2030 Targets		
Fewer than 5% of children should live in absolute poverty	2017-20 17%	No new data expected until next year
Fewer than 5% of children should live in combined low income and material deprivation	2016-20 13% (Scotland data only)	No new data expected until next year

Table A2 Progress measures by call to action^{xxi}				
Fair Work that provides enough to live on	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Unemployed Edinburgh citizens ^{xxii}	6,900	12,500	9,000	8,700 (Jun 2022)
Universal Credit claimants ^{xxiii}	14,425	37,935	32,423	33,100 (Aug 2022)
No. Living wage accredited employers in Edinburgh	334	402	526	580 (Aug 2022)
Edinburgh Employers Recruitment Incentive – uptake of places (all ages)	28	43	144	-
No One Left Behind Funding: number of young people who were supported	168	161	266	-
Number of people supported by City of Edinburgh Council funded employability programme	3719	3761	3755	-
% of Council suppliers of new regulated tendered contracts that are committed to paying real living wage in delivering Council services	70%	79%	87%	-
A decent home we can afford to live in	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Total number of applicants on EdIndex register	23,998	20,564	21,013	-
Demand for social housing – number of active bidders	7,099	7,213	6,339	-
Average bid per property	203	201	140	-
Number of affordable homes approved	1,930	1,285	1,251	-
Number of affordable homes completed	1,443	1,087	1,041	-
Number of households assessed as homeless	3,355	1,934	2,399	-
Number of households who seek housing advice who do not go on to present as homeless	1,708	1,521	1,288	-
The number of households in temporary accommodation (at 31 March)	3,570	4,431	4,722	-
Percentage of households in unsuitable temporary accommodation (as at 31 March)	22%	25%	25%	-
income security that provides a real lifeline	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Council Advice Shop – number of individual welfare rights clients in year	3,800	5,752	3,720	-

Table A2 Progress measures by call to action^{xxi}							
Council Advice Shop - total financial gain	£	11,497,227	£	8,524,682	£	6,971,968	-
Council tax reduction scheme – average caseload per year		32,467		35,282		32,946	-
Discretionary housing payments – number of cases		7,427		7,428		7,841	-
Number of free school meals payments in school year		5,950		8,828		8,994	-
Number of clothing grant awards in school year		5,337		8,301		9,773	-
Scottish Welfare Fund – no. applications for Crisis Grants		16,367		35,923		32,616	-
SWF – no. applications for Community Care Grants		5,377		8,320		8,503	-
Opportunities that drive justice and boost prospects^{xxiv}		2018/19		2020-21		2021-22	2022-23
% parents receiving funded Early Learning and Childcare through their preferred location	-		-			92.4%	-
% parents receiving funded Early Learning and Childcare through their preferred model of delivery.	-		-			74.1%	-
Low attendance: % of Primary pupils whose attendance is less than 85%		6.9%	-			13%	-
Low attendance: % of Secondary students whose attendance is less than 85%		14.2%	-			19%	-
Literacy (all pupils) - The % of pupils in Primaries 1, 4 & 7 who achieve their expected Curriculum for Excellence level		77.1%		73.8%	-		-
Literacy (Lowest SIMD Quintile) - The % of pupils in Primaries 1, 4 & 7 who achieve their expected Curriculum for Excellence level		61.1%		57.3%	-		-
Numeracy (all pupils) - The % of pupils in Primaries 1, 4 & 7 who achieve their expected Curriculum for Excellence level		83.2%		80.4%	-		-
Numeracy (Lowest SIMD Quintile) - The % of pupils in Primaries 1, 4 & 7 who achieve their expected Curriculum for Excellence level		70.9%		65.1%	-		-
Attainment (all pupils) - The % of secondary school leavers achieving one or more qualifications at SCQF level 6 (Higher or equivalent)		67.6%		72.6%	-		-

Table A2 Progress measures by call to action^{xxi}				
Attainment (Lowest SIMD Quintile) - The % of secondary school leavers achieving one or more qualifications at SCQF level 6 (Higher or equivalent)	45.6%	50.6%	-	-
Positive destinations for school leavers - all pupils	(2020) 92.5%	95.1%	-	-
Positive destinations for school leavers - Lowest SIMD Quintile	(2020) 88.9%	91.7%	-	-
Connections in a city that belongs to us	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Proportion of people living in areas with low levels of public transport	31%	-	39%	-
No. CEC homes connected to fibre-to-the-property (FTTP) infrastructure	1,515 (7.7%)	8,917 (45%)	15,449 (83%)	-
Equality in our health and wellbeing^{xxv, xxvi, xxvii}	2017-19	2019-21		
Average male life expectancy (years at birth)	78.4	78	-	
Average female life expectancy (years at birth)	82.5	82.4	-	
	2017-19	2018-20		
Inequalities in Male life expectancy – difference between the most and least deprived areas *	13.6	13.5	-	
Inequalities in Female life expectancy – difference between the most and least deprived areas *	9.8	9.9	-	
Healthy Male Life Expectancy: percentage of life spent in good health	84.6%	82.2%	-	
Healthy Female Life Expectancy: percentage of life spent in good health	78.8%	80.7%	-	
	2018-19	2020-21		
Inequalities in 0-74 years mortality rate (deaths per 100,000, EASR)	694.7	-	-	
Inequalities in 27-30 months check speech and language concerns	14.9%	-	-	
(Mild to moderate) MH prescriptions ^{xxviii}	15.2%	15.1%	-	

* Differences between lowest and highest areas of deprivation are calculated using the Slope Index of Inequality. SII represents the inequality gap across the whole population between the most and the least disadvantaged with higher numbers reflecting wider absolute inequality.

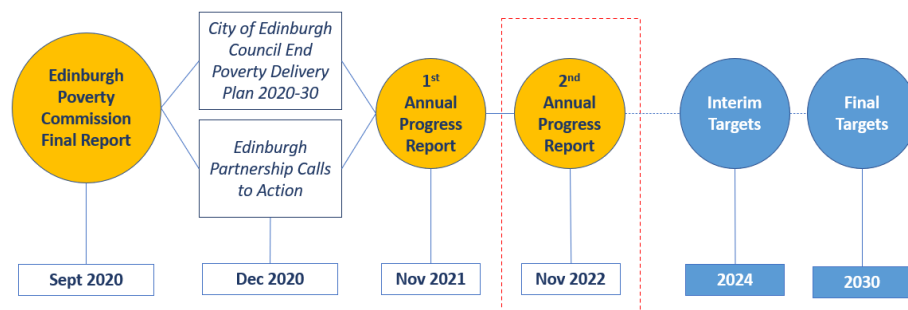
Appendix 2 – At a glance summary of progress against planned actions

Introduction

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

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

Timeline



In total, across Council, NHS Lothian and other Edinburgh Partnership bodies, these plans identified almost 60 individual actions for delivery either as bespoke projects or as part of existing or forthcoming mainstream Council and Edinburgh Partnership plans and strategies.

This annex builds on the main report by providing a specific update for each action in these plans, highlighting progress delivered in the 12 months to September 22 and priorities for action during 2023. The analysis begins by updating on progress against the 10 actions defined in the first End Poverty Edinburgh progress report as priorities for delivery in 2022.

The remainder of the analysis focuses on updating on progress against all of the calls to action published in the Edinburgh Poverty Commission final report and the associated End Poverty in Edinburgh Delivery Plan.

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

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






Assessing impacts on Child Poverty

This symbol is used in the table to highlight those actions which are planned to have a direct impact on child poverty by increasing family incomes, reducing costs, improving longer term opportunities and by improving wellbeing in the family. All other actions in the plan can be considered as contributing indirectly to reduction of child poverty by acting on issues that affect people of all ages, including housing costs, access to good jobs, access to social security and other supports.


2022 Priority Actions



The first annual End Poverty in Edinburgh Annual Report identified ten priority actions for delivery in 2022. This section provides an at a glance summary of progress against each of these. Further context on these actions is provided in the main body of the report.

1. Priority actions for 2022	Progress and next steps	Direct impact on Child Poverty
1. Continue to provide and improve access to crisis support and advice for people struggling with rising living costs including the cost of energy, benefits cuts and other challenges (CEC & EP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council provided one off payments to 31,900 families (£5.6m); and over £2.6M including crisis grants, help with food and energy costs • Council and third sector advice services secured £20.83m for citizens <p>2023 Priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reform money and welfare advice across the city (see action 28) 	
2. Complete consultation on and take forward actions to implement a Short Term Lets Control Zone in Edinburgh (CEC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported by two public consultations a Short Term Lets licensing policy, additional licensing conditions and application fee structure were approved <p>2023 Priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop efficient regulation of short term lets to increase access to housing 	
3. Complete and respond to the review of city-wide advice services currently (CEC & EP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City wide Advice Services Review completed <p>2023 Priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reform money and welfare advice across the city, including focused support for families with children 	
4. Launch and promote the Edinburgh Living Wage City action plan, aiming to secure 100 additional living wage accredited employers during 2022 (CEC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action plan launched and 116 additional living wage accredited employers were secured <p>2023 Priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to implement the Fair Work action plan and the Edinburgh Living Wage City action plan 	
5. Work with partners across the city to develop a new approach to improving food security in Edinburgh (EP and CEC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft strategy developed and launched in August 2022 for public consultation • Research commissioned to inform strategy development <p>2023 Priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalise the strategy and action plan for implementation 	


1. Priority actions for 2022	Progress and next steps	Direct impact on Child Poverty
6. Implement phase 1 actions to develop 20-minute neighbourhood and poverty prevention service models in Edinburgh (CEC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team appointed to support development of 20-minute neighbourhoods; 19 areas across the city identified for the first phase • Poverty Prevention and Transformation Team appointed • A new Poverty and Prevention Board established to lead transformation of Council actions <p>2023 Priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress delivery of current integrated services/colocation projects including the Macmillan Hub, the new Liberton High School and town centre projects • Continue to develop the prevention-based service models 	
7. Work with the End Poverty Edinburgh (EPE) group to ensure that people with lived experience of poverty are involved in development of key policy areas highlighted by the group (EP & CEC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See section 4 of the main report for a full update on EPE actions in 2022 • Funding secured through UK Shared Prosperity Fund to ensure EPE can develop on a sustainable footing through to 2025. <p>2023 Priorities</p> <p>EPE priorities are: housing and homelessness; equality in health and wellbeing and continuing to form relationships with organisations, individuals, and unions</p>	
8. Implement, promote and embed a new blended employability service due to start in April 2022 (CEC & EP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New blended employability service implemented, through four main projects addressing a range of needs <p>2023 Priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the Edinburgh Guarantee brand and programme by engaging with business leaders and employers, coordinating employability support and skills providers, and delivering employer recruitment incentives 	

1. Priority actions for 2022	Progress and next steps	Direct impact on Child Poverty
<p>9. Continue to engage with UK and Scottish Government policy makers on areas of national policy critical to meeting end poverty goals in Edinburgh, including social security and funding requirements to address housing need in Edinburgh (CEC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council has lobbied the UK and Scottish Governments on actions needed to address poverty, including the cost of living crisis <p>2023 Priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Scottish Government to support delivery of new affordable homes • Continue to engage on all policy areas relevant to addressing poverty 	
<p>10. Continue to develop and improve the evidence base needed to implement actions to end poverty, including evidence on poverty related stigma, the impact of budget decisions on people in poverty, and ensuring that appropriate integrated impact assessments are in place for all elements of the End Poverty in Edinburgh Delivery Plan (EP & CEC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poverty Network set up to support collaboration, knowledge exchange and opportunities to share good practice • Discussion paper on the impact of budget decision considered by Edinburgh Partnership working group <p>2023 Priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue monthly Poverty Network will continue monthly • The need for updates to Integrated Impact Assessments will be considered 	

Call to Action Fair Work that provides dignity and security	Progress and next steps	Direct impact on Child Poverty
11. Maintain City of Edinburgh Council Accreditation as a Living Wage Employer and 12. Establish Edinburgh as a Living Wage City (CEC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Edinburgh Council maintained Living Wage Employer accreditation • New Living Wage Employer accreditation attained by NHS Lothian • City wide Living Wage Action Plan agreed and delivered. Targets for new accreditations exceeded in year 1 of the plan 2023 priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to deliver actions outlined in the Edinburgh Living Wage City Action Plan 	
13. Launch and deliver a new Edinburgh Guarantee For All programme (CEC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme relaunched for people of all ages; website redeveloped – comprehensive material for employers and those seeking work 2023 priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic goals of Edinburgh Guarantee are being reviewed and strengthened to ensure a clear offer of support for service users, service providers, employers, and education. • All CEC funded employability provision will be branded “Edinburgh Guarantee” which will become the single referral point for support in the city for stakeholders looking for support. 	

Call to Action Fair Work that provides dignity and security	Progress and next steps	Direct impact on Child Poverty
<p>14. Deliver the ‘No One Left Behind Edinburgh’s Employer Recruitment Incentive’ (EERI), helping people of all ages with the greatest barriers to employment get jobs and stay in jobs. (CEC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eligibility criteria was amended to encourage employers to pay the Real Living Wage rates - all people over 25s now must receive the RLW; any under 25s must receive this unless completing a modern or graduate apprenticeship. Funding awarded to employers amended to support this. Targeted additional funding has been allocated for 10 young people aged 16-24 yrs who are care experienced with up to £10,000 provided to employers over the first year of employment to support this wage increase. To date, two places have been allocated. <p>2023 priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to deliver ERI and aim increase the uptake of employers recruiting over 25s with barriers to employment and increase employers paying RLW to under 25s 	
<p>15. Develop and commission a new Blended Employability Service, providing improved access to flexible employability support across the city (CEC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The new service started in April 2022. <p>2023 priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> COMPLETE: future delivery will be continued and other strands e.g. No One Left Behind phase 3 will be aligned 	

Call to Action Fair Work that provides dignity and security	Progress and next steps	Direct impact on Child Poverty
<p>16. Deliver the Council Sustainable Procurement Strategy, and actions to increase living wage accredited suppliers And</p> <p>17. Deliver the Council Sustainable Procurement Strategy, and actions to increase, and improve monitoring and delivery of, community benefits offered by suppliers – aiming to achieve the target of 1 FTE job with training for a person from a targeted group (where appropriate) for every £1m of procurement spending by 2025 (CEC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Real Living Wage suppliers awarded contracts increased to 87% in 2021/22 from 79% in 2020/21 • Living Wage accredited suppliers awarded contracts increased, to 28% from 26% • All 13 Council contracts above £4m awarded in 2021-22 included community benefit requirements, plus an additional 26 contracts. • Community benefits sought in 41% of regulated contracts (27% in 2020-21) • Contractors reported 149 local jobs, 23 apprenticeships and 29 work placements delivered as a direct result of a Council contract. • Dedicated post holder appointed to work closely with service areas and improve the reporting and delivery of community benefits. <p>2023 priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue existing actions, and delivery of Sustainable Procurement Strategy 	
<p>18. Review best practice and embed appropriate Community Wealth Building approaches into a revised Edinburgh Economy Strategy developed to drive Council actions for a sustainable economic recovery. (EP & CEC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refreshed Edinburgh Economy Strategy published November 2021 which includes an action to maximise the community benefit opportunities from Council procurement, and promote Community Wealth Building practices across the city • Launch of Edinburgh Partnership work programme to inform priorities for implementation of CWB in Edinburgh <p>2023 priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to work with Edinburgh Partnership to develop a city wide approach to community wealth building 	

Call to Action A decent home we can afford to live in	Progress and next steps	Direct impact on Child Poverty
<p>19. In partnership with city stakeholders, write to and seek a roundtable with Scottish Government (SG) ministers and directors for discussion of the additional funding requirements for housing in Edinburgh the Commission highlights (CEC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SG commitment of £234 million for affordable housing in Edinburgh from 2021/22 to 2025/26, £44 million (23%) more than the last five years. • The Convenor of Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee (HH&FW) wrote to the Scottish Minister seeking an uplift for Edinburgh <p>2023 priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek Council approval of 2023 -28 Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) in December 2022 • Further engagement with SG for additional funding. 	
<p>20. Deliver Edinburgh’s Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP), including actions to Prevent Homelessness, transform temporary accommodation and move away from the use of unsuitable accommodation, support people to access settled accommodation as soon as possible, and reduce the number of people rough sleeping in the city. (CEC)</p>	<p>Full details are in the RRTP Annual Update on Progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-disciplinary team (MDT) and Private Rented Sector (PRS) team continue to support tenants, including families with children, at serious risk of eviction • Continued to develop homeless prevention for people leaving prison and hospital • Prevention Partnership Officer continues to deliver training to help staff to understand the risks of homelessness • Increase self-contained temporary accommodation including exploring and developing new models e.g., Modular build • Rough sleeping reduced from 80 – 120 pre-Covid to an average of 14 <p>2023 priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to deliver actions identified in the RRTP, evaluating prevention activity, and changing the mix of temporary accommodation. 	
<p>21. Deliver City Plan 2030 outlining new minimum affordable housing contributions for new developments in Edinburgh</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal developed to increase the minimum affordable housing contributions from 25% to 35% 	






Call to Action A decent home we can afford to live in	Progress and next steps	Direct impact on Child Poverty
<p>(CEC)</p>	<p>2023 priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue the process to seek approval by the Scottish Government - earliest date that the plan could be fully adopted would be late 2023 	
<p>22. Deliver this Council’s commitment to build 20,000 social and affordable homes by 2028</p> <p>(CEC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7,567 new affordable homes approved for site start and 5,696 homes completed at March 2022. External factors (Covid, Brexit, war in Ukraine and the energy crisis) have impacted the pace of development, the cost of construction and the number of projects brought forward for approval. <p>2023 priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 2023-28 SHIP sets out proposed approvals and completions for affordable housing and gives an update on the land strategy to support affordable housing (to be considered by committee December 2022) 	
<p>23. Deliver the annual Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget Strategy, investing in improving existing Council homes and neighbourhoods - including delivering energy efficient, low carbon homes, development of new and existing homes blended together to create a local identity and a sense of pride in communities, and well-designed, green, open spaces that encourage residents to be active and socialise.</p> <p>(CEC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £64.850m invested in building new homes and improving existing homes and neighbourhoods: 70 new Council social rented homes were completed (Bingham and Parkview); and over 80 new social rented homes (North Sighthill and Pennywell) Significant progress in improvement projects, including external and internal fabric improvement work (May and Gunnet Court multi-storeys), re-roofing (Fidra Court) and health and safety upgrade works (six Moredun high rise blocks). Over 80 Council homes and more than 250 private homes benefitted from the Scottish Government’s Energy Efficient Scotland: Area Based Schemes (EES:ABS), with insulation and renewable energy measures to reduce energy costs. 	



Call to Action A decent home we can afford to live in	Progress and next steps	Direct impact on Child Poverty
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mixed Tenure Improvement Service pilot underway (Murrayburn and Dumbryden): progress includes common repairs to 84 mixed tenure homes (external wall insulation, new roof covering, new common windows and doors and internal common stair redecoration). • Energy Advice Service supported 1,089 tenants, saving more than £196,000 (average of £192) <p>2023 priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of the HRA budget strategy for 2023/24 onwards will be informed by tenant consultation in autumn 2022, rent freezes (in 2021/22 and 2022/23), delivery of statutory energy efficiency standards to Council homes, increased costs of delivering the service and the costs of living for tenants 	




Call to Action A decent home we can afford to live in	Progress and next steps	Direct impact on Child Poverty
<p>24. Continue to deliver the Housing Service Improvement Plan, ensuring that the frontline housing service is visible, responsive, and effective (CEC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICT improvements to support Repairs service to deliver an improved customer experience for tenants • Resolution Team introduced to manage repairs complaints to improve response to tenants • Improvements to rent payment information to help tenants manage rent and avoid debt • Development of RentSense to improve information on arrears so that Housing Officers can target tenants who are in most need of support • Increased visibility of staff in local communities via reintroduction of estate walkabouts. <p>2023 priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued investment in digital technology to improve tenant experience • Implement EdIndex housing application system to improve bidding process • Improve online reporting for repairs, freeing up capacity for tenants who choose to use telephone or face to face • Improve support for first-time and new tenants to sustain a tenancy. • Improve estates management services and launch new Estates Investment Programme, engaging with local residents on local environmental improvement projects 	



Call to Action A decent home we can afford to live in	Progress and next steps	Direct impact on Child Poverty
<p>25. Following Scottish Government legislation expected to come into force from April 2021, develop, consult and agree upon local implementation of the new licensing and planning controls for regulation of short term letting in Edinburgh (CEC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Scottish Parliament has passed an order¹ requiring local authorities to introduce a licensing scheme for properties operating as short term lets. • The Council consulted on its short term lets policy (April to June 2022) <p>2023 priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalise policy in line with requirements to start the licensing scheme on 1 October 2022 and cover all short term lets by July 2024 	
<p>26. Seek discussions with private rented tenants, landlords & Scottish Government to address concerns rising private sector rents (CEC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SG’s ‘New Deal for Tenants’ draft rented sector strategy consultation included the commitment to introducing effective national rent control, with mechanisms to let local authorities to introduce local measures by 2025. • Council officers attended a round table discussion chaired by Scottish Government to look at what would be required to support rent control. <p>2023 priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue engagement with Scottish Government to inform the approach taken to introducing national rent control and local measures. 	



¹ the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (Licensing of Short Term Lets) Order 2022





Call to Action Income security that offers a real lifeline	Progress and next steps	Direct impact on Child Poverty
27. New action: Respond to the findings of the Advice Services Review (EP & CEC)	2023 priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reform money and welfare advice services to prevent crisis escalation, increase the number of citizens fully accessing benefits entitlements, and reduce the number of families with problem debt 	
28. Deliver priority proposal to deliver embedded income and family support services to a wider range of community settings across Edinburgh (EP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh Partnership funded independent review of current advice and income maximisation services undertaken 2023 priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to support welfare rights and debt advice in NHS acute settings Enable income max referrals from Midwifery and Health Visiting Increase capacity in community mental health and locality recovery hubs 	
29. Continue to deliver high quality money, debt and welfare advice through the Council's Advice Shop service (CEC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drop-in support resumed in May 2022 as Covid restrictions ended Staff recruited to support the prevention work of the homeless MDT 2023 priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build capacity (Income Maximisation Officers) to support the MDT External audit for accreditation for Scottish National Standards Implement new case management system 	
30. Continue to deliver actions to administer Scottish Welfare Fund crisis and community grants (CEC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity increased to support these critical tasks and additional funding used to maintain the fund at Low Priority for Crisis Grant and Medium Priority for Community Care Grants 2023 priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to react to cost of living pressures and advocate to SG for additional funding for the Scottish Welfare Fund (SWF) 	
31. Deliver a programme of appropriate targeted outreach and promotion of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upward trend continued for SWF applications; Continued targeted promotion throughout the year 	



Call to Action Income security that offers a real lifeline	Progress and next steps	Direct impact on Child Poverty
Scottish Welfare Fund and other Council administered benefits and support schemes (CEC)	2023 priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued targeted promotion for people facing cost of living pressures while returning to business as usual activity and criteria (post Covid) 	
32. New action: Affordable credit (EP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support Edinburgh Partnership plans to develop a business case through for affordable credit; implement preventative debt plan 	
33. Deliver priority proposals to expand the '1 in 5' programme to all Council staff, redesign of materials to meet the needs of varying staff groups, with an objective to establish appropriate awareness raising sessions for all directorates (CEC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> '1 in 5' programme included in the Council's Prevention team workplan Updated 'Worrying about Money' and 'Crisis Guide' distributed widely 2023 priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver training to newly qualified teachers during their probationer year Review resources e.g., online benefits calculators and affordable credit Raise awareness with key front line staff through developing a campaign and training package and resources for all partners to use 	
34. Working with city stakeholders, seek dialogue with appropriate UK and Scottish Government ministers on the findings of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission in regard to Social Security Policy and implementation. (CEC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council leader has written to and lobbied UK and SG Ministers on actions needed to address the impact of the cost of living crisis on people living in poverty in Edinburgh in support of campaign initiatives led by JRF, Poverty Alliance and other partner organisations 2023 Priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to seek opportunities to engage with UK and Scottish Government policy development 	


Call to Action Opportunities that drive justice and boost prospects	Progress and next steps	Direct impact on Child Poverty
35. Continue the delivery and development of core existing plans and strategies aiming to ensure pupils thrive at school and close the attainment gap, including – Edinburgh Children’s Services Plan, Education Improvement Plan 2020-23, and the Edinburgh Learns Equity Framework (CEC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leadership for Equity (LfE): pilot project completed with 44 senior leaders and 22 class teachers - positive feedback about impact on values and leadership; two sessions were held in December 2021 to share learning. 2023 priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to rollout the LfE programme including a programme for pupil support assistants; target level for “mandatory” participation to be considered 	
36. Develop and deliver the Learning for Life Programme aiming to create a world class learning city where everyone’s skills, knowledge, creativity and relationships with people and places are equally valued. (CEC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing communication of the vision via briefings, newsletters Measurable action plans developed by all 16 Edinburgh Learns Boards Head Teacher associates appointed to co-lead the strategy for six of the boards: learning, teaching & assessment, equalities, teacher professionalism, learning together and digital. 2023 priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All 16 Boards will update their action plans based on progress in 2021-22 Further Head Teacher associates will be appointed for remaining boards The new Wider Achievement Framework will ensure there is no poverty of opportunities helping learners find their passion and ensure parity of esteem 	
37. Develop actions to provide inclusive, equitable, valuable learning opportunities for everyone. (CEC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing curriculum evaluation by schools Review of the quality indicator in <i>How Good is Our School</i> to ensure equal access and decolonization of the curriculum. Pilot learner-led approach developed through the Granton Learning Strategy 2023 priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pilot learner led consultation in other settings e.g., Wester Hailes High School 	

Call to Action Opportunities that drive justice and boost prospects	Progress and next steps	Direct impact on Child Poverty
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reform and design of the curriculum over the next 3 years in collaboration with learners and wider community stakeholders • Service review to create a new Lifelong Learning and Wider Achievement Service with greater focus on actions to reduce poverty and inequality • Implement year 1 of the Multiply (Shared Prosperity) funding to support adult numeracy and literacy • Develop more opportunities for all young people to access free/low cost Outdoor Learning/Adventure Education • Implement the Youth Work Strategy in partnership with the third sector, and establish ways for young people from all backgrounds to influence policy • Continue to deliver and develop Discover! for families in poverty 	
<p>38. Develop actions to use a place-based approach to build collaborative and sustainable learning communities and networks (CEC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Leadership Working Group established to develop the strategy • Quality Improvement Education Officer post introduced to support schools to implement the learning community approach • All new build learning estate projects now assess opportunities for integrated service delivery with partners (e.g., Castlebrae High School, Bangholm sports facility – both have a community element to them) <p>2023 priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue delivering learning estate projects taking a place-based approach 	
<p>39. Develop actions to co-create the environments where learners can lead and shape their own learning (CEC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools encouraged to involve pupils in their learning environment e.g., resources and learning spaces • Young people have been involved in shaping the design of new schools, for example, Currie <p>2023 priorities</p>	


Call to Action Opportunities that drive justice and boost prospects	Progress and next steps	Direct impact on Child Poverty
<p>40. Work with school communities in target areas (beginning with core projects in Granton and Westerhailes), and their partners to define curriculum rationales which will then lead to clear, equitable pathways into further education and the world of work. (CEC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to involve learners as projects are developed <i>Developing the Young Workforce (DYW)</i> co-ordinators are now in all secondary schools and developing links with employers Skills Development Scotland work coaches are engaging with young people at Wester Hailes High School (WHHS) to improve support for those at risk of a negative destination <p>2023 priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newly appointed Senior Education Manager (Pathways) will be leading curriculum reform in the senior phase 	
<p>41. Expand and develop the 1 in 5 programme as a regular, mandatory training action for all school staff, aiming to improve and reinforce understanding of poverty and inequality across all schools (CEC)</p> <p>And</p> <p>42. Develop and deliver training to pastoral staff in all schools as part of the 1 in 5 programme, responding to the evidence of high levels of school absence as well as anxiety and depression among children in temporary accommodation. (CEC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See action 34 above. System now in place to alert schools to children and young people who are in temporary accommodation; session delivered to school staff and partners <p>2023 priorities</p> <p>Deliver Leadership for Equity 1 in 5 content over the next academic year; assess and further develop training</p>	



Call to Action Opportunities that drive justice and boost prospects	Progress and next steps	Direct impact on Child Poverty
43. Develop Professional Learning with a focus on Leadership for Equity (LfE) to build expertise, practices and skills in leading improvements aimed at achieving equity (CEC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior Development Officer in post to help to close the attainment gap, advising schools on effective use of pupil equity funding (PEF) 2023 priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase participation in LfE and sustainable models of delivery Develop ways to ensure maximum impact of strategic and PEF Develop a programme for pupil support staff 	
44. Host a roundtable with Edinburgh Independent Schools to explore and agree new partnership actions to overcome inequality and improve inclusion across Edinburgh (CEC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial discussions held with Edinburgh Independent Schools Association on responses to Edinburgh Poverty Commission Calls to Action, and awareness raising discussions held with student groups. 2023 priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued engagement to seek opportunities for joint working on programmes, including poverty awareness and living wage city 	
45. Explore opportunities to review individual school catchment areas as part of school development and building programmes (CEC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City Plan 2030 Education Appraisal set out the criteria for determining catchment areas Opportunities explored as a standard part of the school buildings programme 2023 priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bring forward opportunities for catchment review to the Education Children and Families Committee as they arise 	
46. Deliver across all schools, a new online tracking system that highlights poverty related attainment gaps, allowing schools to respond to these with targeted support (CEC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procurement requirements specified by school leaders and specialist staff; procurement officer assigned to lead this process. 2023 priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure solution, aligning systems for lifelong learning and schools, for implementation in 2023-24 	



Call to Action Opportunities that drive justice and boost prospects	Progress and next steps	Direct impact on Child Poverty
47. Deliver Early Years Expansion to 1140 funded hours and ensure early years provision is flexible enough to meet the needs of families (CEC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requirement met to provide all eligible children with their full funded entitlement of 1,140 hours should their parents/carers choose to use this 2023 priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revise models to increase flexibility and options for parents Relaunch the renamed <i>Terrific 2s</i>, for eligible 2 year olds to remove stigma. Address issues identified by parents through consultation, as reported to committee in March 2022. 	
48. Target PEF on actions to allow schools to continue to address poverty-related barriers, including inequity of digital access and reducing the cost of the school day. (CEC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learning communities are being developed to support “Finance for Equity” approaches to improve outcomes for learners while ensuring best value; focus includes attendance. Empowered learning (1:1) deployment is on track (see 54 vi) 2023 priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allocation of strategic equity funding for session 22-23 has been based on needs analyses produced by each school and will be reviewed each year Continue to develop Finance for Equity/learning communities approach to ensure maximum impact of strategic and pupil equity funding Complete Empowered Learning (1:1) deployment by Dec 2022 (on-track) 	

Call to Action Opportunities that drive justice and boost prospects	Progress and next steps	Direct impact on Child Poverty
<p>49. Develop and implement a plan to reduce the poverty related attainment gap in literacy and numeracy including recruiting Closing the Gap teachers (CEC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality Improvement and Curriculum Service have supported schools with raising attainment and attendance for all pupils and closing the gap between the most and least disadvantaged learners. • Additional Covid Recovery Funding (~ £2.7 million) allocated to schools for additional staff to address gaps in learning • Further funding allocated to each learning community for a transition teacher to support learners in P5-S3 to address gaps in literacy, numeracy and to support health & wellbeing. <p>2023 priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to provide guidance and professional learning to enable schools to use data to inform actions to raise attainment and close the poverty-related attainment gap 	

6. Connections in a city that belongs to us	Progress and next steps	Direct impact on Child Poverty
50. Deliver a new Edinburgh Economy Strategy developed to guide Council actions to support a sustainable economic recovery for the city post Covid, including the renewal of Edinburgh’s cultural sector (CEC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refreshed Edinburgh Economy Strategy published in November 2021, reinforcing commitments to Fair Work and a just transition to net zero. <p>2023 priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual report on Economy Strategy progress and implementation due for publication in March 2023. 	
51. Develop plans to design and embed a 20-minute neighbourhood approach to new developments, and planning of services in Edinburgh (CEC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See action 6 above 	
52. Deliver a City Mobility Plan, with actions to reduce the day to day cost of travel for families in Edinburgh (CEC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City Mobility Plan developed and agreed Scottish Government introduced free bus travel for under 22s and by May 49% of eligible young people in Edinburgh had signed up for the scheme (national average was 30%). <p>2023 priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to implement actions to support sustainable, affordable travel Governance board being created to oversee key implementation decisions; and group of action plan lead officers created to oversee co-ordination and implementation of policy measures and action plans 	
53. Deliver the Council Digital and Smart City Strategy actions to improve digital inclusion and provide support for citizens to gain digital skills and the confidence to use them, including: (CEC)		





6. Connections in a city that belongs to us	Progress and next steps	Direct impact on Child Poverty
i) ensuring connectivity is available in community spaces including libraries, schools, and early years settings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connectivity enhanced in early years settings and schools • Funding secured to upgrade the People’s Network Service across all libraries <p>2023 priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to develop opportunities for connectivity within households and between families living in poverty via the Discover programme • People’s Network Services planned upgrade across all libraries to result in access to more up to date software and wireless printing • New upgraded services to be promoted as widely as possible 	
ii) ensuring citizens can access resources within our libraries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phased reopening of all libraries to full pre covid opening hours to support digital access. • Resumed Get Online Digital skills programme and digital help sessions citywide • Resumption of in person sessions to support customers accessing libraries online services. <p>Priorities for 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand Get Online Digital Skills programme to support more learners with recruitment of additional volunteers • Develop capacity for Libraries to support customers with a visual impairment to improve digital skills and access library services 	



6. Connections in a city that belongs to us	Progress and next steps	Direct impact on Child Poverty
iii) ensuring citizens can access learning opportunities to further their digital skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for families with English is a second language to access online learning including setting up email accounts • Resettlement family programme for 70 refugees provided online <p>2023 priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council, Edinburgh College, and voluntary partners will work closely together to offer opportunities for adults to improve their digital skills • Develop opportunities for refugees to access learning on-line as well as in person 	
iv) ensuring that digital literacies are embedded into all aspects of the curriculum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 professional learning courses (90 individual videos in total) created and shared to support the development of digital skills for teachers; pupil/carer-focused digital skills videos (23 to date) have also been created and shared • Wide range of webinars delivered, including using tools like ClickView and Class Notebook; specific support sessions for P6,7 teachers new to 1:1; and a successful Minecraft Challenge which attracted over 150 team entries, with a primary pupil winning at national level <p>2023 priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to create and promote additional training resources and live webinars to support all teachers to embed digital learning across the curriculum. 	

6. Connections in a city that belongs to us	Progress and next steps	Direct impact on Child Poverty
v. fostering positive relationships between families and early years settings/schools allowing for support opportunities to be identified	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximise!, the Intensive family service (IFS) is now available in five early years centres in the north of the city giving parents/carers access to information and support on family support, money advice and/or training and employability. The family learning Parents Early Education Partnership (PEEP) programme continues to provide parents and carers with opportunities to engage in their children’s learning through everyday play experiences, and is delivered both digitally and face to face <p>2023 priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use data and feedback from parents to inform practice and further develop the IFS into the south of the city. PEEP: continue to ensure high quality sessions are delivered and increase reach 	
vi) providing equity of access to digital resources for all learners in schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Empowered Learning project is on schedule to deliver 1:1 devices to all pupils from P6 to S6, all teachers, 1:5 devices for pupils in P1 to 5, and devices for Early Years, by Dec 2022. The project is also providing a significant uplift in WiFi provision across all schools - installation on track for completion by December 2022. <p>2023 priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete the Empowered Learning rollout by Dec 2022, including allocating additional devices to accommodate rising rolls in schools. 	
vii) ensuring low cost affordable broadband is available for Council tenants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council is continuing to work in partnership with CityFibre and Openreach to provide super-fast fibre broadband infrastructure to all council own homes - 15,449 homes have been connected to date <p>2023 priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to consider options to benefit tenants and services 	

6. Connections in a city that belongs to us	Progress and next steps	Direct impact on Child Poverty
viii) working with third sector partners to promote access to affordable digital equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Third sector partners have been developing strategy for digital inclusion 2023 priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LOIP delivery group will consider the draft and agree next steps 	
ix) ensuring that citizens on low incomes are involved in the design and development of digital services that matter to them	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation and engagement on projects for Smart Cities (smart home sensor installation to detect dampness issues) and Customer Digital Enablement (fully integrated housing repairs transaction) has included the tenant's federation, which provides diverse representation. 2023 priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further expansion of customer satisfaction surveys to understand where further opportunities exist to expand digital services and how best to use technology to proactively serve citizens. 	

Call to Action Equality in our health and wellbeing	Progress and next steps	Direct impact on Child Poverty
<p>54. Continue Council and Edinburgh Partnership responses to the impacts of the Covid outbreak, including management of key frontline service delivery in line with government and public health guidance And</p> <p>55. Continue to provide crisis support for people affected by Covid, including contact support for vulnerable citizens, welfare</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further reopening of services, guided by public health advice • Continued focus on covid recovery and response • 2023 priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to monitor and be guided by public health advice • Continue covid recovery and response while retaining a focus on broader factors of health and inequalities 	

Call to Action Equality in our health and wellbeing	Progress and next steps	Direct impact on Child Poverty
checks and grant support for self-isolating citizens (EP, CEC & NHSL)		
56. Review and develop approaches to make best use of Scottish Government funding to address financial hardship as a result of Covid (EP, CEC & NHSL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue the cash-first approach for people facing financial hardship, whilst offering a range of holistic support and advice. 2023 priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue the cash-first approach for any crisis funding 	
57. Develop and continue partnership working with EVOC and 3rd Sector to ensure a co-ordinated approach to contact and delivery of support activities and to assess long term service delivery options to address food insecurity (EP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft strategy developed with public consultation launched and research commissioned to inform the final strategy 2023 priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalise strategy for consideration by Edinburgh Partnership 	
58. Deliver priority proposal to invest in the expansion of the 'Discover' programme, working with families to reduce food anxiety, build skills and address social isolation (CEC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discover Child Poverty Programme Coordinator in place Evaluation of the summer 2022 programme has been completed and will inform further service development 2023 priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the process for schools to recommend families to Discover! Continue the transition back to Discover sessions in person Increase number of families engaging in Discover! from initial recommendation. 	
59. New action: develop and enhance partnership and services (NHSL)	2023 priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NHS Lothian as an Anchor Institution Embed youth work in the work of the Edinburgh Partnership with strong links with the emerging Youth Work Strategy for the City 	

Call to Action Equality in our health and wellbeing	Progress and next steps	Direct impact on Child Poverty
60. New action: fully establish the Edinburgh Partnership and Place team within Public Health (NHSL)	2023 priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop clear roles and responsibilities for the team across the whole child poverty agenda 	
61. New action: further develop the use of public health data with community planning partners (NHSL)	2023 priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further develop the use of public health data with community planning partners, this includes data sets focused on children and young people 	

Endnotes and references

ⁱ https://edinburghpovertycommission.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/20200930_EPC_FinalReport_AJustCapital.pdf

ⁱⁱ [Poverty and Income Inequality in Scotland 2017-20 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/poverty-income-inequality-scotland-2017-20/pages/1-introduction.aspx)

ⁱⁱⁱ 2021 estimates of all age and child poverty in Edinburgh are derived from datasets published by End Child Poverty Coalition - [Child Poverty Statistics - End Child Poverty](#).

For a full analysis of methodology used to produce Edinburgh level poverty estimates, please see https://edinburghpovertycommission.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/20200930_Poverty_in_Edinburgh-Data_and_evidence.pdf

^{iv} [Poverty and Income Inequality in Scotland 2017-20 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/poverty-income-inequality-scotland-2017-20/pages/1-introduction.aspx)

^v Derived from [Destitution in the UK 2020 | JRF](#)

^{vi} [Poverty in Scotland 2022 | JRF](#)

^{vii} *ibid*

^{viii} [Poverty in Scotland 2021 | JRF](#)

^{ix} [Poverty and Income Inequality in Scotland 2017-20 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/poverty-income-inequality-scotland-2017-20/pages/1-introduction.aspx)

^x [Impact of increased cost of living on adults across Great Britain - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)

^{xi} [In at the deep end • Resolution Foundation](#)

^{xii} [In at the deep end • Resolution Foundation](#)

^{xiii} [Tackling child poverty delivery plan 2022-2026 - annex 4: cumulative impact assessment - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/tackling-child-poverty-delivery-plan-2022-2026-annex-4-cumulative-impact-assessment/pages/1-introduction.aspx)

^{xiv} [Estimating the impact of the Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan: agree to disagree? | FAI \(fraserofallander.org\)](#)

^{xv} The Whole Family Equality Project is funded by the Robertson Trust Partners in Change Fund, the National Lottery Young Start Fund, Scottish Government and City of Edinburgh Council.

^{xvi} 1,934 to 2,399

^{xvii} A project developed between NHS Lothian, Community Help and Advice Initiative (CHAI), Edinburgh Health & Social Care Partnership in collaboration with the Improvement Service to improve outcomes for children and families who are supported by Health Visitors

^{xviii} delivered in partnership with NHS Lothian and CHAI

^{xix} <https://www.rospa.com/media/documents/road-safety/factsheets/Pedestrian-safety-in-areas-of-deprivation.pdf>

^{xx} Collection of official statistics on poverty trends has been significantly disrupted during the covid pandemic period. No official new estimates of poverty in Scotland were published in 2022, with update statistics relating to the past 12 months not now expected to be available until Spring 2023 at earliest.

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

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

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

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

^{xxv} [Life Expectancy in Scotland, National Records of Scotland \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](#)

^{xxvi} [Healthy Life Expectancy via ONS Health State Life Expectancies](#)

^{xxvii} [Analysis for differences between the most and least deprived areas: NHS Lothian Analytical Services](#)

